



## This Week At ECASB ...

*Important news from this past week and news for the upcoming week.*

December 29, 2023

*Executive Director Cell Phone: (716) 867-3531*

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**LOCAL LEGISLATIVE MEETINGS:** - Senator Gallivan: Thursday, January 11th @ 3:00 p.m.; 2721 Transit Road, Elma. Program Services Manager Jane Sullivan will provide updates on the various meetings attended for those ECASB members that are unable to attend.

**ECASB AWARD NOMINATIONS OPEN JANUARY 2ND.** Consider nominating someone from your Board of Education to receive an award and honor them for their work. Nomination forms are kept on file and reconsidered every year for a period of 5 years. Forms will be sent out on January 2nd. Forms are available on the ECASB website under the Awards tab. Nominations must be postmarked by Monday, March 4, 2024. Awards include the Diana R. Miller Service to Education Award, the Laura M. Burns Advocacy for Children Award, the Hodgson Russ Excellence in Collaboration Award, the Wayne Schlifke Lifetime Achievement Award, the Lorie Sabo Advocacy Award, the ECASB District Clerk Award sponsored by Webster Szanyi LLP, the Friend(s) of ECASB Award and the Ray Carr Emerging Leaders Award.

**RURAL SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE:** 2023-2024 Student Video Contest 'The Miracle of Rural Education' is open now through January 12, 2024. A student or a club may submit entries. Video should be 2-3 minutes in length and should not exceed 5 minutes. Questions, please contact Andrea Durmiaki, Director of Communications and Planning at [adurmiaki@rsany.org](mailto:adurmiaki@rsany.org).

**SATURDAY MORNING JANUARY 27TH PROGRAM.** The program will be a breakfast program in conjunction with NYSSBA and the Niagara Orleans School Board Association. Please mark your calendars and watch for more information. The topic will be an "Let's (Not) Freak Out About A.I. This program will be our Saturday morning breakfast session held at Erie 1 BOCES. Details about the program have already been sent. Start the New Year out right by attending this informative and entertaining presentation. The Keynote speaker is Dr. Mike Doughty. Dr. Doughty presented to a standing room crowd at the NYSSBA convention held in Buffalo recently. Assistant Superintendent for the Northeastern Regional Information Center, a division of the Capital Region BOCES in Albany, Dr. Doughty will provide the audience with an entertaining, informative and thought provoking topic.

**NEW YOUR STATE INCREASES MINIMUM WAGE AND MODIFIES OTHER SALARY REQUIREMENTS.**  
For New York City, Nassau, and Suffolk and Westchester Counties:

January 1, 2024 - \$16.00 per hour

January 1, 2025 - \$16.50 per hour

January 1, 2026 - \$17.00 per hour

For the remainder of the state, the increase will be as follows:

January 1, 2024 - \$15.00 per hour

January 1, 2025 - \$15.50 per hour

January 1, 2026 - \$16.00 per hour

- Please note that there are other increases that will go into effect for employees in different classes exempt classes and home care aides.

**THE EXECUTIVE BUDGET IS SET TO BE RELEASED JANUARY 16TH BY THE GOVERNOR.** Once the budget is released, there will be many conversations from NYSCOSS, ASBO, NYSSBA, NYS Rural Schools Association as well as others. Watch for recaps of the budget commentaries.

**I STILL HAVE TO GET TO THE FOLLOWING SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS:** I will start back up with Board visits in January. Districts on the list include: Amherst CSD, Gowanda CSD, Grand Island CSD, Hamburg CSD, Springville CSD, Sweet Home CSD, Williamsville CSD, Pioneer CSD, and Starpoint CSD.

**BOARD OF REGENTS BUDGET AND LEGISLATIVE PRIORTIES FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR.**

The Board of Regents are asking for;

- \$4.3 million investment in agency-wide infrastructure.
- \$1.6 billion increase in state aid
- \$926.8 million in Foundation Aid
- \$343.4 million to modernize the formula, updating the poverty, free-reduced price lunch and high need designations; plus \$1 million to contract with researchers to review the efficacy of the current formula
- \$359.4 million for other aid programs, provide relief for districts with sudden increases in enrollment, aid for students with disabilities between 21 and 22 years of age, enhance payable BOCES Aid and Special Services Aid to include ninth grade and streamlining of pre-k funding
- \$20.3 million for IT System Needs; \$4.3 million as mentioned earlier and \$16 million toward statewide longitudinal data system and special education data system.
- \$17 million of a \$10 fee increase for operational funding for the State Museum
- \$1.4 million to update the learning standards
- \$1.7 million for Charter School office
- \$11.1 million for Opportunity Programs in Higher Education including Career and Technical Education
- \$3.7 million over three years for the teacher recruitment pipeline
- \$70.5 million for Free and Appropriate Education
- \$2 million to support Post-Secondary Success of Students with Disabilities
- \$2 million for New York State Summer School for the Arts and Scholarships

A complete listing may be found on the Regents Web page

**ELECTRIC BUS MANDATE:** State Senator George Borrello and 14 Republicans are asking Governor Kathy Hochul to rescind the electric bus mandate for public schools or commit to fully funding the conversion. Please contact your local legislator and urge them to join Senator Borrello. We will keep you updated on any developments

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:** (Upcoming ECASB Events).

- January 2nd - ECASB Award Nominations Open
- Local Legislative Meetings with NYS Senators and Assemblypersons during the month of December and January.
- January 27th - “Lets (Not) Freak Out About A.I.”

**SPONSOR WORKSHOPS:**

- **Harris Beach PLLC**
  - February 29th—2024 Educational Institutions Conference
  - March 23rd - Updates on Current Legal Issues Facing Employers
  - June 22nd - Practical Employee Considerations in Managing Your Workforce
- **Hodgson Russ LLP**
  - January 12th - 39th Annual School Client Conference 8:45 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.; at M Hotel Buffalo; 2040 Walden Avenue, Buffalo New York

**POLITICAL FUNDRAISERS: None Listed**

**NYSSBA’S PROGRAMS:**

- Save the following dates:
  - 2024 Virtual Capital Conference - February 2, 2024
  - In Person NYSSBA Lobby Day in Albany - February 7, 2024

**NSBA’S (NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION) PROGRAMS:**

- Equity Symposium - January 27th in Washington D.C
- Advocacy Institute - January 28th-30th in Washington D.C.
- Annual Conference and Exposition - April 4-6 in New Orleans, Louisiana
- Rural Education Summit - April 5th in New Orleans, Louisiana

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