

N-SSBA

Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association

SERVICE, SUPPORT & ADVOCACY

Newsline September 2022 edition

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Offshore Wind Energy Expo Event 11/9/22 To Be Held At The Cradle Of Aviation



Don't miss out and register today for the Offshore Wind Energy Expo being held on November 9, 2022 at the Cradle of Aviation.

Learn about the Offshore Wind Energy Industry coming to Long Island. There are opportunities for our public schools that will benefit our students. The manufacturing industry will also be on hand to discuss workforce opportunities and collaborations that can be formed with our districts.

This event will begin with registration from 6:00pm - 6:30pm and our program beginning promptly at 6:45pm followed by a cocktail reception and networking opportunity to visit with the industry leaders to discuss opportunities within your individual districts.

Who should attend this expo? Board trustees, superintendents, assistant superintendents, guidance professionals, science chairs, science teachers, business department chairs, and CTE instructors.

Hear from industry leaders from Ørsted, Eversource and the President of the Long Island Association, Matt Cohen about the new opportunities that will impact our region for many years to come.

Registration information will be sent to your district clerks. For more information email info@nssba.org or call N-SSBA at 516-781-2053.

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What is 988?

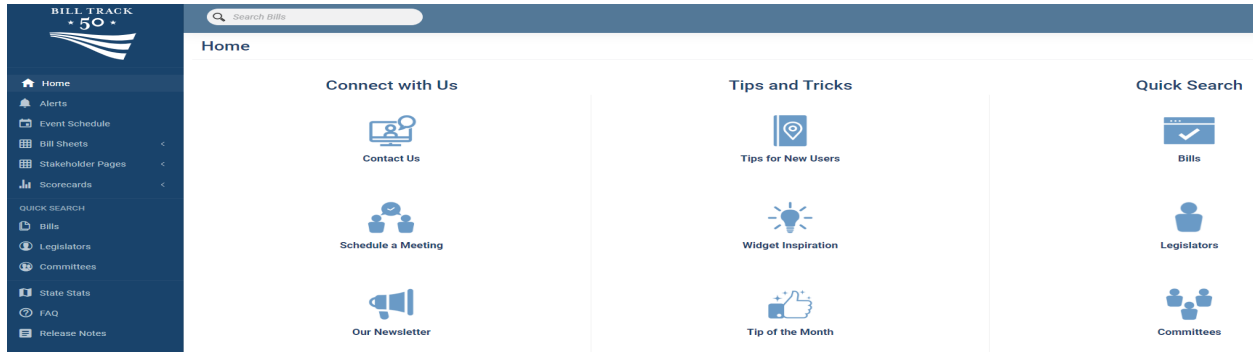
988 is the new FCC-designated three-digit number that connects people to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

This service is for anyone who is: suicidal, experiencing a mental health or substance use-related crisis, or experiencing any kind of emotional distress

988 is more than just a number. It is a direct connection to compassionate and accessible care. When you call, text, or chat 988, you are connected to trained counselors that are part of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network.

New N-SSBA Member Only Benefit! BillTrack50

Now available to our membership is a application that enables you to track State and Federal legislation. This app is available for mobile devices as well. BillTrack50 allows you to search by keywords, legislators or by bill number. You can receive alerts on bills that you want to track and research voting histories of your elected officials. With it's user friendly dashboard, this application will help any board member with their advocacy efforts. To receive your free account to BillTrack50 email N-SSBA at info@nssba.org.



“We all have the potential to move the world, and the world is ready to be moved.” – Harry Chapin



Have Your School and Students On The Radio!

“Spotlight on Long Island Schools” on LI News Radio highlights Long Island school districts, specific schools, students, and teachers, promoting school pride moments, communicating school messages and curriculum, while providing thought-provoking interviews and discussions with school officials and educational leaders in the communities we serve.

This is a new service that N-SSBA is offering its member districts as a way to give your students and staff a truly unique experience by giving your district the ability to positively promote something either unique or special that you do in your district that you want your community and communities outside of your area to know about. After the show airs your district receives a copy of the show so you can promote in your electronic newsletters or other electronic media outlets.

To sign your district up for a show email Bob Vecchio at bvecchio@nssba.org.

Below are the links to the some recent shows that were recorded and aired:

CTRL + click on the links below

[Cold Spring Harbor SD](#) [East Williston SD](#) [Huntington SD](#) [Eastern Suffolk BOCES](#)

[Carle Place SD](#) [North Babylon SD](#) [Herricks SD](#) [Franklin Square SD](#)

[Southampton Town SRO program](#)

[Smithtown SD](#)



N-SSBA Launches New Website and Social Media Sites



N-SSBA updated and re-designed our website to make content more readily available to our membership as well as making the website mobile compatible. Check out the newly designed site at www.nssba.org. We have also created a closed Facebook group for board members from N-SSBA member districts to be a part of and to receive timely information regarding educational issues and learn about upcoming events. In addition, you can also find N-SSBA on Twitter. So join our Facebook page and follow us on Twitter. To join the Facebook group email us at info@nssba.org

Manufacturing Day to be Held at the Cradle of Aviation on October 7, 2022

Join Long Island's manufacturers, colleges, educators, students, parents and advocacy groups in a hybrid event to celebrate National Manufacturing Day.

