

CSAANY'S NEWS

(518) 273-1205

CATHOLIC SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE
406 Fulton Street • Suite 512 • Troy, New York 12180-3359

NEWS FROM STATE ED

REGENTS DAYS - Regents examination days count toward fulfilling the 180 required days of instruction, but schools need not take attendance on such days. If grades 7-12 are housed in the same building, school district officials may excuse the junior high school pupils and the senior high school pupils from the daily instructional requirement if their class schedules are disrupted by the Regents examination schedule and if staff are needed to properly administer examinations. (NYCRR 175.2)

LOCAL FINAL EXAMINATIONS - If middle school, junior high school or senior high school pupils take local final examinations or preliminary competency tests on days before the Regents examination days, all students must be required to attend, attendance must actually be recorded and the day must meet the length of school day regulations in order to be counted toward meeting the 180-day requirement for the year.

TRANSPORTATION - School districts are required to continue to provide transportation for students in accordance with previously adopted mileage limitations when a school budget is defeated. Mileage limitations shall only change when amended by a special proposition passed by a majority of the qualified voters of the district.

School districts may provide transportation of a pupil residing more than 15 miles from the non-public school which he or she attends to a centralized pick-up point as long as such transportation does not result in a change of route or additional costs to the district. (James Kadamus, Assoc. Commissioner for Central Services, SED)

HUMAN RIGHTS AMENDMENT TO EDUCATION LAW

A new law requires instruction in human rights issues, particularly the study of the inhumanity of genocide, slavery and the Holocaust.

The new law amends existing Education Law as follows:

In order to promote a spirit of patriotic and civic service and obligation and to foster in the children of the state moral and intellectual qualities which are essential in preparing to meet the obligations of citizenship in peace and in war, the regents of The University of the State of New York shall prescribe a course of instruction in patriotism and citizenship and human rights issues, to be maintained and followed in all the schools of the state. Similar courses of instruction shall be prescribed and maintained in private schools in the state, and all pupils in such schools over 8 years of age shall attend upon such courses. If such courses are not so established and maintained in a private school, attendance upon instruction in such school shall not be deemed substantially equivalent to instruction given to pupils of like age in the public schools of the city of district in which such pupils reside.

This act shall take effect immediately.

(I believe that our curriculum in religious studies is, or should be, instruction in human rights - ed.)

CSAANYS is indebted to P.F. Collier L.P. for the cost of printing this and all our newsletters.

\$ATTENTION\$
WASHINGTON BOUND
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
GROUPS

TRINITY COLLEGE in Washington, D.C., offers affordable and comfortable housing just minutes from Capitol Hill, the Supreme Court and the monuments.

Trinity offers dormitory-style housing in a 98-room residence hall on campus. Each room is furnished with two twin beds, dressers, desks, chairs and closets. Guests share bathroom and shower facilities located on each floor.

Trinity's rate is \$25 per room, per day (double occupancy), including linens and towels. The main dining hall serves an all-you-can-eat buffet and salad bar for breakfast (\$4 lunch (\$5), and dinner (\$6).

Campus guests may take advantage of on-campus parking and shuttle service to Washington's Metrorail. For more information contact George Bailey III, ☎202-939-5119.

THE MONTH OF RAMADAN

From January 31 to March 2 Muslims all over the world observe the holy month of Ramadan. Ramadan is a time of remembrance of the first revelations of the angel Gabriel to Muhammed in Mecca in 590 A.D. These revelations constitute the main body of Islamic teaching and are incorporated in the Koran.

This is a time of opportunity for non-Muslims to acquaint themselves with the tenets and practices of the Islamic faith and, especially for Jews and Christians to recognize the common soil from which these three great religious traditions have emerged.

★ PARENT POWER ★

The U.S.C.C. Dept. of Education has just published its first edition of the Parent Power newsletter. It is available in camera ready format for redistribution to parents. Watch your diocesan office for further information or call CSAANYS.

!ATTENTION!
Important \$TAX\$ Info for
Some Parents

A key goal of the **1995 Earned Income Credit Campaign** is to get the word out to the 4.5 million low-income workers that the credit is worth more money - up to \$2,528 this year for some families. For a copy of an EIC fact sheet (in English or Spanish) contact CSAANYS ☎518-273-1205.

