



eNews Capsule

New York State Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Education
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President's Message

Please help us make our organization more productive and meaningful for our members by volunteering to be on the survey committee.

Constance Costley, NYS AFCSE President
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One of the things that I have accomplished this year is completing a leadership training program sponsored by ACTE. Our past-president, Barbara Mikler-Crandon and I went to Washington, D.C. on four different occasions to complete this two year program.

One of the outcomes of this training was developing an understanding the importance of an organization having a Strategic Action Plan. The last time that NYS AFCSE completed one of these was in 2006 under the direction of Shirley Ware. It is time to review our 2006 plan and create a new 5 year plan. As I reviewed our 2006 plan I saw many items that were accomplished such as media training, eNews, website, best practices, and advocacy to name a few. However there are still areas we need to work on so that we can better support out members.

One of the important pieces of developing an action plan is to survey the members as to their needs and wants. What do we need to do to help you reach your goal of being a better educator? I would like to develop a survey of our members and would like one of our "members-at-large" to head this committee as I feel members on the board have a different perspective. If this is something you would like to do please contact me. I think it is important to have our members in the field develop the survey as they have a strong perception of the strengths and weaknesses of the organization.

The executive board will be completing its own organization survey that will help us identify the areas that we will need to focus on from the board's perspective.

News from NYSUT

Two resolutions were sent to NYSUT for passage at the Representative Assembly on April 11-13, 2013 in Washington, D.C. Both resolutions had support from fifty-one associations. One was on sustaining Family and Consumer Sciences in our schools and the other on Obesity Prevention and Healthy Weight Initiative. They both passed unanimously on the floor of the NYSUT RA. Thank you to everyone who signed onto the resolutions.

Are you interested in getting more involved? Are you interested in being on the NYS AFCSE Board? Well here's your opportunity.

In 2014 my term on the HPEFCS (Health, Physical Education, and Family and Consumer Sciences) Committee will be up and the NYSUT Board of Directors will be appointing new members to their educational committees. If serving on the HPEFCS Committee is of interest to you, please read the "job" description below.

NYSUT Liaison Description:

1. Become a member of the NYSUT Health, PE, and Family & Consumer Sciences Committee. To do this, a FACS teacher must have their teachers association president request the appointment by a member of the NYSUT board of directors.
2. Attend the HPEFACS meetings in Albany. This is at NYSUT's expense; 1- 2 meetings a year. (Lately we have been having more webinars).

3. Forward information from the HPEFACS Committee meetings back to NYSAFSCSE Board.

If you have any questions please call me @ 585-968-3784 or email tsnow@brcs.wnyric.org

Thela Snow
NYSUT Liaison to the NYSAFSCSE Board

What happened at the March and April Regents meetings? We're still waiting...

As you may remember, the Board of Regents appointed two expert panels to give them advice on the future of career and technical education (CTE):

- The Content Advisory Panel was charged with making recommendations to strengthen the CTE educational continuum in an effort to make a CTE graduation pathway a possibility for students. The Content Advisory Panel completed its work in December and sent recommendations to the Board in January.
- The CTE Technical Skills Assessment Review Panel was charged with developing a methodology for equating the rigor of NYS Regents exams with the rigor of selected CTE technical assessments. The panel commissioned a workgroup to select the technical assessments to compare to Regents exams and to develop the method to determine comparability to Regents exams.

We're waiting. The Board did not discuss, nor did it take any action on, the recommendations from the CTE Content Advisory Panel. Recommendations from the CTE Technical Skills Assessment Review Panel are scheduled for the June meeting. It may be that the Board will handle recommendations from both panels at that time.

In the meantime, there was an important item that CTE FACS teachers should know about. Please see "Emergency Adoption of Proposed Amendment to Sections 100.5, 100.6, and 200.5 Relating to a Nondiploma Exiting Credential for Students with Disabilities" at <http://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/>.

Currently, the IEP diploma is available to students with disabilities. Commencing with the 2013-14 school year, a new credential called the "Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential" will be available to students with severe disabilities who are assessed using the NYS Alternate Assessment (NYSAA).

Many students who have IEPs are working for Regents and local diplomas; with appropriate supports they are able to complete the required courses and assessments. There was concern that some students with disabilities, who are not eligible for the NYSAA and who may not be able to complete the requirements for a local or a Regents diploma, would leave high school without any documentation of their achievements.

In order to provide these students with an exit credential that will articulate the skills and abilities they have developed, a certificate denoting entry-level work readiness (the "CDOS credential") has been proposed. To be eligible for this certificate, students need to:

- (1) Demonstrate knowledge and skills relating to career development, integrated learning and universal foundation skills essential for success in the workplace (CDOS Learning Standards)
- (2) Engage in career planning and preparation
- (3) Participate in meaningful career development opportunities that are developmentally and individually appropriate, in consideration of the students' strengths, preferences and interests and that provide real world work experiences.

The credential would not be considered a regular high school diploma in accordance with State standards or for federal accountability purposes.

The department received public comment on this proposal. The most frequent recommendation was that this certificate should be available to all students, not just to students with disabilities. A certificate available only to students with disabilities might be less valued by employers and might lead to the disclosure that the individual has a disability. A certificate of work readiness skills would have essential value for all students, not just those who are disabled.

Department staff recommended that the proposed limitation of this certificate to only students with disabilities be revisited after such time as the Regents finalize policy on multiple pathways to a diploma. Under an emergency adoption of new regulation language, the CDOS certificate will be in place when the individualized education program (IEP) diploma is repealed on June 30, 2013. Consideration of providing a CDOS certificate to all students may be discussed along with a CTE graduation pathway.

So what is next?

We do not expect any CTE Regents activity at the May meeting and are hopeful the Board will return to the CTE items in June. As always, I'll keep you posted!

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Ask a Pro

The following are questions I received this month:

- Is the H&CS mandate still in effect?
- Can my district cut H&CS to add an Art teacher?
- What should I do if my district wants to cut our whole program down to only 10 weeks?

Since these are all part of the same problem, I'll address them together.

Yes, the mandate that all students have 3/4 unit of Home & Career Skills by the end of 8th grade is still in effect. You can check the SED website for the exact wording. If your district is currently higher than the mandate, they could indeed cut but they should not cut to any less than the 3/4 unit. Unfortunately, with all the current budget problems, some districts are trying all kinds of things to help their bottom line.

In addition, FACS is part of Career and Technical Education (CTE) which continues to be a focus of the Board of Regents and State Ed. If your district is looking to make cuts below the mandated levels, you definitely need to question this. Be sure to point out all the ways that our courses actually help students on the state exams.

For example, many students that struggle on these tests are kinesthetic learners and our course provides them with the opportunity to apply math and ELA skills to real life situations. Also, a lot of the research based reasons why students don't succeed are things we address in FACS.

Definitely discuss what's going on with your union reps. Having the union questions cut that are below the mandates can be more effective than a single teacher.

It's also a good idea to send press releases to all the local papers about the great things your students are doing. Tie in with some of the current 'hot' topics such as obesity, bullying, and money management. You can do this via email and don't forget to invite the paper to come to school for action shots.

Another activity that I've had a lot of success with is to assign students to teach something they're learning to someone else. Then offer them bonus points to teach more people and give more points for school administrators, board members, elected officials or members of the media. This is not only a great learning activity for your students, but also great program PR.

It is critical that your students and their parents understand the importance of the skills they learn in your course. Of course this is easier to do throughout the year before things are at crisis mode but definitely worth the effort even now.

Be sure also to talk to your NYSAFCSE Area Coordinator about the procedures in place for notifying SED about schools not in compliance. Just don't think that this alone will solve everything. It's up to all of us to make sure our districts and communities recognize the value of our subject so they don't even consider cutting it.

As always, send your questions and frustrations to phillip3@twcny.rr.com and we'll see if we can help you find answers. We're all in this together! NYSAFCSE is there for YOU!

The *eNews Capsule* is edited by Ann Coleman and sent monthly to our paid membership. If you know of a teacher who could benefit from our organization ask him or her to contact Kim DeHart, FACSmembership@nycap.rr.com
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