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**Union Updates**

- *For NYSUT Coronavirus Updates Visit: <https://www.nysut.org/resources/special-resources/sites/coronavirus-toolkit>*
- *To access Joan's How to Make a Face Mask Video Visit: <https://youtu.be/0pfZD2XsDQ4/>*  
*Joan's directions can be found here: [CLICK HERE.](#)*

**Blazing New Trails in Uncharted Territory**

During these changing times, each of us has had to undergo major shift in our way of life. The COVID-2019 Pandemic has impacted our communities and our families, interrupting our normal daily activities, our ability to socialize, and our ability to educate. It has influenced our professional lives by challenging us to meet the needs of our students in a remote environment. It has affected our personal lives having to work from home. It has reshaped our thinking to prioritize health and safety, in both a physical and

mental context, daily. In addition to these, we are asked to be prepared to respond to new directives and protocols at a moment's notice from the local, state, and federal authorities.

But during this time, I have witnessed hope, promise, confidence, optimism, courage and inspiration from our members. Conversations revolve around innovation, creative solutions and resourcefulness. Members are collaborating more than ever to achieve success with each student.

We are a dedicated, caring staff that will do what is necessary to meet the needs of our students. We support each other during challenging times and work together to find solutions.

I am proud of our union, our staff and our students for rising to the challenge of today's circumstances. Thank you for your commitment and resolve to improve every day.

In Solidarity,

Hilary Reilly

RCG BOCES TA President

**Joan Rogers: Sharing How to Make Masks to Keep Us Safe!**

Joan Rogers, our Work-Based Learning Coordinator at CGEC, felt the need to do something for others when school closed its doors in March 2020. As a result, she saw the need for face masks to be worn as Personal Protective Equipment to help prevent the spread of the virus. She researched some patterns online and modified it to be more comfortable with the help of her daughter, also home from college.

She decided to dig out her sewing supplies and see what she had to be able to begin the process. She even had to order a new sewing machine to be able to make more masks. She also shared her tips and instructions with staff, who began making masks for others as well.

Thank you, Joan, for sharing your expertise and for helping others stay safe! :)



## Know Your Contract

Article 11: Teaching Conditions: Section 11.21: Length of Work Year (p. 26)

“The work year for all employees shall not exceed 182 days. Any employee required to work in excess of 182 days will be paid 1/ 200th of his or her total annual salary for each additional day worked. Nothing herein provided shall restrict the Agency in developing and promulgating a school calendar.”

Due to Governor Cuomo’s Executive Order to remain teaching over April break, 6 days were credited towards the school year by Questar III, resulting in early closure for our educational sites.

Related Service Providers who work at different locations will be credited working days per location by Human Resources and sites that did utilize their snow day allotment for the

2019-2020 school year are being credited those days. As a result, the official closing date of June 18th, 2020 resolution approved by the Board of Education on May 14th, 2020, may not be the final working day for all of our sites. Members should be contacted by their immediate supervisor about their final working date.

If you have any questions, please reach out to your union leadership.

### Shared Success

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

#### Andy Pallotta: NYSUT President: Teacher Appreciation Week

“I’ve been so inspired by the countless stories of how educators have responded to this crisis,” said NYSUT President Andy Pallotta. “It’s truly a time to reflect on how educators are so central to their students and their communities.”

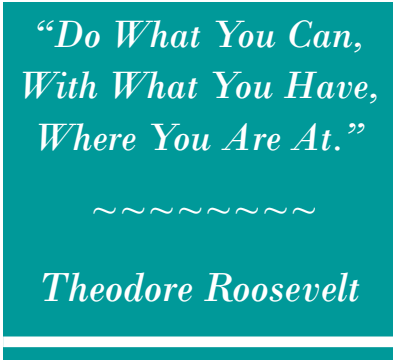
The public undoubtedly agrees. A new national poll by the National Education Association shows parents and guardians express extremely positive views of

educators. More than 80 percent of parents/guardians view public school teachers very favorably, with 88 percent approving of how their children’s teachers are handling the COVID-19 fallout. The poll also showed that parents/guardians believe educators are working hard to communicate with them, that educators are finding ways to connect with students who don’t have Internet access and they are giving their

students more one-on-one assistance.

Media coverage has been favorable, too. Around the state, media accounts and social channels have highlighted impressive efforts by educators in districts large and small. <https://www.nysut.org/news/2020/may/teacher-appreciation>

Your union leadership appreciates each and every one of you!



