

Newsbriefs

TUITION TAX CREDIT UPDATE

CSAANYS DUES - A Real Bargain

At their most recent meeting, the CSAANYS Executive Board voted unanimously to maintain dues for both active and associate members at the same level for the 1985-86 school year. The CSAANYS staff has worked hard to operate economically during the past year.

We feel membership in CSAANYS is the biggest bargain in New York State! Won't you please encourage any of your fellow administrators who don't belong to consider joining the Association - and we're always happy to negotiate a fair dues amount for those schools who can not afford to pay full dues.

Energy Conservation? PASS IT ON!

Our Newsletter for September, 1984 offered highlights of a U.S. Department of Energy report, SCHOOL FINANCE AND ENERGY THROUGH THE YEAR 2000. It cited some sobering statistics concerning the economic impact of energy costs on Catholic Schools. Have you practical energy saving tips to share? We'd like to focus PASS IT ON entries for this round on Energy. We're hoping for an "energetic" response!

Economic Education

A three credit graduate course on teaching techniques for the newly mandated 12th grade economics course will be given at Russell Sage College, Troy, July 8-12, 1985. It is designed to meet the needs of teachers who will be planning school curriculums and teaching the new course. Partial scholarships will be available through the NY Council on Economic Education.

Further info: Center for Economic Education, Russell Sage Collge, Troy, NY 12180.

Earlier this year, Senator John Marchi of Staten Island proposed S 3200, a bill which would provide tax relief for parents of school age children. Almost immediately, representatives of the NYS Federation of Catholic School Parents, the Council of Catholic School Superintendents and CSAANYS mobilized forces to encourage swift passage of this legislation.

In the spirit of enthusiasm, many administrators and parents eagerly began the task of making the various state representatives aware of the bill and its importance to Catholic schools, and their students and families.

Unfortunately, once again we have been stymied in our efforts. Although Senator Marchi's bill remains ready for a vote at any time, there is as yet no companion bill in the Assembly.

The political process can be most trying! It can also demoralize those on the homefront who are so often "called to arms", only to wait while the wheels of the democratic process grinds ever so slowly! We recognize your frustrations; we feel it ourselves, but ask your continued patience and good will. The legislators who support our position tell us it is imperative that we keep writing and writing and writing to our senators and assemblymen so this issue can't be forgotten. Your assistance will be sought again and again in the battle to attain equity for the parents who choose nonpublic school education for their children.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

COMPUTER SOFTWARE AID has been increased from \$2.50 per pupil to \$3.00 per pupil for the 1985-86 school year.

SCHOOL LIBRARY MATERIALS - Article 15-A Education Law

Now provides \$2.00 per pupil enrolled in the nonpublic school for the purchase of either printed or audio-visual material.

Purchase will be made through the school district in which the nonpublic school is located.

Aid begins in the 1985-86 school year.

ACTION PLAN NEWSNOTE

Two new 7th and 8th grade courses, Home and Career Skills and Introduction to Technology, are in the process of being developed and implemented as a result of the adoption of the Regents Action Plan.

All students, by the end of grade 8, are required to have completed instruction in both these courses. The content for these courses has been developed primarily for 7th and 8th grade students; however, instruction may begin in grade 6.

A draft of the new syllabus will be sent to school administrators this summer.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

SUMMARY - 1985 Legislation affecting Nonpublic School Students

Library Materials Loan Program:

A new categorical aid program of \$2.00 per student was created to enable school districts to purchase and loan school library materials to students attending public and nonpublic schools within the district.

For the 1985-86 school year, the term "library materials" will include "hard cover and paperback books, periodicals, documents other than books, pamphlets, musical scores, and other printed and published materials." For school year 1986-87 and thereafter, the term will also include "films, filmstrips, microfilm, sound recordings, processed slides, transparencies, kinescopes, video tapes, maps, charts, globes, pictorial works including pictures and picture sets, reproductions, photographs, graphic works, and any other audio-visual materials of a similar nature made."

All material must be catalogued and processed as part of the school library for use by elementary and/or secondary school children and teachers. The materials are expected to last more than one year with reasonable care. Finally, the material must be designated for use in public elementary or secondary schools, or approved by the board of education.