Planned Events/Topics:

- Meet Long Island manufacturers and hear about high paying, exciting career opportunities
- Sign up for manufacturers' factory/company tours
- Hear from recent graduates about their manufacturing careers
- Colleges discuss their manufacturing programs
- STEM initiatives (Robotics Camp) to encourage manufacturing careers

Join in person at the Cradle of Aviation in Garden City or via Zoom on October 7, 2022 starting at 8:30am to celebrate, educate and advocate for Long Island manufacturing and the great careers available to both college bound and non-college bound students!

[Register Here](#)

N-SSBA Welcomes 2 New Executive Members!

At the annual business meeting for the Association, the membership elected two new members from Suffolk to serve on N-SSBA's Executive Committee. They are Danielle Dench who is a trustee for the Center Moriches School District, and Michele Kustera from the Huntington School District. Welcome aboard and we look forward to seeing you at Executive Committee meetings in the future.



Danielle Dench, Center Moriches SD



Michele Kustera, Huntington SD

NYS Launches a New Sexual Harassment Hotline

On July 19, 2022 NYS launched a new hotline for individuals to report sexual harassment. This hotline is staffed by pro-bono attorneys who can assist individuals with their legal rights based on facts and circumstances shared. The hotline is available 9am to 5pm and is run by the NYS Division of Human Rights. The number is **1-800-Harrass-3** or **1-800-427-2773**. Employers should make sure their annual trainings educate their employees about this hotline number. Boards of Education are encouraged to review their sexual harassment policies and update them as necessary.

[N-SSBA in the News](#)

N-SSBA's Executive Director Robert Vecchio was recently quoted in a Newsday article regarding the state resuming academic ratings of school districts to comply with federal regulations. See the link to the Newsday article below.

(ctrl+click the link below)

[Newsday article about return to academic ratings](#)

[NYS Senate Bill S7548A Signed Into Law](#)

Governor Hochul signed into law a bill to amend education law in relation to requiring same-day notification of a parent or guardian when a student with a disability when certain behavioral interventions are used on August 17, 2022.

This includes when a physical or mechanical restraint is used on the student or if a student is placed in a time out room. According to the justification used by the Senate when promoting the bill there were instances when restraints were being used and no notice was given to the parent or guardian.

The law took effect immediately after it was signed by the Governor.

A Message From Our President Michael Kelly

Welcome back to a new school year and a special welcome to the new board members elected this past May. Unlike the opening of school the past two years, this year's opening has been as close to normal conditions as possible. Across Long Island, teachers and staff have been greeting students with open arms; and students and parents have reciprocated with welcoming smiles on their faces.

As board members, one area that that we may not have participated in the past two years is an annual walkthrough of your district buildings. In addition to setting policy and overseeing the financial condition of your district, board members are also responsible to ensure that the buildings are in good working order. If you have not already done so, now is a good time to arrange a walkthrough with your superintendent and building principals.

As we begin the new school year, I would like to welcome our new Executive Director, Robert Vecchio. Bob takes over the position after serving the past year as our Deputy Executive Director and over 15 years as president of the William Floyd Board of Education. I know you join me in welcoming Bob into his new position.

After the past two years of pandemic conditions, one goal of N-SSBA is developing a return to legislative advocacy. While advocacy has always been a strength of the Association, we as board members need to be front and center in promoting the good news taking place in our schools. While it is important to advocate for your specific school district, it is just as important that you advocate for public education in general. To assist our members, the Association will be planning a series of

seminars to assist our members in how to approach our legislators.

Speaking of our legislators, as I mentioned in our last newsletter, it is important we keep an eye on the



upcoming November elections. Come January 2023, with a combination of re-districting and the November 2022 election results, many school districts may find themselves with new legislators. If your district does end up with new legislators, it will be important that you meet and introduce them to your district.