REFLECTIONS ON
CATHOLIC EDUCATION

"As a graduate of St. Joseph's Academy in New Roads and as the mother of three children who enjoyed the blessings of Catholic elementary and secondary education, I am proud to state my support of Catholic education.

Catholic schools instill in our children the teachings of the old testament and the 'good news' of the Gospel, as well as social values, self-discipline and confidence in their natural abilities.

I believe that parents should have an opportunity to choose the best education for their children, and that available choices between private and public schools can strengthen all institutions."

- Lindy (Mrs. Hale) Boggs,
former U.S. Congresswoman
from Louisiana

(CONTESTS)
(SEMINARS)
(SCHOLARSHIPS)

*** MARCH 15 - Student Cartoon Contest:** Entries are due for the **7th Annual Student Editorial Cartoon Contest**, sponsored by NewsCurrents. All elementary, middle, and high school students are eligible. One first-prize winner, 2 second-prize winners, and 2 third-prize winners will be chosen from the grade categories of K-6, 7-9 and 10-12. Contact: NewsCurrents Editorial Cartoon Contest, PO Box 52, Madison WI 53701.

*** MARCH 15 - Student Game Contest:** Entries are due for the megagame 2000 contest, sponsored by Phantastic Phinds for Phys Ed and U.S. Games. Physical-education students in grades 7-12 are asked to develop a new, futuristic game. All entries must be original in design. The winning entry will receive \$100,000 worth of free sporting equipment for the school. Entry forms may be obtained by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: P.P.P.E., Megagame 2000, 72532 Edgell Dr., Suite 2, Palm Desert CA 92260.

*** MARCH 15 - Summer Humanities Seminars:** The National Endowment for the Humanities division of fellowships and seminars is inviting applications for seminars on a variety of texts in the humanities for 4,5 or 6 weeks during the summer of 1995. Full-time or regular part-time teachers of grades 7-12 as well as other K-12 school personnel are encouraged to apply. All teachers selected to participate will be awarded stipends of \$2,450, \$2,485, or \$3,200. each, depending on the length of the seminar. Contact: Public Information Office, N.E.H., 1100 Pennsylvania Ave., NW Washington DC 20506; ☎202-606-8400.

→WHAT'S IN← - WHAT'S OUT✂

LANGUAGE

I am sure you realize that things are a bit "topsy turvy" at the State Education Department. In all truth, it is very hard to offer you any solid direction. A case in point is the *Proposal for Foreign Language* which the Board of Regents released for public comment earlier this month. (see CSAANYS NEWS, pg. 1)

This proposal recommends all high school students be required to achieve "a thorough foundation in a second language." equivalent to a Regents-level course.

Furthermore it recommends that elementary school students also have the opportunity to learn a foreign language. Currently, only 75,000 elementary students take a foreign language course.

"New York State should also create opportunities for students with language aptitude and motivation to study languages over many years, as students do in other parts of the world, and to achieve levels of proficiency well beyond what is now possible for most students."

Within a week of this announcement came an Associated Press news article: "Gov. George Pataki, saying he wants to free school districts from a costly mandate, has proposed eliminating state requirements that middle school students study foreign languages and technology."

State education law adopted in 1984 requires that students complete two years of a foreign language by the end of ninth grade and one year of technology education by the end of eighth grade.

Pataki has called for rescinding that requirement, leaving it up to school districts to decide what these middle school students should be taught."

TECHNOLOGY

Earlier in this school year many of you worked with your local school district in writing proposals for the newly established *Learning Technology Grant Program*. Nearly 400 proposals were received and the State Education Department is ready to award grants to the winning proposals.

However on February 1, 1995 Governor Pataki submitted to the legislature Budget Bills 51770 and A3070 which states in S550 Learning Technology Grants, "that the release of such grants shall be contingent on the approval of an expenditure plan by the Director of the Budget and the availability of funds for such purpose".

Watch for directions from your (arch) diocesan office and/or local district on what avenues they are planning to pursue on this bill.