## American Federation of Teachers’ Plan for Safely Reopening America’s Schools and Communities

Randi Weingarten, President of the AFT, and her team have provided the National Governor’s Association with a plan that provides specific guidance for transitioning from lockdowns to other public health tools to limit the transmission of COVID-19. It focuses on reopening school buildings in par-

ticular, because the safe reopening of public school buildings means students can go to school, and parents, who work outside the home, can go to work. That is key to the reopening of the broader economy. We expect the plan to evolve and adapt over time. It rests

on five pillars that draw on the best available science and public health guidance, and the expertise of educators and health practitioners.

Please access this ever-evolving document here: <https://www.aft.org/reopen-schools>

(This document has been shared with QIII’s Administrative Team.)



Randi Weingarten Stands in Solidarity with WSWHE and Questar III BOCES Leadership!



# Thank You

During these unprecedented times and in the face of incredible adversity, each of you continue to sacrifice and dedicate yourselves to our children, our families and our communities.

We thank all of the educators, school-related professionals, nurses and other health care workers who continue to demonstrate their unwavering compassion, dedication and commitment to our communities on a daily basis.

***memberbenefits.nysut.org | 800-626-8101***



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

May/June '20

# Member Benefits Quick Guide

## INSURANCE COVERAGE

**MEMBER  
BENEFITS**  
**nysut**  
Working to Benefit You

### 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**

### WrapPlan® II Universal Life Insurance

Transamerica provides coverage that increases as your term life coverage decreases or ends.

**866-697-8897**

## LEGAL & FINANCIAL SERVICES

### 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**

### Cambridge Credit Counseling

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

STUDENT LOAN COUNSELING

**888-254-9827**

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

### Bose

Discounts on personal and home sound systems.

877-709-2073

### Buyer's Edge, Inc.

Discounts on appliances, vehicles, furniture and other major purchases.

973-660-1001

USERNAME: 215  
PASSWORD: NYSUT

### Office Depot/ OfficeMax

Online and in-store discounts on school and office supplies.

855-337-6811, x 12897

### 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

USE CODE:  
NYSUTMB



## 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



# 100,000+

## PAYROLL/PENSION DEDUCTION

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.

# \$1,500

## AUTOMATIC INSURANCE BENEFIT

Every member receives this accidental death & dismemberment insurance benefit at no charge. It includes free travel coordination services.

# \$25,000

## ONE YEAR, NO-COST, TERM LIFE INSURANCE

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.

# 15%

## METLIFE MULTI-POLICY DISCOUNT

By purchasing exclusive NYSUT member homeowners and auto insurance through MetLife, you'll receive a 15% multi-policy discount.

# 18-84

## ELIGIBLE AGES TO PURCHASE LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE

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.

# 100

## FREE FINANCIAL LEARNING MODULES

Available at [memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org), check out our Financial Planning Center for quick overviews of important topics such as retirement planning, student loans, budgeting and more.

# 90%

## CASH BACK ON ELIGIBLE VET BILLS\*

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.

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

# \$5,000

## ADDITIONAL BENEFIT FOR AFT MEMBERS

This accidental death & dismemberment insurance benefit for AFT members will double if an injury or death occurs in the workplace.

# \$150,000

## ADDITIONAL BENEFIT FOR NEA MEMBERS

Additional life insurance and accidental death & dismemberment insurance from \$1,000–\$150,000 (depending on circumstances). Details at: [memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org)

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



To learn more about our endorsed programs and services, please visit:

[memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org)

NYSUT Member Benefits

800 Troy-Schenectady Rd. Latham, NY 12110-2455

PH: 800-626-8101 FX: 518-213-6413

[memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://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



