Happy New Year!

As we enter the new decade, public education is facing new challenges at the state and national level. Our dedication to our students and fellow colleagues needs to remain steadfast in our attempts to maintain an equitable and sustainable profession.

The NY State Property Tax Cap directly impacts students because school children are denied educational resources and opportunities based on the relative taxable wealth of their school districts. When districts do not receive adequate funding, they cannot continue to send students to BOCES programs. We, as educators, value our students above all else, continuing to advocate for adequate and consistent funding to prepare them for future success.

This year the Governor’s proposed executive budget is trying to eliminate BOCES Aid in future years by folding it into district Foundation Aid. The result would mean BOCES will have to compete with the funding needs of the districts. This idea was fought (and won) in previous budget proposals. We cannot allow this to pass the legislature! Let your voice be heard at: https://mac.nysut.org/issues.

The 2020 Census is upon us and our NYSUT Counts initiative (https://www.nysut.org/news/nysut-united/issues/2020/january/nysut-counts-census-2020) is in full swing. Tens of billions of dollars in federal funding are at stake if we do not encourage ALL state residents to be counted. Take the pledge! https://nysutcounts.org/

In Solidarity, Your Executive Team

Chef Andrew Ottati Receives National Recognition!

Chef Andrew Ottati of the Rensselaer Educational Center’s Culinary Arts Program was recently honored with the ProStart Educator of Excellence Award by the National Restaurant Association.

Anthony Defazio, the principal at REC, states “This award represents a significant achievement and is a well-deserved recognition of Chef Ottati’s years of dedication, sacrifice and skill as an educator. I personally know how hard Chef Ottati works and appreciate his commitment to his students and his craft as a culinary teacher.”

Fellow Chef Peter Desmond (CGEC) states that Chef Ottati “is a true joy to work with. He is a leader as well as a companion working in the culinary industry. He shows a passion and love for culinary arts, always in a mode of continuous improvement!”

We are proud to recognize Chef Ottati for his efforts to provide Questar III students with a quality education! His students are thrilled with his success!
“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter.”
~ Martin Luther King Jr.~

Know Your Contract

Section 11.11 - Classroom Visits (p. 24)
“The Agency and the Association recognize the potentially disruptive effect of unscheduled visits to the classroom by uninvited third parties. In order to minimize such disruptive events, a procedure for early announcement of visits by third parties shall be a subject of discussion at meetings of the Liaison Committee.”

Our administration has made efforts to announce third party visits in advance. Evidence of this include principals that provide a weekly summary of the events, and communication at School Improvement and Faculty/Strand meetings.

Recent discussions at Liaison meetings have included the unannounced visitation of administration sometimes being referred to as “Wows and Wonders”. The Association has been reassured that none of these visits are connected to APPR and are not evaluative in nature.

If a member is under the impression that one of these visits is referenced under APPR, please let your building representative know.

Shared Success

“Success usually comes to those who are too busy to be looking for it.” Henry David Thoreau

Career Academy School Store Open for Business!

We all serve students in need at all of our locations. These needs can include proper attire for a job interview, warm clothing in the wintertime, a backpack/purse to carry items to and from school, or a gift for a loved one. The Career Academy at CGEC decided to utilize an adjacent space to solicit donations of items from staff. They organized the room into sections and began inviting students to visit.

Before the holidays in December, many students were able to provide their family members with a gift. There is never a cost to choose items and students left the room talking about paying it forward to someone else.

Comments from students included, “I am so glad that I came to school today” and “My mother is going to love this!” What began as a concept has flourished into a spirit of giving that is infectious. Congratulations to the Career Academy staff! You embody the true spirit of education— to share compassion for one another.

~ Jefferson LaMountain (AFL-CIO/ED #10 Rep)

Governor Cuomo’s Executive Budget Proposal: Potential Impact for BOCES

Governor Andrew Cuomo has released his Executive Budget Proposal for 2020-2021. As he attempted to do in prior years, the current proposal includes a merging of multiple, educational aid categories into Foundation Aid. This includes BOCES Aid, which needs to remain segregated in order for districts to be held accountable for using that aid to send students to BOCES programs and receive BOCES services.

NYSUT challenged, and won, the last time that this proposal was presented. We need to stand together in solidarity once again in order to prevent this from occurring.

Let your legislators hear your voice loud and clear! BOCES Aid needs to remain segregated from Foundation Aid! The future of BOCES lies delicately in the balance!

Let Your Voice Be Heard!