ENERGY

For the past 15+ years many of you have taken part in the *Institutional Conservation Program* of the New York State Energy Office. During several cycles schools applied for Technical Assistance and Energy Conservation Measures through the Energy Office's grant program.

As of March 31, 1995 the State Energy Office will be dissolved. We are awaiting word as to where we shall go for the assistance previously given through this energy office.

We believe that any federal energy programs will be administered by an existing State Authority. I shall keep you posted once I know where to direct you.

Now you understand how I am scrambling to keep you abreast of what's going on in Albany. Believe me, it is no easy task!

Sister Mary Anne



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CURRENT LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

FEDERAL

Proposed FY1995 Rescissions Affecting Education

As I write, the full House of Representatives is debating the Budget Cut Bill. They predict a vote by day's end.

If you have followed the daily news broadcasts and newspapers, you are aware that cuts are found in almost all areas. In education, a cut of \$1.7 billion in programs is proposed. Fifty-two out of sixty-eight federally funded programs have been terminated. Of the remaining sixteen, one-half have had their appropriations reduced.

The impact on New York State is approximately \$107 million. Because education programs are forward funded, they are particularly vulnerable to these rescissions. Education funds appropriated at the beginning of the federal fiscal year on October 1, 1994 do not flow to states, students and school districts until the following school year to allow for adequate planning. Therefore, unlike most other federal programs, education monies have not yet been drawn out even though five months of the fiscal year have passed.

The rescissions have implications for the 1995-96 school year budgeting process. Of interest to CSAANY member schools may be the termination of funding for Safe & Drug-Free Schools, Early Childhood Education, Bilingual Education, Eisenhower Grants, and National Diffusion Network. In addition New York State's Title 1 Basic Grants appropriations have been reduced by approximately 9%.

If this bill is passed, then, no doubt, within the near future, the Senate will debate a companion bill in the same vein. There is still reason to hope that

some of these program cuts may be mitigated by the Senate.

STATE

Transportation Legislation

Assemblyman Robert C. Wertz (Suffolk) has introduced A. 3650 which would extend the transportation mileage limitation from 15 to 20. Other sponsors: Assemblyman Denis J. Butler (Queens), Assemblyman Robert Prestiss (Albany), and Assemblywoman Sandra Lee Wirth (Erie). If your school is within the district of any of these sponsors, a word of appreciation for their efforts is in order.

Educational Choice Bills S1388 & A2053

Senators Serphih Maltese (Queens) and Owen Johnson (Suffolk) have introduced S1388 "The Parental Choice in Education" bill.

In the Assembly, an identical companion bill, A2053 was introduced by Assemblyman Dov Hikind (Brooklyn). There are 10 co-sponsors: Michael Balboni (Nassau), Thomas Barraga (Suffolk), Gregory Becker (Nassau), Philip Healey (Nassau), Elizabeth Hoffman* (Niagara/Orleans), Nick Perry (Brooklyn) Anthony Seminerio (Queens), Willis Stephens (Dutchess/Putnam), Ronald Tocci (Westchester) Robert Wertz (Sufflok).

This bill is a serious attempt to open discussion on the topic of Educational Choice in New York State.

*recently resigned her Assembly seat

"THEM THAT HAS - GETS"

With all the concerns about budget cuts and rescission, New York State lobbying groups spent \$39.1 million last year in attempts to protect their interests.

For the second time in three years, New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) led all groups in lobbying expenses at \$638,434. The New York State School Boards Association ranked 7th in spending at \$366,326.

The teachers, union also contributed \$2 million to statewide political campaigns in 1993 and 1994, the most of any political action committee in the state.

COURTROOM as CLASSROOM

Are you trying to cope with the O.J. trial in your social studies classroom? The American Bar Association has issued a 16 page guide to help students' understanding of the criminal-justice system. The guide explains concepts such as reasonable doubt and circumstantial evidence. The guide is available for \$5.00 from ABA ☎312-988-5735.

FREE VIDEOS

Free educational video programs are available upon request written on school stationery to VIDEO PLACEMENT REVIEW, 133 First St. NE, Suite 1, St. Petersburg, FL 33701.

