

RISE 2023

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

November 15-16, 2023

*Leading the Way: Resilience and
Adaptability in School Leadership*

PROGRAM

39th ANNUAL RISE CONFERENCE

Welcome

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

DAY 1: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2023

8:00am-8:30am Continental Breakfast (provided)
8:30am-8:55am Welcoming Remarks
9:00am-10:00am Opening Keynote
10:00am-12:30pm Time to Consult with NYSED (open office hours, see page 11)
10:15am-10:45am Mini Sessions with NYSED
11:30am-12:30pm NYSED Welcoming Address
12:30pm-1:30pm LUNCH (provided)
1:45pm-2:45pm Breakout #1 – 6 sessions
3:00pm-4:00pm Breakout #2 – 6 sessions
4:15pm -5:30pm Organizational Meetings
5:30pm End of Day 1 (dinner on your own)

DAY 2: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2023

7:30am-9:00am Breakfast (provided)
9:15am-10:15am Breakouts #3 -7 sessions
10:30am-11:30am Breakout #4 -7 sessions
11:35am-12:00pm Closing Keynote

Check-in at your regional PDRC table on arrival at the conference.
Join Conference WIFI: Marriott Conference; Password: Marriott2023
Coffee/Tea/Water Station will be available in the hallway throughout the conference.
Kindly visit our vendor and sponsor tables located in the hallway.
(Day 1: 10:00am-4:30pm; Day 2: 9:00am to 11:30am)

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

DAY 1

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2023

8:30am-8:55am Location: Salon A-D	WELCOME and OPENING REMARKS Jim Cultrara, Co-Chair at NYS Coalition for Independent and Religious Schools Invocation: Tim Maendel, Bruderhof Communities
9:00am-10:00am Keynote <i>Dr. Steven D'Agustino</i> <i>Director of Online Learning,</i> <i>Fordham University</i> Location: Salon A-D	AI: ACCESS, EQUITY, AND INSTRUCTION Artificial intelligence's integration into schools offers a transformative lens on education, highlighting both unparalleled opportunities and pressing challenges related to access, equity, and instructional efficacy. Attendees of this keynote will begin to explore these dynamics, empowering them with the insights and strategies to navigate and harness AI's potential in the educational landscape effectively.
10:15am-10:45/11:00am	<p style="text-align: center;">MINI SESSIONS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Join high-interest mini sessions of your choice provided by NYSED</p>
Fingerprinting Guidelines <i>Presenter: Samuel "SJ" Finnessey, J., Director and Assistant Counsel (OSPRA), NYSED</i> 10:15am-10:45am Location: Salon A	This session will highlight the fingerprinting process and requirements for prospective school employees, will explain the roles of applicants, schools, OSPRA and others in the process, and will explain how non-public and private schools can opt-in to SED's fingerprinting process.
NYS School Environment Health Program <i>Presenter: Michelle Herdt, PhD, MPH, Director, NYS School Environmental Health Program</i> 10:15am-10:45am Location: Salon B	Learn about the program and ways to impact school environmental health through the 9 focus areas.
Data Reporting Requirements and Timelines for Religious and Independent Schools <i>Presenter: Yufan Huang, PhD., Executive Coordinator, IRS, NYSED, Michelle Heyward-Cooper, Program Research Specialist 4, IRS, NYSED and Sonnet Gravina, Program Research Specialist 2, IRS, NYSED</i> 10:15am-11:00am Location: Salon C	Learn more about IRS, the key data systems in which Religious and Independent schools show their footprints, examples of specific data elements required to report to NYSED, and the reporting timeline. The audience will develop a comprehensive understanding of the reporting requirements, resulting in improved data quality. The subject matter expert of state assessment and statewide student information data warehouse will be available to answer your questions too.
Workforce Development HUB <i>Presenter: Colleen McDonald, Director, NYS Education Workforce Development HUB</i> 10:15am-10:45am Location: Salon D	Join this mini session to learn about establishing a registered teacher apprenticeship program.

