

## June 2009 Advocacy Newsletter

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Information gathered by the Education, Environment, Health and Wellness, Family, School and Community Engagement, Parenting and Family Life, Media Safety and Special Education Chairs to assist you in your advocacy efforts



### Education

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- The **2009-10 State Assessment** Schedule (dates) is attached.
- The **Whole Child Initiative** through ASCD is advocating through a petition on their website. For further information, please go to <http://www.wholechildeducation.org/>
- A new **Interim Commissioner** has been recently named: Carole Huxley, to be effective July 1, 2009. For further details and information, go to <http://www.oms.nysed.gov/press/CHuxleyintcomm.html>
- In addition to the NY State Teacher of the Year Award, the Teacher Development Programs Unit administers the **Better Beginnings Award**, which recognizes elementary school teachers and was established to honor the memory of Helen Bach Moss, a local educator who passed away in 1988. David Lovell is the coordinator for this award. Applications for the 2009 Better Beginnings Award are now available. The application packet, which includes more information about this award is attached for your review and use. If you or anyone you know would like to nominate someone for the Better Beginnings Award, please feel free to do so. The deadline for nominations is June 8, 2009.
- **School Report Cards Released for Schools and Districts Statewide**  
The State Education Department announced on April 22, 2009 the release of 2008 School Report Cards for all schools and districts throughout New York. The Report Cards are available on the web at <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/irts/>. Much of the data contained in the School Report Cards has already been publicly released throughout the past year, but the Report Cards represent a single place for finding all of that information. The previously released data and press releases can also be accessed at the following web address: <http://www.oms.nysed.gov/press/>
- **21<sup>st</sup> century skills and Technology Literacy:** According to NCLB, by the year 2013, 8th grade students are expected to be 100% technology proficient. There are ISTE standards (<http://www.iste.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=NETS>). Since the guidelines for the NYS assessment are still in development, school districts must decide how to assess students. Districts are using a variety of tools - locally created assessment, ePortfolios, etc. By 2012, a formalized technology assessment will be instituted in NY. A recent draft proposal has come from NYSED  
<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2009Meetings/March2009/0309brd1a.doc>
- **NYSSIS** – (New York State Student Identification System) Unique student identifier system and information is noted in a 28 page informational booklet  
<http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/irts/sirs/documentation/nyssisguide.pdf>
- **NYS SIRS** (Student Information Repository System) Manual (April 2009): The system and information is noted in a 275 page informational booklet. This booklet denotes the accountability system, SIRS, NYSTART, testing rules and protocol, reporting protocols and

procedures, definitions of sub-groups for reporting, cohort definitions, verification reports and information etc... <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/irts/sirs/2008-09/2008-09SIRSMANUALVersion4-2-1.pdf>

### Useful Web Sites

New York State Department Area	Website
New York State Education Department	<a href="http://www.nysed.gov">www.nysed.gov</a>
Information and Reporting Services	<a href="http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/irts">www.emsc.nysed.gov/irts</a>
New York State Testing and Accountability Reporting Tool (ny START)	<a href="http://www.nystart.gov">www.nystart.gov</a> <a href="http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/irts/nystart">www.emsc.nysed.gov/irts/nystart</a>
New York State Student Identification System (NYSSIS)	<a href="http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/irts/SIRS/">www.emsc.nysed.gov/irts/SIRS/</a>
Office of State Assessment	<a href="http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/osa/">www.emsc.nysed.gov/osa/</a>
System of Accountability for Student Success	<a href="http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/nyc/accountability.html">www.emsc.nysed.gov/nyc/accountability.html</a>
New York State Alternate Assessment	<a href="http://www.vesid.nysed.gov/specialed/alterassessment/home">www.vesid.nysed.gov/specialed/alterassessment/home</a>
Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities	<a href="http://www.vesid.nysed.gov">www.vesid.nysed.gov</a>
Special Education Data Collection and Strategic Evaluation Data Collection Analysis and Reporting (SEDCAR)	<a href="http://www.vesid.nysed.gov/sedcar/">www.vesid.nysed.gov/sedcar/</a>
Academic Intervention Services (AIS)	<a href="http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/part100/pages/topics.html">www.emsc.nysed.gov/part100/pages/topics.html</a>
NYSED information on education requirements, exams, tests and assessments	<a href="http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/deputy/Documents/alternassess.htm">www.emsc.nysed.gov/deputy/Documents/alternassess.htm</a>
Backmapping Schools	<a href="http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/irts/SIRS/home.shtml">http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/irts/SIRS/home.shtml</a>