CHILD NUTRITION

In the midst of all the discussion about cuts in Child Nutrition Programs (part of the Welfare Reform Consolidation Act of 1995), schools which sponsor School Lunch and/or Breakfast Programs are facing new regulations for PL103-448, the Healthy Meals for Healthy Americans Act of 1994.

If the plan to hand over school based nutrition programs to the States through Block Grants is approved then these proposed regulations may not be enforced. However, it is well for responsible parties to be aware of the recent mailing from Frances O'Donnell, Child Nutrition Coordinator of the NYS Education Department.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY IN SCHOOLS

The Board of Regents adopted the following recommendations among many needing no legislative, regulatory or budgetary action.

1. **Improve indoor air quality** - The State Ed Dept shall implement federal legislation which prohibits environmental tobacco smoke in school buildings.

2. **Improve pest management programs**

a. Schools shall adopt and publicize integrated pest management policies and practices to prevent, reduce or eliminate pesticide use.

b. Schools shall post warning signs at the main entrance of the school, and elsewhere as required by law, whenever pesticides are applied, indoors or outdoors, and shall leave the warning signs in place for at least 48 hours.

c. Schools shall select pest management practices which minimize exposure of individuals and foods.

d. Schools shall maintain, and make available upon request to parents and school personnel, records of all pesticide applications, including pesticide(s) applied, date(s) of application(s), and locations(s) treated.

3. **Reduce exposure to lead** - Schools shall comply with the New York State Lead Poisoning Prevention Act which requires that children, age six and under, entering school upon initial enrollment present proof of a blood test for lead.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL LEGISLATIVE NETWORK

Each New York State diocese has a Catholic School Network Coordinator for Legislative issues. Hopefully each school has a contact person for the network.

As we move along in this constantly changing political climate, each administrator should be aware of her/his school's:

- (1) New York State Assembly District - there are 150 Assembly Districts
- (2) New York State Senate District - there are 61 Senate Districts
- (3) U.S. Congressional District - there are 31 Congressional Districts.
- (4) U.S. Senators from New York

At a time when quick communication is important be sure you have both the local and Albany (or Washington) addresses and phone numbers for each legislator.

If these are not readily available to you, CSAANYS will provide them if you call with the name of the legislator. ☎518-273-1205.

CSAANYS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING REPORT

The third meeting of the CSAANYS Executive Board for the 1994-95 school year was held March 5-6 at the Franciscan Retreat Center in Rensselaer.

The Finance Committee reported that the budget is on target for the school year. The 1995-96 budget will be presented at the May meeting. The Board recommended a \$25. increase in the CSAANYS workshop fee for the 1995-96 school year.

The Membership Committee reported that approximately two-thirds of the Catholic Schools in New York State are CSAANYS members. Board members proposed that a questionnaire be sent to non-members to ascertain the reasons why they elect not to join the association.

Sister Carol, a member of the Supervision Personnel and Curriculum Division of NCBA announced that their annual convention will be held Nov. 29-Dec. 2, 1995 in San Diego. Principals are welcome to attend if they wish.

Sister Mary Anne reported that the Non-public School Administrators Conference is tentatively set for Nov. 13-14, 1995 at the Albany Marriott. Because of the re-organization within the State Education Dept. it is impossible to be firm on any plans right now.

Old business included discussion on the status of the New Compact now that there are so many changes pending at both the state and national levels, the Blue Ribbon Schools Program for 1995-96, a CSAANYS constitutional review on the roles of the directors, and a report on the November needs survey of member schools.

New business dealt largely with the new political order in both Albany and Washington and the feasibility of CSAANYS sponsoring a Statewide Convocation of Members within the next year or two.

The final Board meeting of this school year will be held on May 7-8, 1995.

RSM EFFORTS APPLAUDED

Earlier this year the Sisters of Mercy of Rochester contacted CSAANYS to see if we could give them an estimated figure on the number of New York State Catholic School students being reached by the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas. Fortunately our membership form asks the names of any religious order which provides staff within the school. In this way we were able to say that at least 20,510 New York State Catholic School children come under the influence of the Sisters of Mercy.

We were then very pleased to see a position paper issued by the Rochester RSM's on the topic of School Choice as a matter of justice.

Indeed, in Elmira where the Sisters of Mercy own and operate Notre Dame H.S., the Chemung county executive, G. Thomas Tranter Jr., a 1972 graduate of Notre Dame, appeared at a National Catholic Schools Week news Conference with Notre Dame principal, Sister Mary Walter Hickey, RSM to promulgate the position paper and to add his encouragement for more parental choice in where their children attend school.

Mr. Tranter, a parent of four Catholic School children said, "Many families must make significant financial sacrifices to send their children to Catholic Schools. Hopefully, some help in this regard might occur in the near future with the advent of either the voucher program or tax credits for parents".

MIDDLE SCHOOL REFORM

On Tuesday, September 20, 1994, PBS ran a two-hour teleconference on middle-level educational reform entitled "Turning Points: Are We Making Progress." VHS videotape copies are now available, on a loan basis. Write or call: David A. Payton, Supervisor, Middle-Level Education Program, Rm 681, EBA, Albany, NY 12234 ☎518-474-5922.

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Dr. James S. Coleman, the renowned University of Chicago sociologist who helped shape American education policies by comparing public and private schools died on Saturday, March 25, 1995.

In 1982 a Coleman study said that, all things being equal, Catholic high schools out-perform public high schools. Of particular interest were the findings which suggested that Catholic high schools were particularly successful in the education of low income minority students. Dr. Coleman saw "a common mission" as the key to Catholic School success. He found considerable diversity in governance, size, student characteristics and locale. In his opinion, each Catholic high school is unique but each maintains a core of common values.

As would be expected, Coleman's original study and those which followed have been highly contested. Yet they have created an interest in knowing more about these Catholic Schools and exactly what "makes them tick."

May James S. Coleman know the joy and peace of those who "will shine as stars for all eternity" R.I.P.

HOOKED ON FISHING

The Future Fisherman Foundation, the educational arm of the American Sportsfishing Association has a program called "Hooked on Fishing - Not on Drugs."

The organizers of the program hope it will net new generations of angling enthusiasts. The program pledges to offer ways to reach out to children and show them a lifelong way of having fun without drugs and alcohol.

For further information contact:
Future Fisherman Foundation, 1250 Grove Ave., Suite 300, Barrington, IL 60010 ☎ 708-381-4061.

SMOKING BAN = \$

Rhode Island's House majority leader is betting that loosening the state's ban on smoking in schools will mean bigger bingo profits for education. Rep. George Caruolo is sponsoring a bill that would allow smoking in public and private schools during bingo nights or other after-hours events for adults.

Some parochial schools, which depend on such fund-raising efforts, had seen attendance at bingo games slide since the state passed the ban

two years ago.

However, lifting the ban could prove a losing proposition for some schools, since a law Congress enacted last year bars federal aid to any facility serving children that does not have a firm no-smoking policy. Anti-smoking lobbyists say a repeal would also contradict the state's hard line against tobacco use, which is preached in mandatory health education classes in K-12 schools.

A FINE FOR PARENTS

Superintendents in Mississippi would be allowed to fine parents \$250 for failing to show up at a student's disciplinary conference, under a measure the legislature passed this month.

"We feel it's essential to provide a mechanism to get those parents involved in their child's education and to help that school keep the child under control." said Sen. Ronnie Musgrove, who chairs the Senate education committee. The measure was approved by a vote of 103-18 in the House and 52-0 in the Senate.

CSAANY'S is indebted to P.F. Collier L.P. for the cost of printing this and all our newsletters.

The University of Rochester's Institute on Catholic Education will be held July 6&7. ☎ 716-275-7833 for further information.

...FORGET WALDO; WHERE'S CLEVELAND?

After all the jokes about teenagers' cultural illiteracy, it should come as no surprise to learn that many teens have no idea who the namesake of their high school is. Several students at Grover Cleveland High School in Los Angeles, for instance, were surprised to hear their school was named after a former president. "I always thought it was named after that city in Canada," one student says... (Executive Educator)

Enclosed with this CSAANY'S NEWS is a membership renewal form for the 1995-96 school year. This is especially useful if there is to be a change of administration in your school; renewing now is a help to the new administrator and insures uninterrupted service.