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<p>CTLE/TEACH <i>Presenters: Jennifer Pendleton, Deanna Ford (CTLE), Victoria Landy (TEACH Tech)</i> 10:15am-10:45am Location: Schenectady/Troy</p>	<p>The Office of Teaching Initiatives will review CTLE/TEACH requirements for educators practicing in religious and independent schools. We will provide instructions on how educators can re-register in the TEACH system and will review the requirements for schools' access to the TEACH system. If time remains, recent changes to certification will be discussed, including Literacy All Grades, Students with Disabilities All Grades, and recent changes to the Endorsement of an Out of State Certificate.</p>
<p>New York Education Initiative (NYEI) <i>Presenter: Sharon Jacker, Director of Education and Partnerships, Jewish Community relations Council of New York</i> 10:15am-10:45am Location: Albany</p>	<p>This project is designed to collaborate with educational leaders in all NYS schools (public, religious, and independent) on identifying and using primary-based sources to teach about Jews and Judaism. Our goals are to provide support in creating K-12 environments where learners of diverse religious backgrounds can feel safe and welcome and ensure that students are equipped with the tools to address identity-based hate, both now and also when they are in the post-secondary world after graduation.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">11:30am-12:30pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Location: Salon EFGH</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Conversations with David Frank, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Education Policy, NYS Education Department and Althea Johnson, Director of Office of Religious and Independent School Support (ORISS)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">with introductions by Sara Seligson, Managing Director-Day Schools and Yeshivot & School Food Services, Jewish Education Project & Chairperson, Commissioners Advisory Council for Nonpublic Schools</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">12:30pm-1:30pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Location: Salon EFGH</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">LUNCH (provided)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">1:45pm-2:45pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday, November 15: Breakout #1 (6 sessions)</p>
<p>Calm in the Chaos: Mastering Difficult Situations as a School Leader <i>Presenter: Mr. Jim Grillo, Principal, Holy Trinity Diocesan High School</i> Location: Salon A</p>	<p>This session is designed for school leaders seeking to enhance their skills in handling challenging situations. We will discuss the tools and strategies necessary to navigate adversity while managing personalities, coordinating communication, and maintaining a positive school environment. There will be a focus on understanding the emotional dynamics at play in these moments and an emphasis on how the traditions and/or missions of religious and independent schools can help leaders formulate an effective response.</p>
<p>Growth Mindset: A School-wide Approach <i>Presenter: Daniella Listman Rosenberg, Yeshiva Tiferes Moshe</i> Location: Salon B</p>	<p>In this session, administrators will participate in a hands-on approach to implementing growth mindset strategies school wide. This session will help develop a positive school culture while training our students to be resilient.</p>
<p>Making Connections: Enhancing Program Function with Integrated Curriculum <i>Presenter: Mr. Josh Kaplan, Director of School, Randolph School</i> Location: Salon C</p>	<p>An integrated curriculum can transform a program in ways that enrich student learning experiences (and thus, their efficacy) and also bolster teacher collaboration, elevating the quality of instruction and teacher retention. This session is intended to explore the range of benefits of integrated curriculum within the context of non-public schools, targeting innovative administrators and flexible educators interested in mitigating the impact of many perennial challenges, and keeping fun at the forefront in our work. Participants will consider their unique school culture, to refine or initiate integrated curriculum in their schools to elevate the overall experience for both teachers and students (and consequently, for parents too).</p>

