



# CNYSBA NEWS

*Train, Empower, Advocate, and Mobilize for Students*

## **NYSSBA's 2026 Legislative Priorities and Position Statements**

*2026 Advocacy*

*Materials*

In advance of the upcoming 2026 state budget and legislative season, NYSSBA has published our official 2026 Legislative Priorities booklet. The document includes a wide range of issues NYSSBA has already begun advocacy on, as well as a variety of topics in line with NYSSBA's official positions that we feel are impactful to share. The booklet will be delivered to all state legislators, the Governor's office and other education policymakers in the state.

[Click here for More](#)



## **Beginning the NYS 2026 Budget Season**

*By Dr. Rick Timbs (Photo Finger Lakes Times)*

Based on the State Constitution, the Governor must propose a 2026-27 state budget by January 20, 2026.

The school district state aid database for that budget will be the most recent November runs. As a reminder, the November state aid runs reflect data submitted by school districts in October of 2025.

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*We See You:* \*  
*Thank You* \*  
\* **For Your Service to Public Education** \*

**TO THE BOARD MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL NEW YORK SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION,** \*

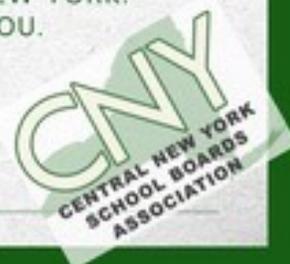
ON BEHALF OF THE ASSOCIATION, I WANT TO EXTEND MY SINCERE GRATITUDE TO EACH OF YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SERVICE, LEADERSHIP, AND COMMITMENT TO PUBLIC EDUCATION. YOUR WILLINGNESS TO SERVE—OFTEN QUIETLY AND WITHOUT RECOGNITION—MAKES A MEANINGFUL DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND STAFF ACROSS YOUR DISTRICTS.

WE SEE THE LONG HOURS SPENT PREPARING FOR MEETINGS, THE DIFFICULT DECISIONS MADE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF STUDENTS, AND THE BALANCE YOU STRIKE BETWEEN COMMUNITY EXPECTATIONS, FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY, AND EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE. WE RECOGNIZE THAT BOARD SERVICE IS NOT EASY WORK. IT REQUIRES COURAGE, PATIENCE, COLLABORATION, AND AN UNWAVERING BELIEF IN THE VALUE OF PUBLIC EDUCATION.

YOUR LEADERSHIP MATTERS. IT MATTERS TO THE STUDENTS WHO RELY ON STABLE AND THOUGHTFUL GOVERNANCE, TO THE FAMILIES WHO TRUST THEIR SCHOOLS TO NURTURE AND EDUCATE THEIR CHILDREN, AND TO THE EDUCATORS AND STAFF WHO DEPEND ON STRONG BOARD SUPPORT TO DO THEIR BEST WORK. THROUGH YOUR SERVICE, YOU HELP SHAPE SCHOOL COMMUNITIES THAT ARE INCLUSIVE, RESPONSIVE, AND FOCUSED ON STUDENT SUCCESS.

AT CNYSBA, WE WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT YOUR EFFORTS DO NOT GO UNNOTICED. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE TIME, EXPERTISE, AND CARE YOU BRING TO THIS WORK, AND WE ARE PROUD TO SUPPORT YOU AS PARTNERS IN THIS SHARED MISSION. THANK YOU FOR SHOWING UP, FOR ASKING HARD QUESTIONS, AND FOR REMAINING COMMITTED TO THE PROMISE OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN CENTRAL NEW YORK. YOUR SERVICE MATTERS—AND WE SEE YOU.

*With appreciation,*  
*Derrick Dorsey, Executive Director*



CENTRAL NEW YORK SCHOOL  
BOARDS ASSOCIATION



# JOIN OUR BOARD

OF DIRECTORS FOR CNYSBA



FILL OUR **VACANCIES**

## ARE YOU....?

- Involved with a current CNYSBA Member School District?
- Currently a sitting Board of Education Member for a District or BOCES?
- Passionate about supporting public education across the CNY region?
- Able to attend **VIRTUAL** Board Meetings via Zoom?

## VACANCIES:

CAYUGA-ONONDAGA BOCES

**\*\*\* 2 OPEN SEATS \*\*\***

CORTLAND-MADISON BOCES

**\*\*\* 2 OPEN SEATS \*\*\***

**INTERESTED? , QUESTIONS?, WANT TO LEARN MORE?**

EMAIL THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - DERRICK DORSEY TO DISCUSS THIS OPPORTUNITY FURTHER!!!