Use the NYSUT MAC Website to contact your legislators today! We have no time to waste. BOCES Aid CANNOT be merged with Foundation Aid!
https://mac.nysut.org/action/300

“Success usually comes to those who are too busy to be looking for it.” Henry David Thoreau

Governor Cuomo’s Executive Budget Proposal: Potential Impact for BOCES

Governor Andrew Cuomo has released his Executive Budget Proposal for 2020-2021. As he attempted to do in prior years, the current proposal includes a merging of multiple, educational aid categories into Foundation Aid. This includes BOCES Aid, which needs to remain segregated in order for districts to be held accountable for using that aid to send students to BOCES programs and receive BOCES services.

NYSUT challenged, and won, the last time that this proposal was presented. We need to stand together in solidarity once again in order to prevent this from occurring.

Let your legislators hear your voice loud and clear! BOCES Aid needs to remain segregated from Foundation Aid! The future of BOCES lies delicately in the balance!
NEW Endorsed Program

Get ready to Access ... big savings!

NYSUT Member Benefits is pleased to announce the launch of our newest endorsed program -- **Member Benefits Discounts & Deals provided by Access Development**!

This money-saving benefit is available exclusively to NYSUT members and features the nation’s largest private discount network.

These deals can be accessed either online or from the palm of your hand through Access Development’s MB Deals mobile app. Visit mbdeals.enjoymydeals.com to learn more.

Register your account on the Access website with your NYSUT ID number using the URL above. You will then be able to enjoy exclusive access to savings of up to 50% on shopping, restaurants, movie tickets & entertainment, travel, oil changes & vehicle maintenance, and much more.

**Have a favorite local business?**

One of the best features of the MB Discounts & Deals program is the ability to recommend your favorite local business, restaurant, coffee shop, etc. to potentially join the Access Development network.

Register your account on the Access website by March 31, 2020 to be eligible to win prizes -- visit the Member Benefits website for more information!

Learn more by calling 800-626-8101 or visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org.

For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits.
Member Benefits Quick Guide

INSURANCE COVERAGE

Auto/Home/Boat/Motorcycle
Special group rates on coverage for auto, home, renters, boat and motorcycle, and personal excess liability umbrella coverage from MetLife.
866-697-8822

Term Life/Level Term Life
Financial protection for your family from MetLife.
888-386-9788

Disability
Income replacement benefits, provided by MetLife, help cover expenses if you become partially or totally disabled and unable to work.
888-386-9788

Dental
Competitively-priced coverage from MetLife, including preventive and routine services.
888-883-0046

Catastrophe Major Medical
Supplements existing coverage if you have a serious medical issue, are confined to convalescent or custodial care, or require home health care.
800-626-8101

New York Long-Term Care Brokers
Long-term care insurance specialists help you choose the best coverage at the most competitive premium.
888-884-0077

Vision
Full coverage from Davis Vision for an eye exam, and one pair of eyeglasses or contact lenses per benefit period.
800-626-8101

Pet Insurance
Nationwide insurance for pets covers accidents and illnesses, ranging from ear infections to cancer, plus optional pet wellness plans.
866-838-3461

Legal Service Plan
Legal expertise on a range of personal legal matters provided by Feldman, Kramer & Monaco, P.C.
800-626-8101

Financial Counseling Program
Unbiased financial counseling with investment advisor Stacey Braun Associates.
800-626-8101

Synchrony Bank
Earn preferred rates on various savings products.
800-901-2965

LEGAL & FINANCIAL SERVICES

Cambridge Credit Counseling
Get expert assistance on student loan repayment options and/or debt consolidation, along with no-cost consultations.

STUDENT LOAN COUNSELING
888-254-9627
CREDIT & DEBT COUNSELING
888-254-0398

UnionDirect Mortgage Discount Program
Save up to $2,700 on lender fees and closing costs with Mid-Island Mortgage Corp.
800-50-NYSUT
(800-506-9788)

TRAVEL & TOURS

Orlando Employee Discounts
Save up to 30% on theme parks, attractions and vacation packages.
866-463-0193

Grand Circle Travel
Worldwide group travel and adventure tours.
800-221-2610
MENTION NYSUT MEMBERSHIP FOR SPECIAL RATES AND OFFERS

HOME ENERGY

American Solar Partners
American-made modules, installed by IBEW union pros.
914-699-3366

Heat USA
Buying group that provides discounted heating oil and service plans.
888-432-8872

Tankfarm
Savings on propane service. No fees for rental, delivery or compliance.
855-966-1444
DINING & SHOPPING DISCOUNTS

Abenity Discounts
Online provider of more than 290,000 discounts, giveaways and exclusive offers.
1-855-223-6489