PLEASE NOTE - A technical amendment to the law that would enable nonpublic school students to request the above from the district of attendance was not passed by the Legislature before it recessed. It will be dealt with at a special session in the fall. Thus, the regulations related to this program have not as yet been promulgated. We will keep you informed.

Five-day Transportation - New York City

Nonpublic schools in New York City may choose up to five days from a specified pool of days on which they can receive regular transportation services when public schools are closed.

Software Loan Program

Software aid was increased from \$2.50 per student to \$3.00 per student. This increase covers software being ordered for the 1985-86 school year.

Asbestos Removal Aid

Aid amounting to \$1.1 million has been made available for asbestos removal projects in public and nonpublic schools.

REGULATIONS ARE FORTHCOMING.

Lunch and Breakfast Program

Effective September, 1985, the state subsidy for a reduced price lunch will be raised by fifteen cents.

Mandated Services

The 1985-86 budget for Mandated Services is \$23.9 million, which represents an increase of more than \$2 million over the current budget. Part of that increase will cover costs incurred by nonpublic schools in New York City, Buffalo and Rochester in complying with state immunization record-keeping requirements.

Transportation of Handicapped Students to Nonpublic Schools

Handicapped students placed at parental expense in nonpublic schools are eligible for one more year of transportation to and from such schools.

Teacher Resource Centers

The appropriation for teacher resource and computer training centers was increased to \$6 million, up from \$3.5 million last year. Nonpublic schools are eligible to participate in these centers.

STILL PENDING LEGISLATION:

Remedial Education

\$6 million was appropriated for a new program to provide compensatory aid to educationally disadvantaged nonpublic school pupils. The program will supplement remedial education services funded under the federal ECIA Chapter 1 program.

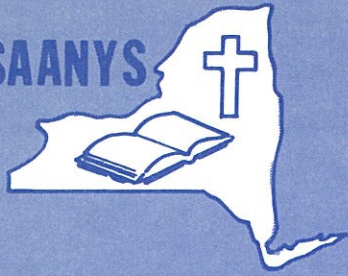
THE LEGISLATURE WILL TAKE THIS UP AT THE SPECIAL SESSION IN THE FALL.

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ECIA CHAPTER 1 Decision

On-site services were declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court on July 1, 1985. This was a major blow to our schools. The students are the ones who will suffer. At this time, we are involved with representatives of the State Education Department and other public and nonpublic school personnel to explore possible constitutional ways to deliver these services.

July, 1985



SUITE 401 • 50 STATE STREET • ALBANY, NEW YORK 12207 • (518) 434-1291

Catholic Education's "Big 3" Concerns Voiced to Regents

Over the course of several years all of us in Catholic Education have watched the attempts made at both the state and national levels to arrive at some constitutionally acceptable method of tax relief for parents who choose nonpublic schools for their children. We've written letters, asked parents and students to do the same, sought support from the larger parish community, and inevitably, or so it seems, we have gotten nowhere. Under these circumstances, morale suffers. What are we to do? Who is in our corner? Where do we go from here?

Our Catholic Schools have three specific organizations working on a statewide basis. CSAANYS - CATHOLIC SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE - exists as a service to principals through advocacy with the State Education Department in nonpublic school matters.

CSAANYS works in close collaboration with CCSS - COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS - composed of the superintendents of the eight Roman Catholic dioceses in New York State. CCSS is one facet of the NYSCC - New York State Catholic Conference, the registered lobbying group for Catholic causes in the State.

Lastly, but of great importance, is NYSFCSP - NEW YORK STATE FEDERATION OF CATHOLIC SCHOOL PARENTS, a statewide effort of parents to support the cause of freedom of choice in education. It is a great advantage to have at least one parent per school as an active participant in the diocesan chapter of NYSFCSP to strengthen the role of Catholic Schools as a vital segment of New York State education.