SCAN ME

## 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



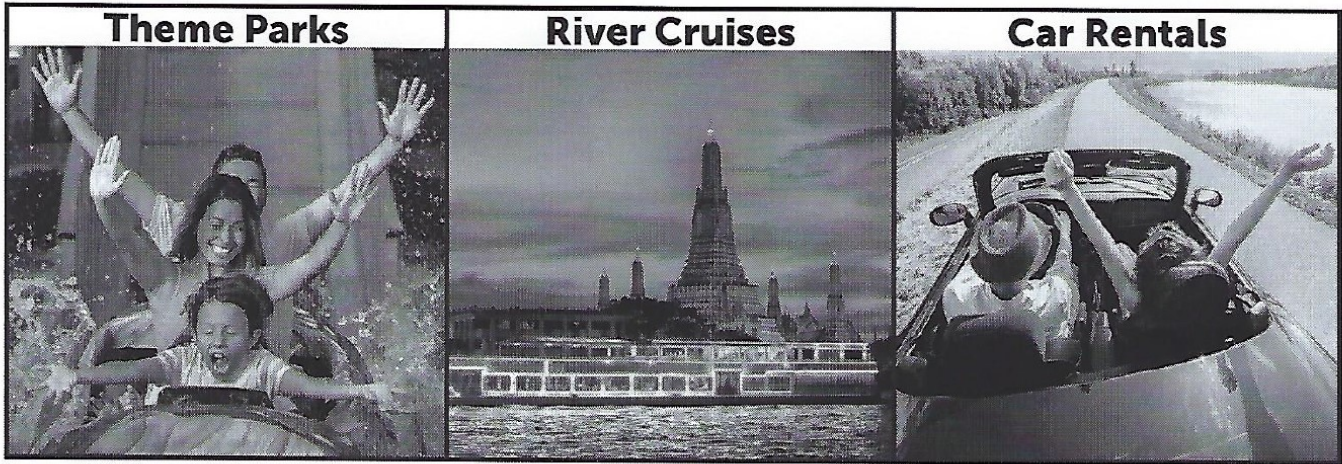
SCAN ME



To learn more about these Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services, visit [memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org), call **800-626-8101** or scan the above QR codes.

**MEMBER  
BENEFITS**  
**nysut**  
Working to Benefit You

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



## Save on travel with NYSUT Member Benefits!

NYSUT Member Benefits understands the challenges the dedicated members of the NYSUT organization face when it comes to stretching their hard-earned dollars, including when booking vacations and making other travel plans. That is why we encourage all NYSUT members to look to NYSUT Member Benefits before making any purchasing decisions.

Save up to 30% on Orlando, FL excursions with our endorsed **Orlando Employee Discounts** program. Enjoy discounted tickets to Disney World, Universal Studios, Sea World and several other Orlando area attractions. Orlando Employee Discounts also offers up to 60% off rack rate at select hotels close to or on theme park property; hotel and theme park ticket travel packages; and a free 75-page *Disney World Guide*.

Our endorsed **Grand Circle Travel** program offers NYSUT members special pricing on a variety of international river cruises, tours and destinations around the world. Save \$100 per person on published tours simply for being a NYSUT member, and enjoy other discounts and savings opportunities available for specific tours. Discovery opportunities, activities and discussions are included with each trip.

Whether traveling for business or leisure, NYSUT members can save up to 25% on car rentals with our endorsed **car rental companies**. Browse rates from Alamo, Avis, Budget, Enterprise, Hertz or National.



Learn more by visiting  
[memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org)  
 or calling 800-626-8101.



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



# NYSUT 2020 census COUNTS

COMPLETE YOUR CENSUS FORM!

## What is the Census?

The U.S. Constitution requires the Congress to count every person living in the United States every 10 years. This count has been conducted every decade for the past 230 years. The Census counts all residents, including non-citizens and children.

## Why is it important?

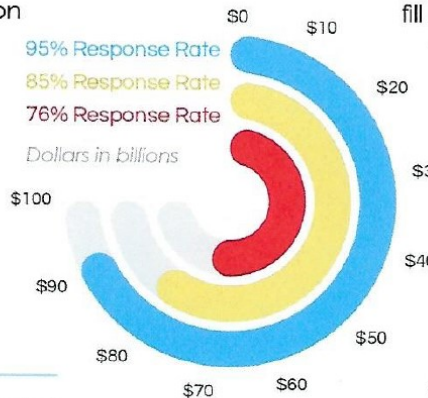
Information from the Census is used to distribute more than \$700 billion in federal funds for programs such as: Medicaid, Title 1, school lunches, special education and housing assistance and many others. In addition, New York's congressional districts and state Senate and Assembly districts will be redrawn in 2021 based on Census data. Experts project New York could lose one – possibly two – congressional seats, based on population trends and undercounting.



## What is different this year?

For the first time, people will be able to fill out the Census survey online, by telephone or by mail. The Census Bureau will begin sending mail to all residents in the middle of March. The first day you can complete the Census online is March 12. In the following weeks, the bureau will send reminders to households that have not responded, and non-responders may be contacted at home.

Several populations are at higher risk of being undercounted: children, non-English speakers, immigrants and those without access to the Internet. Some people do not complete the Census for multiple reasons, including fear and distrust of government; concerns over privacy and security; and general apathy. Our outreach can help allay their concerns.



▲ As the response rate increases, our state's share of critical federal funding gets larger.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[nysutcounts.org](http://nysutcounts.org)

Pledge to complete your Census form!

[nysutcounts.org/pledge](http://nysutcounts.org/pledge)

#CountMeIn

#NYSUTcounts

## NYSUT's Plan

- ▶ NYSUT encourages local leaders to run member-to-member campaigns about the importance of being counted.
- ▶ Develop print and digital materials to engage and educate members.
- ▶ NYSUT is working with other unions, community groups and like-minded organizations to spread the message.
- ▶ Children were undercounted in 2010. Our work will include curriculum, resources and activities for use in the classroom. NYSUT members can educate our students so that they will ask their parents if they've been counted.