Powell’s Books
One of the world’s largest independent booksellers and proud union employer.
800-878-7323

Purchasing Power
Member shopping program offering consumer products, vacations and online education services with easy and convenient payment plans.
800-537-3135

1-800-Flowers
Flowers and gifts delivered worldwide.
800-356-9377

CAR & TRUCK RENTALS

Alamo
800-462-5266
USE CODE: 213855

Avis
800-698-5685
USE CODE: A441200

Budget
CAR RENTAL:
800-455-2848
USE CODE: BCDX928400
TRUCK RENTAL:
800-566-8422
888-633-3857
USE CODE:
56000070789

Enterprise
800-736-8222
USE CODE: NYSUTMB

Hertz
800-654-2210
IN THE U.S.
800-654-3001
OUTSIDE THE U.S.
USE CODE: CDP85352

National
800-227-7368
USE CODE: 5028191

HEALTH & SAFETY

EPIC Hearing
Provides access to audiologists and ENTs, plus special pricing on hearing aids.
866-956-5400
USE CODE: NYSUTMBC

Defensive Driving Training
Online training course provides savings on your liability and collision insurance, and can reduce up to four points on your license.
800-626-8101
USE CODE: NYSUTDDC

Tunstall Medical Alert
Personal emergency response system for individuals living independently.
844-996-9788

AS A MEMBER OF NYSUT, we are fighting for you every day—for better contracts, safer working conditions and fair pay. Through our advocacy, we uphold hard-won labor rights for our members—and the best possible conditions for the students, patients and others that our members serve. We also offer you exclusive access to a variety of endorsed programs and services offered by NYSUT Member Benefits, and our national affiliates, American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and National Education Association (NEA). From insurance to vacations, use this brochure to start taking advantage of all we have to offer. We’re union proud and honored to serve you.

In solidarity,
J. Philippe Abraham
Chairperson, NYSUT Member Benefits Trust
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefit</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>100,000+</strong> Payroll/Pension Deduction</td>
<td>More than 100,000 NYSUT members take advantage of this convenient way to pay for endorsed programs. Payment options often include enhanced coverage or additional discounts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>$1,500</strong> Automatic Insurance Benefit</td>
<td>Every member receives this accidental death &amp; dismemberment insurance benefit at no charge. It includes free travel coordination services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>$25,000</strong> One Year, No-Cost, Term Life Insurance</td>
<td>Provided for every new NYSUT member for one year. Guaranteed renewal includes free preparation of a Will, grief counseling, funeral and beneficiary claim assistance, and estate resolution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>15%</strong> MetLife Multi-Policy Discount</td>
<td>By purchasing exclusive NYSUT member homeowners and auto insurance through MetLife, you'll receive a 15% multi-policy discount.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>18-84</strong> Eligible Ages to Purchase Long-Term Care Insurance</td>
<td>With discounted rates for members and partners, New York Long-Term Care Brokers program specialists will help explain and compare different coverage from multiple insurance companies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>100</strong> Free Financial Learning Modules</td>
<td>Available at memberbenefits.nysut.org, check out our Financial Planning Center for quick overviews of important topics such as retirement planning, student loans, budgeting and more.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>90%</strong> Cash Back on Eligible Vet Bills*</td>
<td>Nationwide offers pet insurance policies for dogs, cats, birds or exotic pets. Enjoy up to a 10% discount for multiple pets enrolled in a household.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>$5,000</strong> Additional Benefit for AFT Members</td>
<td>This accidental death &amp; dismemberment insurance benefit for AFT members will double if an injury or death occurs in the workplace.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>$150,000</strong> Additional Benefit for NEA Members</td>
<td>Additional life insurance and accidental death &amp; dismemberment insurance from $1,000 – $150,000 (depending on circumstances). Details at memberbenefits.nysut.org</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Some exclusions may apply. See policy documents for a complete list of exclusions.

To learn more about our endorsed programs and services, please visit memberbenefits.nysut.org
Let NYSUT Member Benefits assist with all your financial needs throughout your life

- Unbiased financial advice with our endorsed Financial Counseling Program
- Full-service program and 403(b) option available
- Access to our online Student Loan Center & Financial Planning Center

Expert legal assistance with our Legal Service Plan

- Low annual cost of just $85 ($55 for retirees)
  Save $5 with Payroll & Pension Deduction
- Unlimited toll-free legal advice
- Free Simple Will, Power of Attorney,
  Health Care Proxy & Living Will
- Two, free, hour-long consultations
  with a plan attorney

To learn more about these Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services, visit memberbenefits.nysut.org,
call 800-626-8101 or scan the above QR codes.

For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits.