



Officers

President: Joseph Becker

1st Vice President: Jenny McElroy

2nd Vice President: Carol Brown

Recording Secretary: Maura Brady-Wilson

Corresponding Social Secretary: Shannon Johnson

Treasurer: Lindsay Wylie

Grievance Chairperson: Jacqueline Behnke

Happenings May 2026

Affiliated with NYSUT, AFT #2937, AFL-CIO

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to start with a huge thank you to all who participated in this year's Political Action Committee. Once again, it demonstrates the impact we have on the budget vote and the success of our endorsed candidates. Our endorsed candidates, Eric Hipsman and Cathy Sadahiani, were the top two vote-getters. This success is due to the many efforts of PJTA, including our postcards, texting campaign, and all of you who shared our information with your family and friends. While having the budget pass is very important, it is perhaps even more important that we continue to endorse candidates who support us and our students.

In addition to the election results, I also wanted to provide an update regarding the calendar adjustment for the end of the school year. There was an email sent out about the final snow day being given to us on June 26th. This was a district decision that was told to us at our last monthly meeting. It will push back the half-days for both elementary and middle school, so we stay aligned with the allotted amount originally scheduled. We made sure **anyone** impacted by this change will be compensated.

As we move closer to the end of the school year, the End of the Year Party is quickly approaching and will take place on June 12th. Please reach out to Shannon Johnson with any questions. The event includes both the Tiki Bar portion and dinner at the Trackside, and it is always a great opportunity to celebrate the school year together while also honoring the retirees who have dedicated so much of their lives to our district.

Along with celebrating the year, there are also opportunities for us to continue supporting our students and community. Please review the email that was sent out from Maura Brady-Wilson regarding the National Night Out. Whether you collect as a department, team, grade level, or individually, please consider giving to this great cause. All donations go directly to our students.

Finally, with the recent stretch of warm weather, I want to remind everyone to be mindful of the Extreme Heat protocols that should be in place in your buildings. Each building should have plans in place to provide extra fans, classroom movement, and other strategies when the classroom temperature reaches 82 degrees. When classrooms reach 88 degrees or higher, you should be provided an opportunity to move your class to a cooler room. This was something NYSUT fought for and put into Education Law back in September 2025. Fortunately, our district has made great strides in the infrastructure for air conditioning in all buildings, but three of the four are not at the final stage yet. Be mindful and reach out with any questions, but your building administrator should have plans in place to help with this. I will be sending out flyers to the building principals to remind them.

As always, if anyone has any questions, please feel free to reach out.

In solidarity,

Joe Becker
PJTA President

PJTA End of the Year Celebration: June 12th at the Erie Trackside from 5-9. People can attend the Tiki right after school (2:30-5:00). We will have basket raffles and a cash bar. Please **RSVP by June 1st** using the [attached form](#) and send \$60.00 to Shannon Johnson. For more details, check out the [Event Flyer](#). Please consider coming to this great event. We have so much to celebrate, including honoring our retirees.

Upcoming Meetings:

- PTJA: **6/15 @ 3:45 pm** in the HS library or attend virtually. President Joe Becker will send out a link prior to each meeting.
- Board of Education: **6/16 @ 7:00 pm** at Pike Street: *Retiree Reception/Top 20 Seniors*

Extreme Heat Protocols:



Heat Safety in Schools

What You Need to Know

What law was signed into effect that pertains to excessive heat in schools?

NYSUT advocated for §409-n of NYS Education Law which sets maximum indoor temperatures in school buildings. All public schools and BOCES must establish policies ensuring safety in extreme heat conditions.

Who does this law apply to?

This law applies to all public-school districts and BOCES in NYS. It applies to all educational and support areas (excluding kitchen spaces and buses).

When does this law take effect?

September 1, 2025.

At what temperatures does this law apply?

- 82°F – Schools must take action to relieve heat-related discomfort.
- 88°F – Rooms and spaces cannot be used, where practicable.

How is the classroom temperature measured?

Temperatures will be taken at a shaded location, three feet above the floor and near the center of the room.

What actions can a school take to reduce heat-related discomfort?

Schools may:

- Relocate staff and students to cooler rooms and spaces
- Turn off overhead lights and unused electronics
- Lower blinds or shades
- Open windows and doors to increase airflow
- Use fans to improve circulation
- Provide frequent water breaks

What happens if the room temperature reaches 88°F?

All districts and BOCES are required to have an extreme heat policy. Such policy shall include a plan to remove students and staff from occupied spaces. If the District's policy is not sufficient, please contact your Labor Relations Specialist to review the specifics of the situation.



Do Districts and BOCES have to develop an Extreme Heat Condition policy?

Districts and BOCES must develop a policy for ensuring the health and safety of students and staff on extreme heat condition days, as required by Education Law §409-n. Ask your building or district administration to review it.

Can I ask to see the employer's policy?

Yes. Ask your building or district administration to review it.

What resources are available for the extreme heat condition policy?

Please contact your Labor Relations Specialist if you have any questions, or visit nysut.cc/wphealth to contact NYSUT's Health & Safety Specialist.

Advice for Local Leaders

- Ask if your employer has developed a written policy for extreme heat, or when it plans to adopt one, before the September 1, 2025 deadline. This policy may be adopted through the Board of Education.
- Make sure you have a union representative on the District-Wide School Safety Team.
- Stay informed about your district's timeline, including Board meeting dates during the summer.
- Ensure your district policy includes a plan to relocate people during extreme heat condition days.

Correspondence:

Cards sent:

Card sent to Megan Bartsch on the loss of her grandmother, Dottie Decker

Card sent on the passing of former PJTA member, Nancy Cacchione

Cards received:

Thank you cards received from:

Stephanie Irwin
Adista Theodore
Jeanne Wilkowski
Nathalie Perry
Tammy Mackin
Patrick Brady
Jackie Smith
Jessica Ellsworth
Nicole VanBenschoten
Jenn Maillet
Kendyll Henion
Jerianne Baumgardner
Bonnie Whitney
Kristen Lopez
Cecilia Rough
Debbie Rutt



NYSUT News:

NYSUT's strength as well as its pride is in the diversity of its membership. That is why the union is proud to offer a wide array of programs, services, and information that address its members' unique interests and issues.

Member Programs, Services, and Information:

- **Member Guide**
- **Political Action**
- **Program Services**
- **Member Benefits**

NYSTRS Retirement Information: Thinking About Retirement?

Retirement is a significant life event. Be sure to do the homework necessary to make informed decisions by reviewing publications, web pages, and videos early in the process.

- **Countdown to Retirement**
- **Retirement Countdown Video Series**
- **Retirement Planning FAQs**
- **NYSTRS Retirement Checklist**
- **Benefits Consultation**

If you are planning to retire at the end of this school year, you should schedule a benefits consultation now via email communit@nystrs.org or by calling (800) 348-7298, Ext. 6100. See the [Benefits Consultations](#) page at NYSTRS.org for more details.

You may also calculate your pension estimates with the MyNYSTRS Pension Estimator in your My Retirement tab in your MyNYSTRS account.

NYS Office of Mental Health

Youth Suicide Prevention is Everyone's Business

Call or text 988 (Suicide & Crisis Lifeline) or

Text "GOT5" to 741-741