➤ **More Information on State and Federal Regulations:**

Part 100 of New York State Commissioner’s Regulations can be found at: <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/part100/pages/pt100index.html> . More information about federal regulations can be found at: [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)



## Environment

- **2009 Clean Air, Clean Water and Green Jobs Act:** Proponents of this environmental bond act are encouraging state leaders and all New Yorkers to think green when considering the bond act’s potential to create jobs, improve infrastructure and buoy the state’s economy.

Senate Environmental Conservation Committee Chairman Antoine Thompson, D-Buffalo, met and conducted a press conference in March 2009 with representatives from the Nature Conservancy, We Act for Environmental Justice, the New York League of Conservation Voters and the New York State Laborers union, calling on the Legislature and Gov. David A. Paterson to enact legislation placing the 2009 Clean Air, Clean Water and Green Jobs Act on the Nov. 3 statewide ballot for public vote. The bond act’s purpose would be threefold: expanding job opportunities through the creation of infrastructure that attempts to protect the environment.

Senate Labor Committee Chairman George Onorato, D-Queens, said, “I believe this proposed bond act holds great potential for providing new, green job opportunities and for advancing infrastructure improvements that will help put New Yorkers back to work and revitalize our economy. And equally as important, we will be investing in a cleaner environment for ourselves and future generations. We can’t take our natural resources for granted; they need protection and stewardship so that we have clean air, clean water and green spaces for a healthier and more beautiful New York both today and in the years to come.”

According to Paul Hartman, director of government relations for the Nature Conservancy, the act supports and complements the federal stimulus bill. “The important thing to know is that this would be kicking in, in full force, as the economic stimulus dollars wane,” said Hartman. “This would be New York’s opportunity to continue on the momentum created by the federal stimulus and to move us forward five, six years down the road. “If the bond act were approved by the voters, Hartman said the \$5 billion would be dispersed over an approximate

period of five years with \$1 billion going towards clean water with watershed protection projects; \$1 billion for clean water infrastructure; \$1 billion for green jobs through energy efficiency programs and weatherization; \$1 billion for clean air and green transit; and \$1 billion for urban health and community restoration projects.

In addition to the estimated creation and retention of 212,000 New York jobs created by the federal stimulus package, the 2009 bond act could, according to the coalition, yield an additional 40,000 to 50,000 new jobs in the state. The Legislature and Governor must approve the bond act by Aug. 3 for it to be included on the November ballot.

<http://www.adirondackcouncil.org/Enviros%20and%20labor%20join%20forces%20behind%20bond%20act.pdf>



## Family, School, and Community Engagement

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- **Family, School, Community Resource** When the school functions *as* a community rather than *in* a community, its constituents associate with one another and share common values about the education of children. *Those* children become *our* children, and parents are full partners in the education of their children and each other's children. Search the links on this Families-Schools website  
<http://www.families-schools.org/>