**DERRICK@CNYSBA.ORG**

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Thus, the data will not be entirely accurate as more data will be submitted by mid-January 2026 that results in a subsequent February 2026 run. The February 2026 runs will be used for the final state budget.

There is a certain amount of caution needed regarding the November 2025 runs that will be used in the Executive budget proposal. First, these data, as submitted, are in many ways an estimate about student enrollment and related demographics provided by each school district at the beginning month and a half of the school year and will change to some degree by the submission of January 2026 data. In some cases, the data could change significantly, especially as it relates to enrollment, a key component in various forms in several portions of the Foundation Aid formula.

Second, the November runs are based on “current law” . That is, that whatever is provided in these runs for state aid are not only based on early data submissions but, for Foundation Aid in particular, the formula as it existed in November of 2025 and does not include any succeeding changes articulated by the governor’s Executive budget or the final approved budget bill.

For instance last year, there were significant changes in the Foundation Aid formula and these changed the resultant Foundation Aid amount to various school districts. Further, by the time the final budget bill was adopted, there were additional changes in Foundation Aid amounts for school districts. The lesson for all of us is that Foundation Aid and other state aid amounts are subject to change over time and that school districts would be wise to not “overestimate” them in their budget planning.

# Serious Issues

## **Save- Harmless school districts:**

The numbers of Save-Harmless school districts have risen substantially over the last few years, despite the most recent changes in the formula for 2025-26 Foundation Aid. Absent significant changes to the Foundation Amount (Adjusted Foundation Amount (AFA)) as well as other changes such as major increases in weighting of students with special needs (SWD weighting) and increased weighting for students such as the economically disadvantaged and ELL areas for instance, joined with additional financial considerations for homeless and foster care students, Save-Harmless school districts designations for 2026-27 could continue to rise compared to 2025-26. *Continued Next Page*

These Save-Harmless school districts are displaying indicators of mounting fiscal distress and in many cases, movement toward more identifiable and real signs of growing educational insolvency as they struggle with ever increasing salary and benefits costs, the competition for employees at every position, and the growing special needs or otherwise poverty populations within their school district. The stagnation of many tax bases and the effects of the Tax cap and its elements, such as PILOT agreements, only exacerbates the financial picture.

### **School Districts on Formula:**

Just because a school district is not Save-Harmless, but instead, on formula, does not mean it is not experiencing financial struggles. The same formula enhancement considerations mentioned for Save-Harmless school districts above hold true for those on formula. The financial issues of all school district are real and absent serious increased funding non-Save-Harmless school districts may find themselves in the same fiscal and educational boat as Save-Harmless school districts.

### **What is next?**

This year, as in all election years, we again look for a robust Executive budget proposal in January 2026, and support from the New York State Senate and Assembly in their one house bills to follow. It is hoped that no further economic downturns will befall the state financial picture and that revenues will continue to have a healthy increased trend to offset current projected deficits for next year and the years thereafter.

But help for school district does not occur on its own. Our collaborators at NYSSBA, NYSCOSS, ASBO, Rural Schools and the Small City schools are also eager for state support improvements.

Local School Boards Associations, Board of Education leaders and members need to lobby hard and convincingly to get that increased state support. There are designated lobby days by many of these groups but remember that legislators are in their home districts every Friday during budget season. Get in there with your ideas and help to move our initiative forward. Do not forget to work with their aides as well.

Produce a lobby plan and talking points . I encourage you to seek allies from parents, key community leaders, and others to help you lobby. Often school district residents can provide valuable support as voters toward mutual goals!

See you soon,

Be well,



# BUSINESS PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

P.E.B / MACNY

2025



Amy Stewart  
Workforce Development  
Specialist, PEB  
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## 5 Reasons to be a Career Coach: Inspire, Connect and Make an Impact

**BY: AMY STEWART**

### WHAT IS CAREER COACHING?

A career coach is a volunteer who works directly with students on career readiness activities and work-based learning challenges. These activities vary by grade level and career field, with tasks designed to provide networking opportunities, help students improve their transferable skills, and prepare them for the workforce. Career readiness activities are a great opportunity to connect with the future workforce and offer feedback on what you and your company are looking for in a successful job candidate. The activities can range from developing elevator pitches to conducting mock interviews.

