



SERVICE, SUPPORT, & ADVOCACY

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N-SSBA’s Cybersecurity Webinar

In partnership with the accounting firm of Nawrocki & Smith, N-SSBA hosted two webinars on the important issue of cybersecurity for school districts and requirements that will be in place with the new law for protected information under Chapter 2D. The first webinar was held on 1/6/22 and had over 36 districts attend. The second webinar was held on 1/31/22 and had over 45 districts attend. In attendance were Board members, Superintendents, other school district administrators and school district IT staff. Based on survey results from both webinars, members were overwhelmingly satisfied. N-SSBA Board In-Service chair, Brian Sales said “Both presentations presented a lot of useful information for board members.” The Board In-Service Committee met after the second webinar to begin planning the next topic that they will bring to our member boards in the near future.

We want to thank Mr. Ernest P. Smith and his team at Nawrocki & Smith for putting together an outstanding webinar for our member districts, this webinar would not have been possible without their expertise and partnership.

If you or anyone in your district would like to get copies of the recorded webinars and the accompanying slide decks, email N-SSBA’s Administrative Director, Lorraine Mentz at lmentz@nssba.org.

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N-SSBA Executive Board Members Attend Briefing With Senator Schumer

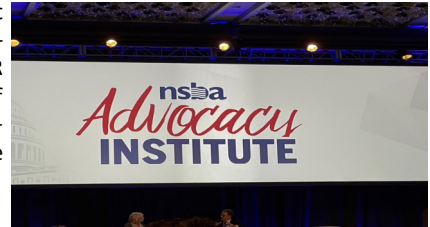


988 - A New Number for the Behavioral Health Crisis Hotline in New York State

988 is the new three-digit number that connects callers with behavioral health crisis counselors. Once it goes live on July 16, 2022, callers who dial 988 will be connected to National Suicide Prevention Lifeline call centers. This easy-to-remember number will change the way we address behavioral health crises in New York State. The New York State Office of Mental Health has created a monthly newsletter that will provide updates, education, and information on 988.

N-SSBA Attends National Advocacy Institute

N-SSBA attended NSBA's National Advocacy Institute (NAI) in Washington, DC to learn about and help advocate for the Federal Legislative Educational Priorities. The top advocacy priorities at the Federal level fall into the following categories: IDEA full funding, ESSA and ESSER funds, continued advocacy on these initiatives and the need for continued flexibility use of these funds, and extending the time frame in which ARP funds have to be spent. Also, increased broadband support and infrastructure to close the digital divide and closing the "homework gap". These initiatives will help all students regardless of zip codes or wealth.



The opening keynote speaker was Dr. Adolph Brown. Dr. Brown stressed the success public education had on his life and the lives of his children. Dr. Brown is a clinical psychologist and a "recovering" middle school teacher. His inspirational and motivational speech focused on biases we all have. "Stop believing what your mind is telling you to think." He credited his principal who was a "servant leader" as the person who showed him what was possible. "If service to others is beneath you, leadership is above you". He stressed the need for people to have empathy and believes our society has a serious "empathy gap". He believes biases can be broken down by employing the "Contact Theory" in safe spaces like schools. Look pass appearances and get to know the individuals. He said we need to stop focusing on what divides us and focus on what unites us. He closed his remarks with saying "All means ALL STUDENTS in public education".

N-SSBA By The Numbers

Total Students -	396,914
Total Districts -	108
Total BOCES -	3
Total Board members-	812

N-SSBA

Serving Long Island School Boards since 1959



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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 and 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

[William Floyd SD](#) Show about innovative science instructional programs

[Freeport SD](#) Show about creating a positive school environment

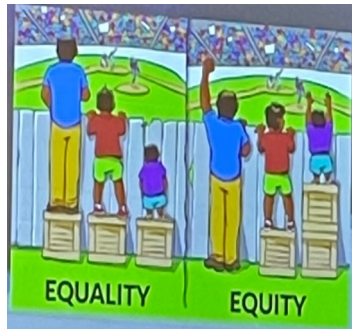
[Shoreham-Wading River SD](#) Show about the "middle school's greenhouse"

[East Williston SD](#) Show about "a school within a school"

