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**Stronger Together**

Before we know it the school year will be over. There will be our end of the year event, followed by Questar's appreciation picnic, followed by exams, graduations and other year end traditions. Time really does fly.

Four years later we are still discovering the many ways that our lives and our jobs have changed as a result of the Covid disruption. It may be years before the studies are in but we know things are different, we can feel it.

Different isn't necessarily bad. Very possibly there will be positive and lasting changes that come about in education as a result of the disruption. But there is also an increase in absenteeism, measurable learning loss, and mental health challenges that impact student and adult morale.

The Association and NYSUT will continue to advocate for you and our students. Statewide there is a renewed effort to reform APPR and to Fix Tier Six (and Five!). At the local level we will continue to advocate for resources to improve our programs and support our staff.

This can be an overwhelming task. We offer so many different programs and services over a very large service area. There is always something else to do. If we want to be impactful we need a voice at every meeting, a seat on every committee, a representative in every building and program. We can only do this with your help.

Please consider how you can become more involved. There are countless options. Stay informed, offer honest feedback, participate in meetings, sit on committees of interest, ask questions, support a colleague on a tough day, offer to be a building representative,

attend an Association meeting, attend a Questar Board meeting or pass along ideas to us. I say it often because it's true, we are stronger together.

Thank you for all that you do to support our Association, our programs and our students.

In solidarity,

Joal Bova

President, RCG BOCES Teachers' Association

**We want to make sure that you are getting all that you can out of your membership. Make sure you are receiving communications from us through a personal email. Check out our website at <http://rcgboces.ny.aft.org/>. Follow us on Twitter, @BocesReg. If you have not already created an online account do so at [www.NYSUT.org](http://www.NYSUT.org). Our Local is RCG BOCES Teachers' Association and we are Local 10175. Once you log in you will have access to a variety of membership benefits.**



**TAKE ACTION!**

Fix APPR! Restore Local Control to Teacher Evaluations.

EMAIL STATE LEGISLATORS

**TAKE ACTION!**

Fix APPR! Restore Local Control to Teacher Evaluations.

ACTION TYPE: Send email

**10,034**

e-Activists have taken this action

Click here to learn more: <https://mac.nysut.org/action/893>

**ARTICLE 3- DEFINITIONS**

**3.1 As used in this Agreement:**

- A. "Agency" shall mean Questar III, the Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Rensselaer, Columbia and Greene Counties.
- B. "Association" shall mean the Rensselaer, Columbia, and Greene Counties BOCES Teachers' Association.
- C. "Board" shall mean the Board of the Agency.
- D. "Employee" or "employees" shall mean only employees serving in positions in the negotiating unit defined in section 2.1.
- E. "Chief Executive Officer" or "Executive Officer" shall mean the District Superintendent of the Agency.
- F. "Liaison Committee" shall mean the committee established pursuant to Article 13 of this agreement.
- G. "President" shall mean the President of the Association.
- H. "Taylor Law" shall mean the Public Employees' Fair Employment Act, Article 14 of the Civil Service Law.

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**SHARED SUCCESS**

*"If you are lucky enough to be different, don't ever change." -Taylor Swift*

**District Program Offers More Than Just Space**

In some of our Special Education programs, after school extracurricular activities are not an option for our students. Being that our students are bussed from so many different districts, it makes it difficult for students to stay after school and be a part of clubs, sports, and other special events. The Special Education Questar III program at Columbia High School has broken this barrier and allowed a non-district student to participate, outside of school hours, in extracurricular activities. Silvio has been participating in the Unified Sports program at Columbia for the last several years. He has been part of Unified bowling and basketball, and has made lifelong friends and acquaintances. Just recently, the Unified program at Columbia High School was recognized as a National Unified Champion School. An assembly was held, and the school was presented with a banner for their continued efforts in creating a more

inclusive environment for all students, regardless of disability or differences. "The distinction marks the highest level of achievement for Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools in the nation." The Devils for Inclusion club led the pep rally and students, including Silvio, gave speeches and gathered support from their peers and staff at Columbia. Silvio thoroughly enjoys being a part of these programs and shares with his teachers and classmates about his experiences. Great job to Silvio and all of the CHS Blue Devil Unified athletes!



(Quote taken from FB post, egcsd.org- April 26th, 2024)

Written by: Emily Bluhm-Allen  
QIII Special Ed Teacher, Columbia HS



# Check out all your union membership has to offer!

NYSUT Member Benefits offers dozens of endorsed programs and services that can save you money, assist you in protecting your family, and help you plan for the future.

## Legal Service Plan

Plan benefits include:

- Crucial estate planning documents (Simple Will, Health Care Proxy, Living Will & Durable Power of Attorney)
- Free telephone consultations
- Guaranteed maximum fees for specific legal matters

## Financial Counseling Program

Plan benefits include:

- Unbiased objective advice
- Free telephone & virtual consultations
- Assistance with retirement planning, 403(b) savings, college savings, tax planning and more

For an annual fee, the Legal Service Plan -- provided by the law firm of Feldman, Kramer & Monaco, P.C. -- offers legal expertise on a variety of personal legal matters such as dealing with a speeding ticket or handling estate planning. Plan participants receive unlimited access to toll-free advice weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (EST) as well as a toll-free hotline for urgent legal assistance outside of these hours.

Meanwhile, the Financial Counseling Program -- provided by Stacey Braun Associates, Inc. -- offers unbiased, objective advice customized to your specific financial situation. The full-service program provides up to six hours of objective toll-free telephone or virtual consultations with a Stacey Braun Certified Financial Planner.\*



Learn more by scanning the QR code to the left, visiting [memberbenefits.nysut.org](https://memberbenefits.nysut.org), or calling 800-626-8101.

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



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