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<p>The Key to Success in Life: Astonishing Findings about the Importance of SEL Skills <i>Presenter: Dr. Lea Goldstein</i> <i>Principal, Derech Ha Torah of Rochester</i></p> <p>Location: Salon D</p>	<p>As educators, we all believe that academic skills are vitally important, so, why are we focusing on strategies to improve children’s social-emotional development? Because recent studies have demonstrated that academic skills and proficiency are not the most important factors forecasting future success. A growing body of literature shows that early social-emotional interventions in childhood can positively affect the future trajectories of children, their families and communities. At this session, we will discuss the findings that higher social-emotional competence is associated with decreased behavioral and emotional problems, and why social skills are reliable, predictive indicators of future success. Takeaways will include strategies to advocate for, incorporate and include social emotional learning/ instruction in our schools.</p>
<p>The Benefits of Building your Social Media <i>Presenter: Mrs. Valerie Iacono</i> <i>Brooklyn Diocese</i> Location: Troy/Schenectady</p>	<p>The presentation explored the invaluable advantages of integrating social media platforms in school marketing strategies. Through a comprehensive exploration of real-world case studies and expert insights, participants will gain a profound understanding of how social media can enhance brand and visibility, foster community engagement and attract prospective students.</p>
<p>Effective Teacher Evaluation <i>Presenter: Mr. Al Gilson</i> <i>Regional Director, Catapult Learning</i></p> <p>Location: Albany/Colonie</p>	<p>Leaders will delve into the art of effective teaching through the lens of teacher evaluations. We will focus on formal and informal observation of practice and on the collection of observational data to enhance school-wide goals and overall instructional practice. The workshop also delves into observational feedback. Finally, we will uncover the importance of emphasizing personal growth, community involvement, and ethical standards within school-wide teaching practice.</p>
<p>3:00pm-4:00pm</p>	<p>Wednesday, November 15: Breakout #2 (6 sessions)</p>
<p>Deeper Dive into AI: How to Support Administrators and Teachers <i>Presenter: Dr. Steven D’Agustino</i> <i>Director of Online Learning, Fordham University</i> Location: Salon A</p>	<p>Artificial intelligence's integration into schools offers a transformative lens on education, highlighting both unparalleled opportunities and pressing challenges related to access, equity, and instructional efficacy. Join this session to explore how school building leaders can harness the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in schools, empowering them with the insights and strategies to navigate AI's potential.</p>
<p>Making Time to Plan Your Time <i>Presenter: Mrs. Jonna M. Johnson</i> <i>Principal, St. John the Baptist School</i> Location: Salon B</p>	<p>This session will assist school leaders in creating systems to more effectively manage time. If you feel overwhelmed and underproductive, you are not alone. This session is designed to help participants evaluate their current methods of time management, set priorities of tasks, work to establish boundaries, streamline communication, and begin to develop their own personal plan.</p>
<p>Building Leadership Among Students <i>Presenter: Soshanah Leibowitz</i> <i>Principal, Bnos Esther Maika</i></p> <p>Location: Salon C</p>	<p>This is an inspiring conference session that illuminates the transformative potential of instilling leadership qualities in students. Participants will engage in interactive discussions and workshops designed to cultivate critical skills such as effective communication, problem-solving, and team collaboration, nurturing a generation of confident and visionary leaders. This session seeks to equip educators with practical ideas to take back to their school environments to foster growth both academically and socially.</p>
<p>Decision Making for Administrators <i>Presenter: Dr. Martin Kilbridge</i> <i>President, Academy of the Holy Names</i> Location: Salon D</p>	<p>We seek to make sound and widely embraced decisions. A rational process helps to avoid bias, increase engagement, and address the issue that lies at the heart of the problem. You will be introduced to a process to arrive at smart decisions, whether you are choosing a 1:1 device for your school, a new schedule, a turf or grass field, or a new car.</p>
<p>Strength in a Small School Identity <i>Presenter: Gerard Buckley</i> <i>Principal, St Mary’s High School</i></p> <p>Location: Troy/Schenectady</p>	<p>Embracing your identity as the “smaller school” can allow the creation of greater unity among students and faculty while allowing for programing unique to institution size. Mr. Buckley will share insights on impact of new programs, including a partnership with universities and weekly school wide assemblies, can celebrate students and solidify messaging, can embrace and strengthen your traditions, and how using your school size, can strengthen your alumni support.</p>