The names and addresses of the Executive Directors of these three organizations are:

Sister Madeline Powers, CSJ
CSAANYS
50 State St., Suite 401
Albany, NY 12207

Mr. Joseph W. McTighe
CCSS
9 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12210

Mr. William P. Gallagher
NYSFCSP
232 Main St.
Binghamton, NY 13905

On Sept. 6, 1985, Sr. Madeline Powers, Executive Director of CSAANYS, appeared before the NYS Board of Regents at their annual Legislative hearings to make a statement on behalf of the Catholic school administrators of the State.

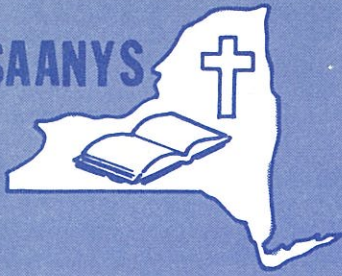
Noting the hardships and confusion caused in the provision of Chapter 1 services to nonpublic schools by the Aguilar vs. Felton decision, Sister Madeline urged the Regents to support U.S. Secretary of Education Bennett's efforts to initiate legislation which would allow parents of students eligible for such services to select the program for their children to attend. "Such a program...would not violate recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions because the funds would go to parents, not schools. Chapter 1 services are the right of the child regardless of the school he attends."

The Regents were also asked to support some form of education tax relief in the upcoming legislative session. "Equitable education for all children is a matter of social justice. Tax credit legislation is

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New Administrators Conference

New principals are urged to attend the New York State Education Department's Conference for New Administrators of Nonpublic Schools on Monday and Tuesday, December 2 & 3, 1985 at the Albany Marriott. The Conference, entitled *New Challenges - New Beginnings*, is open to any administrator appointed within the past three years. This is a marvelous opportunity to hear State Education Department staff speak directly to your questions and concerns. We at CSAANYS are proud to be co-sponsors of this conference and will also be available to conference attendees.



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CHAPTER 1 VOUCHERS

William J. Bennett, Secretary of the United States Department of Education has sent to the Speaker of the House The Equity and Choice Act of 1985 (TEACH). This bill would allow parents of disadvantaged children to obtain educational vouchers for their children under Chapter 1 of the Education Consolidation and Improvement Act (ECIA).

Four options would be open to these parents:

- (1) continued delivery of service as presently given;
- (2) use educational voucher to pay for tuition or obtain compensatory services for children in a different public school within their own school district;
- (3) use educational vouchers to pay for tuition or compensatory services for their children enrolled at private schools;
- (4) use educational vouchers to pay for tuition or compensatory services for their children in a public school in another school district.

To support this proposal the Secretary sees this legislation as accomplishing, at least three goals:

- (1) It would increase **EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES** for disadvantaged children by expanding the range of choices available to their parents in choosing programs.
- (2) It would serve the cause of **SOCIAL JUSTICE** by providing disadvantaged families some of the educational choices for their children that are already available to more affluent families.
- (3) It would improve the **QUALITY** of Chapter 1 services by increasing parental involvement and promoting a healthy rivalry among schools.

The secretary sees TEACH as fulfilling the purpose intended in Chapter 1 in a workable and constitutionally sound manner. This particular plan would seem to be in keeping with opinions expressed in the 1985 Gallup Poll when 59% of blacks and 53% of those living in central cities said they supported an educational voucher.

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Action Plan Reaction

At their annual conference in November, the New York State Association of Independent Schools unanimously passed a resolution asserting that schools already accredited through a state approved process "are, and of right ought to be, free to determine their own curricula."

While praising the Board of Regents for their long-standing insistence on high quality education, these independent school leaders see the Regents Action Plan as an unwanted intrusion which threatens their academic autonomy. No other state has such far reaching testing and curricular requirements for private schools.

"We take exception to the plan in that it would impose upon our schools a state-designed curriculum and annual testing of that curriculum that infringes upon the independence of our schools," said Richard F. Barter of the Collegiate School, Chairman of the National Association of Independent Schools' Board of Directors.

Stephen Henrichs, NYSAIS Executive Director, wrote in the October issue of their newsletter, "If we accept the RAP we accept that minions of the state, not parents and teachers, will henceforth be the authors of the educational programs we offer."

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