As approved by our Board we shall offer a \$100 award drawing for those who renew by June 30th and a \$50 award for those who renew by September 30.

NEWS FROM STATE ED

STATE ED REORGANIZATION

Since the Governor has required a 30% reduction in Commissioner and middle-level management staff, the number Commissioner-level positions has been reduced from 9 to 6 as of the end of April.

These cuts have necessitated the elimination of the position of Assistant Commissioner's Office solely devoted to nonpublic schools. Therefore the Office of Regional School & Community Services, headed by Asst. Commissioner Samuel Corsi will include nonpublic school services among the seven areas included in this office.

Nathaniel Phipps will continue as Team Leader for the Nonpublic School Services Team and his team will remain intact.

Learning Technology Grants

On April 4 the Senate passed a comprehensive omnibus budget revision bill (S.4000), which includes a number of items relating to education. Especially noteworthy is the fact that the bill does not give the Division of the Budget the authority to rescind all three programs. It appears that the Budget Division ultimately agreed with the Senate that it would not be a good idea to rescind the Learning Technology Grants program.

Therefore we hope that the 70 school districts chosen from the 400 applications submitted will soon get the money allocated for the 1994-95 grant cycle.

Examination requirement for the certification of professional staff in the PUPLIC SCHOOLS of NYS

As of September 2, 1993, applicants for the permanent certificate in two areas - teacher of the common branch subjects to children in PreK-6 grades and teachers of academic subjects to students in grades 7-12 must complete a new examination for the permanent certificate which includes a performance assessment of teaching skills. The component requires a candidate to submit to the State Ed. Dept. a videotape of a classroom presentation, which is assessed by the Department to ascertain the adequacy of a candidate's teaching skills.

In an amendment recently adopted by the Board of Regents the videotape is a confidential record of the State Ed Dept. and as such is not subject to viewing by or disclosure to any individual or entity other than the applicant for certification, appropriate Department personnel, and others engaged by the Department to evaluate the videotape. In addition, the amendment prohibits a school system from preventing an applicant for a permanent teaching certificate from videotaping a classroom presentation for the purpose of satisfying the requirements of the performance assessment of teaching skills.

Videotaping of a classroom presentation to satisfy teacher certification requirements without written parental consent is not an invasion of students' privacy rights as the purpose does not involve the commercial exploitation of students. For a copy of the amendment you may contact **CSAANYS = 518-273-1205**.

PROPOSED CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

The Board of Regents has adopted a draft Curriculum Framework for Health, Physical Education & Home Economics. The framework, which now goes to the public and educators for comment, emphasizes developing skills that will help students cope with a "mechanized, sedentary society."

"This is a working draft in the exact sense of that term," said State Ed Commissioner Thomas Sobol. "It will not be complete until the public, teachers and other interested and expert citizens have been able to review it and recommend improvements."

The framework establishes 3 standards which share a common focus of giving students knowledge to make sound choices about their own well-being. The three standards are:

- **Personal Health & Fitness** - Students will have the necessary knowledge for planning a balanced diet; designing a personal exercise program and maintaining a home.
- **A Safe & Healthy Environment** - Students must know how to take care of those who depend on them (e.g., younger siblings, children for whom they babysit, their own future children, injured companions, ailing relatives) and how to maintain safe and healthy conditions in the spaces that they inhabit.
- **Resource Management** - Students will be able to take stock of one's various resources and plan accordingly. The areas of study that will help include physical & health care; consumer and financial management; clothing & design; housing & environmental planning, maintenance & repair; and food preparation & preservation. Copies of the draft guide may be obtained from the **State Ed. Dept's Communications Office = 518-474-1201**.

The New York State Board of Regents has formed a Nominating Committee to begin a national search for a new Commissioner of Education. They have set up a series of meetings with the senior officials of a number of institutions, constituent organizations, etc. to seek advice and suggestions in the process of selection for this important responsibility. Sr. Mary Anne Brawley, Executive Director of CSAANYS has been asked to participate.