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<p>Strategies to Support Student Learning Gaps: Multi-Age Classes & Creative Scheduling <i>Presenter: Mrs. Patti Vitale Head of School, Brown School</i></p> <p>Location: Albany/Colonie</p>	<p>Growing gaps in student achievement have forced schools to re-evaluate the use of time and staff expertise. Join us for a discussion of how The Brown School has redesigned their schedule to bring teachers together in multi-age classrooms to provide increased support for students. Learn how the school built an innovative schedule that promotes targeted instruction, differentiation, and staff collaboration to increase students' progress toward grade level outcomes.</p>
<p>4:15pm-5:30pm</p>	<p>Wednesday, November 15: Organizational Meetings</p>
<p>Lutheran Schools Association Location: Albany</p> <p>Greek Schools Association Location: Colonie</p> <p>Christian Schools Association Location: Schenectady</p> <p>Islamic Schools Association Location: Troy</p> <p>Catholic Schools Location: Salon A</p> <p>Association of Historically Black Independent Schools Location: Salon B</p> <p>Seventh Day Adventist Schools Location: Salon C</p> <p>Jewish Education Schools Location: Salon D</p> <p>Administrators not Affiliated with an Association Location: Boardroom</p>	<p>The purpose of organizational meetings at RISE is to facilitate the exchange of ideas, foster collaboration, and promote the dissemination of best practices among school leaders from like organizational structures. These meetings serve as a platform for discussing pertinent issues in the field of education. They provide an opportunity for participants to network, build professional relationships, and gain valuable insights from each other. By encouraging dialogue and knowledge-sharing, these meetings aim to inspire continuous improvement and advancements in our schools. Meetings range from those with comprehensive agendas to more informal gatherings.</p> <p>No preregistration required; join the session that most closely aligns with your school structure. If you are not formally affiliated with a group, feel free to join a meeting or go to the Boardroom to meet up with leaders who are not formally affiliated.</p>

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DAY 2

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2023

7:30am-9:00am Breakfast (provided)

9:15am-10:15am Breakouts #1 (7 sessions)

10:30am-11:30am Breakout # 2 (7 sessions)

11:35am-12:00pm Closing Keynote

<p>7:30am-9:00am</p> <p>Location: Salon EFGH</p>	<p>Breakfast (provided)</p>
<p>8:00am-8:30am</p> <p>Location: Salon EFGH</p>	<p>WELCOMING REMARKS</p> <p>Jim Cultrara, Co-Chair NYS Coalition for Independent and Religious Schools</p> <p>Regional PDRCs: Meet the Regional PD Resource Centers</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Long Island PDRC: Rita Stavrou, Director, Long Island PDRC 2) NYC PDRC: Stefanie Reda, Director, NYC PDRC 3) Upstate PDRC: Rebecca Shea, Director, Upstate PDRC <p>Drawing: Complete Conference Survey Day 1 to enter a drawing for a gift card! (winners must be present at 8:30am to win)</p>
<p>9:15am-10:15am</p>	<p>November 16: Breakout #3 (7 sessions)</p>
<p>Parents as Partners: Communicating Effectively <i>Presenter: Mrs. Suzanne Russell CEO/Founder, Over the Moon Enrichment</i></p> <p>Location: Salon A</p>	<p>Do you find that you're consistently repeating information to parents or your school community? Very often, we blame others for not reading or listening. But are YOU clearly and effectively communicating? This session will provide administrators and educators the resources and tools necessary to be clear communicators so they may see a positive change in their school community.</p>
<p>Literacy and Leadership: Designing a System that Supports Effective School-Wide Literacy Instruction <i>Presenter: Sue Gerenstein VP, Center for Professional Development Excellence, Catapult Learning</i></p> <p>Location: Salon B</p>	<p>Designing a School-wide literacy initiative that supports effective literacy instruction is a multifaceted endeavor that requires planning and collaboration. In this session, we will reflect on leading the charge by creating a culture of literacy growth in your school. We will discuss components of an effective reading system including the use of a structured approach to literacy development, the need for on-going monitoring to check on progress, and the use of data to proactively design interventions.</p>
<p>Developing Religious Literacy <i>Presenter: Liz Burns Taormina Educator, Institute for Curriculum Services</i></p> <p>Location: Salon C</p>	<p>Educational exposure to the world's religious traditions is critical for students as they move toward becoming global citizens. This interactive session explores the benefits of teaching about religions, uses case studies to consider the challenges involved in teaching this topic, and provides both guidelines and strategies for incorporating the study of religion into classroom instruction. Instructional leaders and teachers of students at every level—elementary, middle and high school—will benefit from this session.</p>
<p>Blended Learning: The Data Driven School <i>Presenters: Richard Altabe Principal, Hebrew Academy of Long Beach and David Marks, Director of Blended Learning & Analytics, Hebrew Academy of Long Beach</i></p>	<p>Participants will learn the structure of a blended learning classroom and will understand how to use data to drive instructional planning and decision making. Presenters will highlight the benefits of small group instruction and how data can play a role in instructional decision-making for individual students as well as for the school at large. We will focus on how our tracking of</p>

