September Stakeholder Newsletter

New York State Education Department
September 2025

Supporting Migrant Students Amid Immigration Enforcement

The New York State Migrant Education Program (NYS-MEP) operates through 8 regional centers and a statewide Identification and Recruitment Center to support migratory children across New York.

- Services: Educational programs, family connections to health and social services, and in-person/virtual support.
- Recent Challenge: Immigration enforcement in Central NY affected ~15 migrant-eligible students. METS staff quickly stepped in, securing emergency contacts and ensuring continuity of support.
- District Partnership: Superintendents receive Certificates of Eligibility for each migrant student. Districts can connect with METS via the statewide directory: https://www.nysmigrant.org/map

Resources for Districts:

Safeguarding the Rights of Immigrant Students

https://www.nysed.gov/sites/default/files/oag-go-sed-immigration-students.pdf

Non-Profit Resource Agencies

https://www.canva.com/design/DAFGNCSpg9E/6yrY-_cRNnNSLFiks4LHfg/view?utm_content=DAFGNCSpg9E&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=editor

Protecting Our Students Toolkit

https://www.aft.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/2025/protecting_our_students_tookit_updated_0.pdf

Elevating Student Voice in Local Governance

On September 17, 2025, NYSED and NYSSBA hosted the first statewide Student School Board Welcome Event. A recording of the event will be sent out to schools and districts

- Why: Implements the 2024 law requiring every district with a high school (and each BOCES) to include at least one student board member (effective July 1, 2025).
- Format: A 90-minute livestream featuring legislative leaders, student voices, and a Q&A session with submissions from across the state.
- Goal: Equip student board members with tools, norms, and guardrails while connecting them to statewide education priorities,

Strengthening Cybersecurity in Schools

The Mandatory Cyber Reporting Law (**S.7672A/A.6769A**), signed in June 2025, bolsters municipal and educational cybersecurity:

- Mandatory Reporting: Cyber incidents reported to DHSES within 72 hours; ransomware payments disclosed within 24 hours.
- Support: DHSES provides technical assistance within 48 hours.
- Privacy: Reports are exempt from FOIL to encourage swift action.
  Education Law 2-d Updates:
  Contractors must notify schools of breaches within 7 days.
  Schools must notify NYSED's Chief Privacy Officer within 10 days.
  Families must be notified within 60 days, unless delays are necessary for law enforcement.

Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) Meals

NYSED affirms that districts are responsible for providing meals/snacks in UPK programs under Commissioner's Regulations 151-1.3(c).

- Challenges: Cost concerns and misconceptions that CBO-operated UPK programs are exempt.
- Clarifications:
  - Families may send food if they wish.
  - Meals/snacks must be provided at no cost to students.
  - Federal funding sources may be used.
- Next Steps: NYSED will release new guidance this fall to help districts plan for 2026.

Behavioral & Threat Assessment in Schools

Following national and statewide calls to prevent targeted violence, NYSED is highlighting Threat Assessment and Management (TAM):

- Purpose: Identify and mitigate risks by evaluating threats, concerning communications, or behaviors.
- Approach: Multi-disciplinary teams including educators, law enforcement, and mental health professionals.
- Best Practices for Schools:
  - Train staff to recognize warning signs (fixation on violence, drastic behavior changes, hate speech, etc.).
  - Establish internal threat assessment teams with clear reporting pathways.
  - Collaborate with county TAM teams for serious cases.
- Focus: Prevention and support—not punishment. NYSED is seeking district superintendent feedback on district involvement and support needs.