[Port Jefferson SD](#) Show about "First Fridays"

Equity Symposium Hosted by NSBA

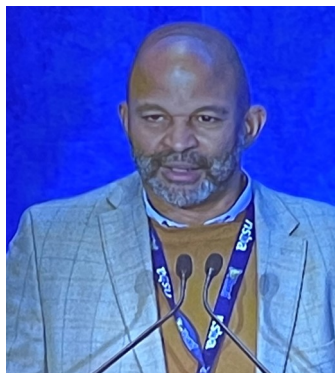
The NSBA Annual Symposium was opened with the new Executive Director and CEO for NSBA addressing the controversial letter NSBA sent to the Biden administration, which has been the subject of national media coverage. The new Executive Director, Dr. John Heim said NSBA is committed to restoring faith, trust, and collaboration within the organization and State Associations and believes that parents play a vital role in successful educational institutions and the new leadership rejects the concepts referenced in that letter. He concluded his remarks with quoting Maya Angelou "When you know better, do better".



The symposium's opening keynote speaker was Anthony Robles, a NCAA National Wrestling Champion and a Wrestling Hall of Fame inductee who was born with one leg. His message centered around overcoming challenges and being able to succeed. His quotes, "Don't let your challenges be your excuses" along with "how you react to moments of adversity is what separates champions from individuals who give up or don't believe in what is possible" were the main themes of his remarks. **Nassau BOCES Board Member and Area 11 Director for NYSSBA, Robert "B.A." Schoen** had the opportunity to have a few words with Mr. Robles after his address. Mr. Schoen is also a member of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.



Michael Jaime, a Board Member of the Elmont SD introduced the 2nd keynote speaker Joanna Lohman, a famous female soccer player and a famous champion of the LGBTQ causes and community, a self-proclaimed "Rainbow Warrior". She detailed her own life experiences growing up in the Maryland public school systems. She was living a life as a successful athlete who was having success in college at Penn State, was engaged to be married and then realized she was gay and life changed dramatically for her after that. She advocated for school board leaders to adopt LGBTQ curriculum similar to what has been done in Maryland recently. Mr. Jaime is also the Northeast Region Director for the National Black Council of School Board Members for NSBA.



A notable presentation was made by Board of Education members and Administrators from the Tulsa, Oklahoma public school system. They discussed teaching the "hard history" of the Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921. The Greenwood district which was described as the "Black Wall Street" was burned down to the ground and totally wiped out over a 2-day period. Local resources to conduct research to develop curriculum about the Tulsa Race Massacre for grades 3-12 were not easily found and readily available. They used this tragedy as an example to set up a "culturally responsive curriculum".

SAVE THE DATE
5/25/2022

N-SSBA Annual Business Meeting and Awards Dinner. Come out and help us recognize some outstanding advocates in public education and learn about the future direction of our Association.

New Legislators, New Legislative Districts = New Opportunities For Advocacy

Albany has approved the new district lines for the Congressional seats, as well as the State Senate and Assembly seats. Three Congressional districts on Long Island will have brand new Congressional representatives after November, and there will be many changes in the State house as well with announcements of retirements and the normal candidate carousel that happens when vacancies in any elective office occurs. This presents a challenge in some ways but with every challenge, is an opportunity! After November, try to be one of the first to meet and introduce yourself and your district to your newly elected officials. Meeting your newly elected representatives prior to being sworn in may produce big dividends down the road. Advocacy is a year round job and anytime there is a change, there presents an opportunity for you to help the newly elected become familiar with the school districts that they will now be representing. Form the relationship and continue to work on it all year, not just once a year.



Keeping Close Tabs On This:

NYS Assemblyman Fred Thiele (I-Sag Harbor) has put forward a bill to make LIPA a full public utility as opposed to the current partial public utility as it operates today with sub-contracting out to PSE&G. Assemblyman Thiele is working with Senator Jim Gaughran (D-Northport) on this and we will keep tabs on how the issue of PILOTS will be handled going forward. The bill numbers are A9035 and S7576

ICYMI– The Emergency Broadband Benefit is an [FCC program](#) to help families and households struggling to afford internet service during the COVID-19 pandemic. This new benefit will connect eligible households to jobs, critical healthcare services, virtual classrooms, and so much more. The Emergency Broadband Benefit will provide a discount of up to \$50 per month towards broadband service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers if they contribute more than \$10 and less than \$50 toward the purchase price. The Emergency Broadband Benefit is limited to one monthly service discount and one device discount per household.