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Location: Salon D	data and small group instruction helped address the learning loss caused by the COVID pandemic.
Shifting the Paradigm in Religious and Independent Schools <i>Presenter: Dr. Khadijah Jean Pryce</i> <i>Principal, Islamic Cultural Center School</i> Location: Troy/Schenectady	Religious and Independent Schools offer unique features that need to be leveraged and promoted. Considering that parents are looking for alternatives to Public Schools, religious and independent school administrators should leverage their school's uniqueness with a primary objective of boosting enrollment and visibility. This session will focus on ways administrators can shift the paradigm to financially successful asset-based models.
Be Curious, Not Judgmental: Wisdom & Practices for Leaders from Ted Lasso <i>Presenter: Mrs. Emily Cady</i> <i>Counselor, The Harley School</i> Location: Albany/Colonie	Do you BELIEVE in the power of our profession? Need a dose of INSPIRATION in your role as a leader? The increased demands of our work can feel endless and overwhelming. Learn new strategies on team building, conflict resolution, goal setting, and ways to inspire your entire community. Just like a seasoned American football coach who somehow finds himself coaching a British soccer team, we may also feel like we are navigating an unfamiliar world. Let's draw inspiration from the award-winning show, Ted Lasso, and rediscover the joy of our work.
Resilience: From Chaos to Kairos <i>Presenter: Dr. Gerald Cattaro</i> <i>Professor, Executive Director Center Catholic School Leadership and Faith- Based Education</i> Location: Empire Room	By embracing this journey from chaos to kairos, school leaders can model resilience for their students, staff, and community A trait that enables individuals to adapt and thrive. This concept is particularly relevant as educational institutions often face unexpected challenges, from budgetary constraints to sudden shifts in educational policies. Leaders who can harness resilience can navigate these challenges and turn them into opportunities for growth and positive change.
10:30am-11:30am	November 16 – Breakout #4 (7 sessions)
Using Social Media to Promote School and Boost Enrollment <i>Presenter: Ms. Christine Glynn</i> <i>Principal, St Patrick School, Bayshore</i> Location: Salon A	Branding and image are essential to expanding your community and boosting enrollment. Administrators can control the narrative surrounding their school by utilizing social media. Communities can be celebrated while also giving onlookers a glance into the mission and vision of the school. Work smarter not harder by truly capturing the essence of everyday life! Cohesiveness, visuals, and engagement can boost enrollment two-fold.
Leading with Kindness <i>Presenter: Dr. William F. Baker</i> <i>Professor, Fordham Graduate School of Education</i> Location: Salon B	Kindness as a Catalyst: Leading with Compassion in School Communities a thought-provoking program session that highlights the profound impact of compassionate leadership in fostering a positive and inclusion school environment. Participants will explore the transformative role of empathy, respect and understanding in cultivation strong relations and nurturing a supportive culture of kindness.
The Recipe for Building Effective Teams <i>Presenter: Mr. Ted Mancini</i> <i>Principal, Aquinas Institute</i> Location: Salon C	Non-public school leaders juggle all aspects of school leadership from enrollment management to facilities, to budget/finance, leading culture, and still are called upon to be the leaders of curriculum and instruction. This workshop offers perspective on finding balance and serving the school community by building a successful team around you. The primary focus of the session is strong focus on mission and relationship within the core school community.
Courageous Leadership: Strategies and Solutions for School Leaders <i>Presenter: Pat McLaughlin</i> <i>Principal, St Francis Prep</i> Location: Salon D	The goal of the presentation is to comprehensively align the necessary components of leadership and school culture to provide school leaders with a toolbox of strategies and solutions to utilize in their school. The initial step is to identify the skills necessary to lead all stakeholders in a shared mission, vision, and goal development necessary to create a high achieving school, a school in which all students experience success. School leadership teams should engage in research-supported practices for curriculum, instruction, and assessment. When these elements are used effectively, leaders can develop and implement a positive organizational culture of academic excellence, values, and equity for all.

