

# CSAANYS NEWS

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 CATHOLIC SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE  
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## NEW TEACHER CERTIFICATION EXAM

The New York State Education department recently announced the award of a contract to National Evaluation Systems, Inc., of Amherst, Mass., for the development and administration of a new type of teacher certification examination designed to assess whether candidates for permanent certification can apply teaching and learning principles appropriately and flexibly in classrooms. The examination will be developed and administered for individuals seeking permanent certificates for teaching elementary education (K-6) and for teaching academic subjects in grades 7 through 12.

Teachers seeking provisional certificates to begin teaching in these areas as of September 1992, when the new certification regulations become effective, will be required to have earned a baccalaureate degree and completed a major in the subject matter they will be teaching, or for elementary teachers in a liberal arts and science area and study in a second language. They must also be prepared to work effectively with minority students and their families, students from homes where English is not spoken, students with disabilities, and gifted and talented students; and they must have completed college-supervised student-teaching experiences at two grade levels rather than one as now required. In addition, they will be required to achieve a qualifying score on the new test of liberal arts and sciences required for provisional certification.

Within five years, each newly certified teacher in these areas will be required to earn a permanent teaching certificate.

## SEMINAR

### WEST, EAST, SOUTH AFRICA

A two-day seminar scholarship is available for 200 elementary and secondary educators from New York State. The scholarship includes registration, conference materials, and an African lunch on Sat., Nov. 2.

The seminar, held Nov. 1-2, 1991 at the NYS Legislative Office Bldg, State St., Albany will provide information on the western, eastern and southern regions of Africa and present demonstrations of instructional techniques on teaching about Africa for use in K-12 classrooms. Scholarships will be given to the first 200 applicants.

All principals should have received an application form. If not contact CSAANYS, 518-273-1205.

## EDUCATION EQUITY DISMISSED

By a narrow 8-6 vote, the Education Equity Grant proposal was defeated by the NYS Regents at its July 26 meeting. Although the margin of the proposal's defeat was surprisingly close, the vote, in our view, can be seen as 1) a lack of courage and vision on the part of the Regents, 2) the triumph, once again, of teacher union interest and 3) blatant anti-Catholicism.

The Education Equity Grant would have allowed up to 5,000 students currently enrolled in New York's 59 worst public schools to obtain a voucher worth up to \$3,300 to choose to attend another public or private school. A three-year study would then determine the effect of choice on the students' academic performance.

The proposal was opposed by Governor Cuomo, whose listing in New York's Red Book indicates that he attended New York City's public schools, even though he is a 1949 graduate of St. John's Prep, a Catholic high school in Brooklyn.

Vice Chancellor Carlos Carballada of Rochester was an outspoken supporter of the idea, citing the fact that it is an idea worth trying. Other Board of Regents supporters were Walter Cooper of Rochester, Laura Chodos of Vischer Ferry, Diane O'Neill McGovern of Staten Island, Jorge Batista of the Bronx and Chancellor Emeritus Willard A. Genrich of Buffalo. Regents Gluck of Manhattan and Sanford of Hollis were absent from the meeting.

When one considers the billions of dollars poured into schools and programs that have dismal tract records, the refusal of New York State to look at schools that work - Catholic inner-city schools - demonstrates once again that in a state which is in the midst of the Decade of the Child, it is the children who are getting short-changed. The public education business in New York State seems to be about everything but education.

## STATE BUDGET NEWS:

The 1991-92 State Budget does not include funds for state aid for Chapter I remedial services (Chapter 53). Federal aid will still be available. The previous State Aid helped cover off-the-top expenses for mobile instructional units, transportation to instructional sites and computers. Federal Aid will not fund purchase of instructional equipment (eg computers). The U.S. Dept. of Education's Chapter I Capital Expenses for NYS is 7.7 million. These monies will be distributed to LEAs based on the degree of demonstrated need.

One NYS 91-92 budget item of greater interest to non-government schools was the \$29.2 million appropriation for mandated services. This figure covers less than 50% of the expected need for the up-coming school year.

Indeed, some of this 29.2 million must first be used to finish payment of 1990-91 mandated services claims. This means that the State will only make a partial downpayment for 1991-92 mandated services in the fall of 1991 and deliver the balance only after the 1992-93 NYS Budget is passed.

We are entering a tough time. To be forewarned is to be well warned.

### NPS PRINCIPALS' ACADEMY

The third annual Non-public School Principals' Academy will be held on August 20-22, 1991 at the State Education Department offices, 55 Hanson Place, Brooklyn, NY 11217.

This year's Academy will focus primarily on the needs of small urban schools. Lecture and discussion topics will include innovative practices; developing and implementing a reading program; teacher development and assessment; and managing with a computer.

For further info contact:

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## PLAYGROUND SAFETY

Over 80,000 youngsters are admitted to hospital emergency rooms, due to playground mishaps every year. The most common accident and most falls are from climbing apparatus. Children lose their grip or balance, often while trying to do something risky or because they are pushed or pulled. Mishaps on swings usually result from falls or jumps and most slide injuries involve falls over the side or from the platform or ladder.

Improper use of playground equipment is the major cause of injuries. Contributing factors are pushing, shoving, daredevil behavior, inattention, "creative" use of the equipment, crowding and too many groups using the equipment simultaneously.

The State Ed Dept. requires that all new playground installations be in conformity with the CPSC guidelines:

United States Consumer Product Safety Commission  
Northeast Regional Center  
6 World Trade Center  
New York NY 10048  
(212)-264-1125

The guidelines place great emphasis upon proper supervision of the use of playground equipment. There are two kinds of supervision:

- 1) playground monitor, a duty that teachers usually rotate among each other to make sure someone is always present to discourage rough-housing and eliminate dangerous situations before they occur;
- 2) playground safety instruction, starting in kindergarten;

Playground surfacing is extremely important. Resilient playground surfaces can greatly reduce injuries. Paved surfaces, such as asphalt and concrete, must not be used under playground apparatus. Resilient surfaces such as bark, pea gravel, wood chips, rubber matting and shredded tires provide varying degrees of cushioning.

The following is a summary of the CPSC guidelines:

- 1) Equipment for young children should be separated from that for older children;
- 2) All equipment should be inspected and maintained on a regular basis;
- 3) Pieces of equipment associated with frequent injuries should be removed;
- 4) Danger zones should be indicated on the playground surface around equipment;
- 5) There should be sufficient space around each piece of equipment;
- 6) Swings should be securely anchored and rounded on the edges;
- 7) Slides should be anchored in concrete and have side rails at least two and one-half inches high;
- 8) The fulcrum of each seesaw board should be enclosed to prevent hand and finger injuries;
- 9) Climbing equipment should be appropriately sized for the climbing abilities for the children using it;
- 10) Protruding bolts, sharp edges and points, pinch points, exposed tube ends are prohibited;
- 11) Equipment designed in such a way that a child's head or limbs might become entrapped in the equipment are prohibited

No playground can be risk-free. If it were, it would be so boring and sterile as to be almost useless. However, the school playground can be made to be a safe and happy place by minimizing the risks.