Source:
[Fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit](https://fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit)

A Message From Our President Michael Kelly

In my last message, I mentioned how I was looking forward to celebrating the holidays with my family. Unfortunately, as with many of you, that was not to be as Omicron hit some members of my family. In fact, we celebrated my granddaughter's first Christmas with a glass storm door between us. Thankfully, two months later, the Omicron rates are way down, and we are all appreciative of the Governor's recent announcement ending the statewide mask mandate for students.

With the announcement, it now falls to individual districts whether to make masks optional. Once these decisions are made, we as school board members and our administrators may be faced with a new concern as parents decide if they wish their child to continue wearing a mask. As we begin seeing a mix of masked and unmasked students, we as a school community must ensure that all students are treated with respect regardless of their decision. Students wishing to continue wearing masks must not be made to feel that they are different and must be supported in their decision. They or a loved one may be immunocompromised and may need to be extra careful.

As we begin to move away from our COVID concerns, one area that we must begin anew is advocacy with our state officials. While it is only natural to contact your local legislators during the budget season, advocacy is a year-round endeavor. It is important to remember that advocacy is not a one-way street where we only make contact when we need something. As board members we must constantly maintain the lines of

communication, letting legislators know the good things happening in your schools and invite your representatives to visit your schools. As part of our role as advocates, we



must constantly educate ourselves on the key issues affecting our schools and the activities taking place within our legislative bodies. An important resource in keeping up to date is to become familiar with both our own N-SSBA Legislative Priorities and the NYSSBA website Advocacy pages. Speaking of advocacy, we should also be aware that with the recent certification of the census, there have been many tweaks and changes to both the federal and state legislative district lines. We should take the time to review the new legislative districts and determine whether any part of our school district has been moved and if we are now represented by different representatives.

As March begins, I look forward to the resumption of our town's annual St. Patrick's Day parade and my family's celebration and wish each of you a Happy St. Patrick's Day. In closing, again thank you for all the hard work you do.

The Governor's Budget Proposal by the Numbers for Long Island

	Nassau Cty	Suffolk Cty	LI totals	NYS totals	LI vs NYS %
Foundation Aid	\$ 852,218,540	\$ 1,530,701,218	\$ 2,382,919,758	\$ 19,816,470,010	12.02%
Full day K Conversion	\$ -		\$ -	\$ 1,235,524	
Universal Pre-K	\$ 33,069,702	\$ 44,896,091	\$ 77,965,793	\$ 945,350,254	8.25%
BOCES + Special Services	\$ 93,933,700	\$ 92,533,993	\$ 186,467,693	\$ 1,299,275,364	14.35%
High Cost Excess Cost	\$ 47,449,157	\$ 76,885,229	\$ 124,334,386	\$ 568,062,966	21.89%
Private Excess Cost	\$ 18,035,122	\$ 19,977,757	\$ 38,012,879	\$ 371,546,868	10.23%
Hardware & Technology	\$ 2,086,718	\$ 2,890,946	\$ 4,977,664	\$ 35,007,916	14.22%
Software, Library, Textbook	\$ 17,255,319	\$ 17,967,720	\$ 35,223,039	\$ 226,492,087	15.55%
Transportation Incl Summer	\$ 108,239,030	\$ 196,413,573	\$ 304,652,603	\$ 1,947,810,963	15.64%
Operating Reorg Incentive	\$ -		\$ -	\$ 4,491,253	0.00%
Charter School Transitional	\$ 15,020,208	\$ 1,880,805	\$ 16,901,013	\$ 47,221,594	35.79%
Academic Enhancement	\$ 2,520,255	\$ 3,475,384	\$ 5,995,639	\$ 28,271,832	21.21%
High Tax Aid	\$ 58,664,701	\$ 88,071,045	\$ 146,735,746	\$ 223,298,324	65.71%
Supplemental Pub Excess Cost	\$ 587,401	\$ 1,232,000	\$ 1,819,401	\$ 4,313,167	42.18%
			\$ -		
Building + Bldg Reorg Incentive	\$ 91,779,967	\$ 181,455,687	\$ 273,235,654	\$ 3,157,669,775	8.65%
Total Aid	\$ 1,340,859,820	\$ 2,258,381,448	\$ 3,599,241,268	\$ 28,676,517,897	12.55%