Session canceled

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<p>Elevating the Conversation to Drive Instruction <i>Presenter: Dr. Noelle Beale</i> <i>Regional Superintendent, Catholic Schools of Westchester in the Archdiocese of New York</i></p> <p>Location: Troy/Schenectady</p>	<p>Daily classroom visits, including walkthroughs, formal and informal observations, provide rich observational data for school leaders. Using this observational data, coupled with local and national assessment data, school leaders have a significant amount of information to assist them in moving the learning community forward. In this session, leaders will look at how the use of the Danielson rubric can be utilized to enhance everyday conversations with teachers. Grounded in data and enhanced by the Danielson rubric, leaders are empowered to elevate the professional learning conversations to drive instructions to meet classroom and school goals. This learning session will provide practical suggestions for leaders and will set the stage for our two follow up sessions in January and March with the Upstate PDRC.</p>
<p>Coaching Emotions in Our Staff <i>Presenter: Robyne McLeod</i> <i>Director of Program Design, Center for Professional Development, FullBloom</i></p> <p>Location: Albany/Colonie</p>	<p>One of the hardest things about working with adult learners is dealing with adult emotions: Overwhelm. Frustration. Fear. Resistance. When it comes to emotions at work, people usually fall into one of two camps: they suppress them or are overtaken by them. Both responses to emotions can lead to toxic cultures and fail to create environments where everyone is able to show up, be seen, and thrive. If we want joyful, resilient, and equitable places of learning, we must be adept at coaching emotions. Join this session to explore how to respond to strong emotions and how to manage your own emotional response to their emotions, and leave empowered with an understanding on how coaching emotions can accelerate an educator’s growth and contribute to retention.</p>
<p>Communication: The Key to a Successful Team <i>Presenter: Dr. Cindy Barnum</i> <i>EE Senior Coordinator, Association of Christian Schools Int. (ACSI)</i></p> <p>Location: Empire Room</p>	<p>How do you speak so that others listen? Can you identify the strengths and weaknesses of those on your team, and understand their speaking and listening style? How can you support everyone to communicate clearly and work together effectively? We’ll look at team dynamics and discuss strategies for helping everyone “get along”. Let’s move from tolerating personality differences toward appreciating them!</p>
CLOSING	
<p>11:35am-12:00pm - Closing Keynote <i>Presenter: Brother David Migliorino, OSP</i> <i>Saint Anthony’s High School</i></p> <p>Location: Salon A-D</p>	<p>Being a Joyful, Hopeful Leader with Humor Being a joyful, hopeful leader is a remarkable journey filled with the promise of change and inspiration. As leaders, we have the unique ability to inspire those around us. Join this closing session to hear some interesting stories to motivate and send us back on FIRE for the LOVE of Education!</p>
<p>12:00pm Conference Conclusion</p> <p>Location: Salon A-D</p>	<p>Closing Remarks James Cultrara, Co-Chair NYS Coalition for Independent and Religious Schools</p> <p>Raffles: Unlock Your Chance to Win! Complete End of Day Conference surveys, turn-in your completed punch cards and more (winners must be present at 12:00pm to win)</p>

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The New York State Coalition for Independent and Religious Schools