## Health/Wellness

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- **H1N1/Swine Flu (influenza A virus): School, student and parent information:** Initial cases of novel influenza A (H1N1) in the United States included school-aged students and were associated with travel to Mexico and school-based outbreaks. Early information from Mexico indicated that many previously healthy young adults were hospitalized with rapidly progressive pneumonia, frequently resulting in respiratory failure requiring mechanical ventilation and death. Based on this initial information, CDC recommended consideration of school closure as an option to lessen the risk of infection. CDC and local and state health officials continue to closely monitor the severity and spread of this novel H1N1 influenza outbreak. At this time, CDC recommends the primary means to reduce spread of influenza in schools focus on early identification of ill students and staff, staying home when ill and good cough and hand hygiene etiquette. For the latest information go to: [www.NYSED](http://www.NYSED); [www.NYDOH](http://www.NYDOH); [www.CDC](http://www.CDC)
- **Sun Safety:** The Sun Safety Alliance (SSA) is dedicated to creating national awareness of skin cancer as an important health issue. SSA is focused on educating and communicating awareness regarding the importance of sun care safety, especially for children, with the goal of helping to prevent skin cancer due to sun exposure. Encourage members of the public to take action to protect themselves and their families, especially children, from the dangers of the sun. Bridge the gap between research on sun safety and skin cancer prevention issues and strategic means of communicating them to the public, [www.sunsafetyalliance.org](http://www.sunsafetyalliance.org)  
SunWise School Program: email: [sunwise@epa.gov](mailto:sunwise@epa.gov) or [www.epa.gov/sunwise](http://www.epa.gov/sunwise)



## Parenting and Family Life

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- **Parenting Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children - Challenges of ...**  
Articles on **parenting deaf** and hard of hearing **children** and teenagers.  
<http://deafness.about.com/od/articlesandnewsletters/a/parentdeafkids.htm>

- Frequently Asked Questions About **Parenting Deaf** and Hard of Hearing **Children**: <http://deafness.about.com/cs/parenting/f/parenting.htm>
- **Deaf** Literacy - Literacy Resources for Teaching **Deaf Children** English; **Deaf** Health - Help for Abused **Deaf Children**; **Parenting Deaf** and Hard of Hearing **Children** <http://deafness.about.com/od/literacy/a/deafliteracy.htm>
- **A Parent's Guide to Fire Prevention Week in the Home** [http://specialneedsparenting.suite101.com/article.cfm/deaf\\_children\\_learn\\_fire\\_safety#ixzz0FFBJyDxN&B](http://specialneedsparenting.suite101.com/article.cfm/deaf_children_learn_fire_safety#ixzz0FFBJyDxN&B)
- American Society for Deaf Children [www.deafchildren.org](http://www.deafchildren.org)



## Special Education

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- **Dialogue on RTI in the Classroom:** Response to Intervention, a framework for modifying instruction based on early evaluation of student-learning needs, is gaining traction in schools even as some educators struggle with the approach. <http://www.teachersourcebook.org/tsb/articles/2009/03/01/02rtichat.h02.htm>
- The **NYSED Curriculum, Instruction & Instructional Technology** (CI&IT) Team's April E-Blast is available at <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/ciai/EBlasts/eblast.html> . It is also available on the NYSED CI&IT homepage, <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/ciai/>, by clicking on the bold text, "CI&IT E-Blast." Bookmark the web addresses above for quick reference.
- **The Board of Regents has approved for permanent adoption** the amendment of sections 200.4 and 200.5 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education relating to the use of the State's forms for individualized education programs (IEPs), meeting notices and prior written notices (notices of recommendation). These regulations became permanently effective on April 9, 2009. For more information, <http://www.vesid.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/policy/mandatedformsregs.htm>



## Cyber Safety

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- **Learn more** about your child's world on the Internet. Helpful articles for parents in understanding the Web: <http://www.isafe.org/imgs/pdf/newsletter/2009/i-parent-0304-09.pdf>
- **Summer Time in Cyberspace:** As the school year rapidly comes to a close, teachers and parents should consider the fact that children and teens will soon have plenty of time on their hands — frequently unsupervised. How can the adults in children's lives make sure their online activities are safe and responsible? <http://bnetsavvy.org/wp/summertime-in-cyberspace-helping-kids-make-safe-choices/>
- **Facebook Users Be Vigilant:** a phishing scheme was recently discovered among users of the popular social networking site who may have inadvertently clicked on a fraudulent Web link included in a Facebook message to them. Find out how to avoid these scams <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/30749501/>
- **A "critical" threat to PowerPoint users:** Microsoft finds hackers are seeking to attack users of its PowerPoint presentation software and released patches to protect them against the threat. <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/30708231/>