	Nassau Cty	Suffolk Cty	LI totals	NYS Totals	
Foundation Aid	\$ 1,043,102,454	\$ 1,756,513,701	\$ 2,799,616,155	\$ 21,416,608,220	13.07%
Full day K Conversion	\$ -		\$ -		
Universal Pre-K	\$ 34,644,215	\$ 44,896,091	\$ 79,540,306	\$ 951,968,852	8.36%
BOCES + Special Services	\$ 98,882,353	\$ 100,385,701	\$ 199,268,054	\$ 1,376,585,724	14.48%
High Cost Excess Cost	\$ 45,911,001	\$ 69,994,676	\$ 115,905,677	\$ 573,963,879	20.19%
Private Excess Cost	\$ 21,959,354	\$ 22,014,228	\$ 43,973,582	\$ 411,374,268	10.69%
Hardware & Technology	\$ 2,255,941	\$ 2,898,634	\$ 5,154,575	\$ 35,806,755	14.40%
Software, Library, Textbook	\$ 17,855,958	\$ 18,716,768	\$ 36,572,726	\$ 232,417,756	15.74%
Transportation Incl Summer	\$ 121,677,379	\$ 211,727,761	\$ 333,405,140	\$ 2,249,349,724	14.82%
Operating Reorg Incentive	\$ -		\$ -	\$ 3,614,300	0.00%
Charter School Transitional	\$ 17,374,203	\$ 1,922,137	\$ 19,296,340	\$ 52,297,367	36.90%
Academic Enhancement	\$ 2,520,255	\$ 3,475,384	\$ 5,995,639	\$ 28,271,832	21.21%
High Tax Aid	\$ 58,664,701	\$ 88,071,045	\$ 146,735,746	\$ 223,298,324	65.71%
Supplemental Pub Excess Cost	\$ 587,401	\$ 1,232,000	\$ 1,819,401	\$ 4,313,167	42.18%
			\$ -		
Building + Bldg Reorg Incentive	\$ 89,810,161	\$ 164,467,833	\$ 254,277,994	\$ 3,187,652,793	7.98%
Total Aid	\$ 1,555,245,376	\$ 2,486,315,959	\$ 4,041,561,335	\$ 30,747,522,961	13.14%

\$ Increase in State Aid	\$ 214,385,556	\$ 227,934,511	\$ 442,320,067	\$ 2,071,005,064	21.36%
% increase in State Aid	15.99%	10.09%	12.29%	7.22%	

Total \$ increase in foundation aid	\$ 190,883,914	\$ 225,812,483	\$ 416,696,397	\$ 1,600,138,210	26.04%
Total % increase in foundation aid	22.40%	14.75%	17.49%	8.07%	

About N-SSBA

To provide an organization which will voice the opinions of its members on legislative and other pertinent matters. We work jointly with other associations in the Long Island educational community to encourage cooperation among member boards in the interest of better education for the students we serve. To provide for the exchange of information of "best practices" and successful strategies and programs. We also assist in furthering the mutual objectives of this Association and the New York State School Boards Association

Calendar of Upcoming Events

3/26/2022 – Suffolk County Superintendents Advocacy Workshop - Virtual

4/1-4/4/22 – NSBA's Annual Convention - San Diego, California

4/18/2022 – School Board candidate nominating petitions due in the office of the District Clerk by 5:00pm

5/3-5/10/22 – School Boards must hold a public hearing on the Proposed Budget

5/17/2022 – Annual Budget Vote and School Board Trustee Elections

5/25/2022 – N-SSBA's Annual Membership Meeting

N-SSBA attends the NYSCOSS Winter Conference & Refit Legislative Breakfast

