



This Week At ECASB ...

Important news from this past week and news for the upcoming week,

Week Ending January 22, 2021

DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER FOR ONE OF THE TWO VIRTUAL PROGRAMS: Super Eval will be presenting on WED. January 27, 2021 on Board Self Evaluations - DEADLINE TO REGISTER has been extended to Friday, January 22nd. DigiStream will present on Monday, February 1st - DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS Wednesday JANUARY 27TH . PLEASE REGISTER THROUGH YOUR DISTRICT CLERK. There is no cost for either program, however we will need to know who is registered so that we can send out a link to the program.

ECASB ANNUAL AWARDS NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN: PLEASE CONSIDER NOMINATING A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER/STAFF MEMBER FROM YOUR DISTRICT for one of the awards: The Diana R. Miller Service to Education Award, the Laura M. Burns Advocacy for Children Award, the Hodgson Russ Excellence in Collaboration Award, the Wayne Schlifke Lifetime Achievement Award, the Webster Szanyi District Clerk Award, and the Friends of ECASB Award. All applications are due to David Lowrey by Wednesday, March 3, 2021.

ECASB SILVER SPONSOR JOHN W. DANFORTH: Was the recipient of Contractor Magazine - 2020 Contractor of the Year Award. Congratulations to the John W. Danforth Company. John W. Danforth has recently completed projects in the Buffalo Public Schools, Cleveland Hill UFSD, Depew UFSD, East Aurora UFSD, Frontier CSD, Gowanda CSD, Lancaster CSD, West Seneca CSD, and the Williamsville CSD.

RICK TIMBS PROGRAM FEBRUARY 4TH: Dr. Timbs presentation will take place on February 4th and will be a virtual program. Information has already been send out to the ECASB membership. Deadline to register will be on THURSDAY, JANUARY 28TH. Please register with your District Clerk.

ECASB ADVOCACY TRAINING: The annual ECASB Advocacy training will be taking place on Saturday, January 30th from 8:00 am - 11:30 am. The training will be conducted virtually. Attendees must pre-register for the event. The event will be presented by Dr. Jill O'Malley, Associate Director of ECASB. This is a great opportunity to learn key points prior to kicking off your board's advocacy efforts with your elected officials. To register for the event, you can click on the following link. **Advocacy Training Registration - Use this link to register for the Advocacy Training (we will send the Zoom link through email the week of the event).** : <https://forms.gle/m5ijcnjguLVfqGqg6> *The sponsors of the event include Gold Level Sponsors NYSIR and C & S Companies; and Silver Level Sponsors Greco Trapp PLLC and Gordon Jones Associates Architects.*

NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION: Annual convention will be a virtual event. The convention is scheduled to take place April 8-10 2021. Registration opened on Dec. 16th. The individual rate is \$600 up to February 19th. After 2/19/2021 the rate increased to \$675 per attendee. There are reduced rates if 10 or more team members attend from a district. There is no registration deadline.

EXECUTIVE BUDGET TIMELINE: The deadline for the release of the Governor's Executive Budget is scheduled to be released January 19, 2021. NYSSBA's Capital Conference is scheduled for February 3rd and ECASB's Advocacy Training is scheduled for January 30th. What better way to prepare to meet and advocate with your elected officials regarding the funding for education. The Executive Budget Webinar will take place on Wednesday February 3rd during the Capital Conference sponsored by Forecast 5 Analysis. As always, we are still in the early stages of the Budget Development Cycle and information will be shared as it develops.

* A \$1.00 "Convenience Fee" will be included for on-line transactions with the Department of Motor Vehicle. (Apparently this is a highlight of the budget).

* A \$2 billion increase in funding for education is largely due to special FEDERAL aid increases, which would increase the funding for education to \$31.7 billion.

* First State Aid Runs were released on Wednesday, January 20, 2021.

EXCERPTS FROM BUFFALO NEWS ARTICLE REGARDING FUNDING FOR EDUCATION AND THE GOVERNORS' BUDGET:

- Total aid is up 7.2% statewide, although the support from the state decreases by 2%. The difference is in the Covid 19 stimulus package. It appears that school districts will be reimbursed for the cost of delivering meals and materials during the pandemic.

- From Mike Cornell, President of Erie Niagara School Superintendents Association: "Foundation aid and other aids are flat". "Upstate school districts are a lot more reliant on state aid than downstate school districts". "The numbers provided are 'opening numbers' and a lot can change through the budget process. (The Governor lumped reimbursement or "expense driven aid" such as BOCES Services and busing into one category, and he reduced the spending for the category by \$392.5 million)

- From Robert Lowry, Deputy Director from New York State Council of School Superintendents: "State Aid is being reduced to schools by \$600 million". "It appears schools are getting an influx of money, however Federal Law allows money to be spent over 3 years".

- From Interim SED Commissioner Betsy Rosa and Regent Chancellor Lester Young: "We are opposed to federal funds replacing state dollars to support schools".

- From Governor Cuomo: "If the state gets more money from the federal government, schools would get more".

- Rick Timbs: "What happens when the federal funds disappear? We are not solving anything systematically".

UPCOMING DATES:

January 27, 2021 - VIRTUAL PROGRAM - Super Eval - Board Evaluation (**Deadline to register (extended to Friday, January 22, 2021 - TODAY)**)

January 28, 2021 - Executive Board, 6:00 - 8:00 pm - VIRTUAL MEETING

January 30, 2021 - Advocacy Training, 8:00 am - 11:30 am - VIRTUAL PROGRAM

February 1, 2021 - VIRTUAL PROGRAM - Digi Stream (**Deadline to register Wednesday, January 27, 2021**)

February 3, 2021 - VIRTUAL CAPITAL CONFERENCE FOR NYSSBA

- COLSBA Meeting

February 4, 2021 - Rick Timbs VIRTUAL PROGRAM 6:30 - 8:30 pm (**Deadline to Register, Thursday, January 28, 2021**)

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