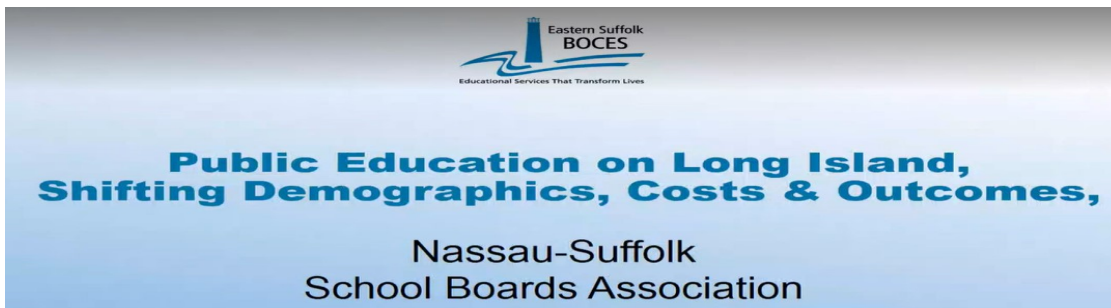
Another area of excitement is a collaboration the Association is working on in conjunction with the Long Island Association (LIA). There are currently several offshore wind projects planned off Long Island waters and these projects will create a whole new job economy. Looking at the potential new job opportunities, the Association, the LIA, and various offshore wind companies are planning an informal meeting where board members, administrators and students can meet representatives of the offshore wind companies. See our cover article regarding this event.

The above are only two of the many initiatives that your Association is working on for the upcoming year.

As always, thank you for all that you do for your community and students and I hope you have a great school year.

N-SSBA Advocacy Training Workshops “Know your story, Tell your story, Sell your story”

N-SSBA will be hosting a three part series focused on advocacy for board members. The series will give you important data based on the latest census for Long Island and it’s shifting demographics. It will also give an in-depth look at school district finances from a board member perspective and cover areas that go beyond the mandated training everyone has received in the past. And finally we will review best practices when advocating directly with elected officials and their staff members on either particular legislation or proposed education budgets that impact all of our districts. This is a free training series for N-SSBA member districts and this will benefit new and veteran board members alike. We will be sending registration forms for these events to your district clerks in the near future. You can also check our Facebook page and website for event details as well. Advocacy is an important part of every board member’s role and is a year round effort, not just during budget and legislative season.



What Did You Do on Your Summer Vacation? Some Long Island Board Members Attended NYSSBA’s Leadership Academy

Nearly forty board members from Nassau and Suffolk Counties attended the Leadership Academy on August 12-13, 2022 in Albany hosted by NYSSBA. The event was attended by both new and veteran school board members with important workshops and learning opportunities for the newest and most veteran board members. The return of this annual event after a nearly 14 year hiatus was very well received by those who attended and many are looking forward to going again next year. The host hotel “The Desmond” was the perfect venue for this conference as it’s been updated and the bread pudding is still amazing! N-SSBA hosted a hospitality suite the evening of August 11, 2022 and we want to thank Bond, Schoeneck, & King our sponsors who made the hospitality an enjoyable opportunity for our board members to network. NYSSBA did an outstanding job with this conference and we look forward to attending next year and highly recommend all of our board members to try to attend it next year.



How to Become a School Bus Driver

NYS is actively trying to assist school districts and school bus companies with the shortage of bus drivers by raising awareness on how to obtain a commercial driver's license (CDL) to become an eligible school bus driver.

For more information and resources on what is required see the New York State Website at:

<https://dmv.ny.gov/commercial-drivers/become-school-bus-driver>

Calendar of Upcoming Events

9/28/2022	N-SSBA Annual Resolutions Dinner Meeting, The Fox Hollow
10/14/22– 10/15/22	NYSSBA New School Board Member Academy in-person, Long Island
10/27/22	NYSSBA Pre-Convention School Law Seminar, Syracuse
10/27/22-10/29/22	NYSSBA Annual Convention, Syracuse
11/8/22	Election Day
11/9/22	N-SSBA Offshore Wind Energy Education Expo, Cradle of Aviation
1/26/23	N-SSBA's Joint Conference with the Nassau & Suffolk School Superintendents Huntington Hilton
1/28/23-1/31/23	NSBA Equity Symposium and National Advocacy Institute, Washington, DC

New York State Mentoring Program

The New York State Mentoring Program (NYSMP) is a statewide provider of mentoring program services. The NYSMP creates supportive mentor relationships for children in schools, foster care, and the court system. Mentors are positive role models who guide youth with respect, structure, and compassion to build positive life skills.

WHY SHOULD YOU BE A MENTOR?

Children can succeed despite overwhelming personal, economic, and structural obstacles. They often do so with the support of a caring mentor in their lives. Mentoring outcomes include greater participation in school, improved attendance, higher graduation and college admission rates, and better overall performance.

HOW DO I BECOME A MENTOR?

1. Fill out the Mentoring Application by visiting the New York State Mentoring Program website www.ny.gov/mentoring or call 1-518-473-3562 to have an application mailed.
2. After your application has been received, you will be contacted by the New York State Mentoring Program to discuss the required screening process and training.
3. You will be matched with a mentee at a nearby school or community program and New York State Mentoring staff will support you throughout your mentoring experience.

Email: NYSMentoringProgram@ny.gov