Work-based learning challenges allow students to engage in career-specific activities. If you have your own ideas, you can bring custom design challenges to a school. If you're feeling stuck, our team works with educators to implement program-specific curriculum, enabling you to jump in and guide students as they work on activities.

# 5 Reasons to Become a Career Coach

## 1. Make a Difference:

As one of our career coaches, Ethan Tancredi, puts it, "I'm making an impact just by showing up and being an example." PEB takes the pressure off. You can be as involved as you want in the planning, but all you really need to do is show up and be ready to work with students.

## 2. Encourage the Next Generation:

Encourage the next generation: Kids often hear more about what they can't do than what they can. As a career coach, you can be the one to show them their potential. "People, especially students, often undervalue their own work and life experiences, not seeing how an employer would be interested in hiring them," says career coach, Joyce Dennington. "Whether it's helping draft a resume, participating in mock interviews, or answering questions, I'm inspired when students realize their value and their self-confidence increases."

## 3. Become a Role Model:

Become a role model: Our coaches often share with us that they wish they'd learned about different careers and workplace skills in school. Through coaching, you can help students have different experiences and learn more about what career opportunities are available to them so they can make more informed decisions about their future. One of our career coaches, Adrienne Hickey, shared how coaching brings connection: "One of my favorite parts of volunteering is seeing the same students each month, and [getting to know them]. You can feel the difference a conversation might make in their life and yours."

## 4. Get Creative:

Let out your creative side: Our career readiness activities range from reviewing resumes to hands-on tasks like constructing towers with miscellaneous materials. These fun and creative challenges allow you to engage with students in a unique way, helping them develop valuable skills while tapping into your own creativity.

## 5. It's Flexible & Enjoyable:

It's flexible...and enjoyable: Time is valuable, and while you don't receive payment for these coaching sessions, the rewards are priceless. By giving only a part of your day, you'll know you've made a real difference in the lives of these students. Volunteers can select sessions based on their availability, with sessions lasting about an hour. We'll warn you, though - they can be addictive. One coach recently shared, "It was a lot of fun. I can't wait for the next one!"

# THE STATEWIDE SCHOOL FINANCE CONSORTIUM



## WHAT IS THE STATEWIDE SCHOOL FINANCE CONSORTIUM ALL ABOUT???

### DATA DRIVEN WORKSHOPS

#### CUSTOMIZED FOR EACH DISTRICT

- Your Real Issues- Current and Future*
- Your Real School District Data*
- Real Examples*
- Real Analysis and Discussion*
- Real Options*



#### ANY / ALL MEMBERS WELCOME!

- ✓ SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS
- ✓ SUPERINTENDENTS
- ✓ BUSINESS OFFICIALS



### STATE AID & FINANCE ISSUES WORKSHOPS

#### **State Aid & Foundation Aid-**

Equity and Adequacy Issues, Formula changes-metric value changes, Underfunded and Save Harmless Issues, Sustainability and Predictability Issues.

#### **Expense Driven Aids-**

Their role in District Finances, Formula, Sustainability and Predictability Issues.

#### **CRRSA and ARPA-**

Our Mission, Our Finances, How they Helped, How they Hurt.

#### **The Tax Cap-**

What is in it, how it works and why it matters to the financial health of your district, Tax Base growth, Inflation, Changing PILOT(s), Changing Capital Exclusion, the Tax Levy

#### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

School District Finances and Best Practices, Understanding of the Implications of Finance issues, Long-Range Analysis and Planning, Capital Project Issues, and so much more...



### OUR MISSION

IS TO BRING EQUITY TO THE DISTRIBUTION OF NEW YORK STATE EDUCATIONAL AID AND ENSURE THAT ALL OF NEW YORK'S CHILDREN RECEIVE THE SAME EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES REGARDLESS OF THE WEALTH OR LOCATION OF THEIR COMMUNITY.



[www.ssfcddata.org](http://www.ssfcddata.org)



**Dr. Richard Timbs**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# 2025 - 2026 CNYSBA Board of Directors

Revised 12/2025

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**VICE PRESIDENT** – MISSY RYNONE

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**ASHLEY STOLTZ** – Executive Assistant

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*\* Vacant Seat \**

*\* Vacant Seat \**

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*\* Vacant Seat \**

*\* Vacant Seat \**

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