Agudath Israel of America

Association of Christian Schools International

Jewish Education Project

New York State Association of Independent Schools

New York State Catholic Conference

The Lutheran Schools Association

Affiliate Organizations

Association of Historically Black Independent Schools

Atlantic Union Conference of Seventh Day Adventists

Catholic School Administrators Association of New York State

Greater New York Conference of Seventh Day Adventists

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

Islamic Schools Association

New York Conference of Seventh Day Adventists

Northeastern Conference of Seventh Day Adventists

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TIME TO CONSULT WITH NYSED

Wednesday, November 15, 2023
10:00am-12:30pm

Location: Empire Room

<p>Child Nutrition Program Tel: 518-473-8781 Fax: 518-473-0018 Email: cn@nysed.gov Kimberly Vumbaco, Director, Child Nutrition Programs</p> <p>EANS (Emergency Assistance for Non-Public Schools) Email: EANS@nysed.gov Amanda Lolik Project Coordinator</p> <p>Early Childhood Education Tel: 518-474-5807 Fax : 518-473-7737 Email: OEL@nysed.gov Lori Smart, Samantha Chobot</p> <p>Fingerprinting Guidelines Tel: 518.473.2998 Fax: 518.402.5940 Email: OSPRA@nysed.gov Samuel (SJ) Finnessey, Jr, Director & Assistant Counsel, Office of School Personnel Review and Accountability (NYSED OSPRA)</p> <p>Office of ESSA-Funded Programs Tel:518.473.0295 Email: conappta@nysed.gov Erica Meaker, Director of the Office of ESSA-Funded programs and Lori Genito</p> <p>Office of Information Reporting Services Website: https://datasupport.nysed.gov/hc/en-us Yufan Huang, PhD., Executive Coordinator, IRS, Michelle Heyward-Cooper, Program Research Specialist 4, IRS, and Sonnet Gravina, Program Research Specialist 2, IRS</p>	<p>Office of Religious and Independent School Support (ORISS) (see hallway table – Day 1 only) Tel: 518.473.8202 Fax: 518.474.9200 Email: oriss@nysed.gov</p> <p>(ORISS) Mandated Service Aid MSA/CAP Tel: 518.474.3936 Fax: 518.474.4674 Email: MSA-CAP@nysed.gov Nicole Madlin, Amanda Kaczmarek</p> <p>Office of Standards and Instruction Tel: 518.474.5922 Email: emscurric@nysed.gov or standards@nysed.gov</p> <p>Graduation Requirement Questions: emscgradreq@nysed.gov</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Grad & Diploma Requirements: Melissa Montague -Math Resources: Andrea Faoro -ELA Resources: Catherine Coons -Science Education: A. Fraley -Social Studies Resources: Lisa Pingelski -Seal of Civic Readiness: Christine Radez -Art Resources: David Seligman <p>Office of State Assessment Tel: 518.474.5902 Fax: 518.474.1989 or 518.474.2021 Email: emscassinoinfo@nysed.gov David Decker, Michael Drozdowski, Brian Suedkamp, Clara DeSorbo, Paul Anderson, Emily Bryans</p>	<p>Office of Special Education Policy Tel: 518.473.2878 Fax: 518.473.5387 Email: speced@nysed.gov Deborah Rous, Marisa Roark</p> <p>Office of Student Support Services (Health Services) Tel: 518.486.6090 Email: studentsupportservices@nysed.gov Karen Hollowood, Ann Lanoue</p> <p>Office of Student Support Services (SEL, Community Schools, Attendance Policies, Code of Conduct, Discipline, Homebound, Suspension and Working Papers) Tel: 518.486.6090 Email: studentsupportservices@nysed.gov Carri Manchester</p> <p>Office of Teaching Initiatives Tel: 518.474.3901 Email: teachhelp@nysed.gov or tcert@nysed.gov Matt O'Brien</p> <p>PLAN (performance Based Learning and Assessment Networks) Pilot Program Tel: 518.542.5159 Email: PLAN.pilot@nysed.gov Allison Armour-Garb, Nicole Lennon</p> <p>Transportation Tel: 518.474.6541 Email: David.Elliott@nysed.gov David Elliot</p>
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Regional Professional Development Resource Centers



Three regional professional development resource centers (PDRC) offer an array of professional development offerings to support New York State’s religious and independent schools.

Learn more about each professional development resource center and visit their websites below.

[Regional Professional Development Resource Centers | New York State Education Department \(nysed.gov\)](#)

PDRC	Director	Contact	Website
Long Island PDRC	Rita Stavrou	Rita.stavrou@catapultlearning.com	 Long Island PDRC
NYC PDRC	Stefanie Reda	sreda@fordham.edu	 NYC PDRC
Upstate PDRC	Rebecca Shea	rshea@measinc.com	 UPSTATE PDRC

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We appreciate our speakers sharing their experiences within our religious and independent communities by presenting at RISE 2023.

Thank you!

Speaker	Bio
Altabe, Richard	Mr Richard Altabe, Principal of the Lower Division of the Hebrew Academy of Long Beach, has 35 years' experience as Principal in various Yeshiva Day Schools. Before beginning his administrative career, he was a classroom teacher in both the NYC Public Schools and Yeshiva of Flatbush HS. In addition, he has developed an inclusionary collaborative teaching program that recently was awarded funding through UJA Federation of New York as part of its Day School Incentive Program. Mr. Altabe is a member of the Blue-Ribbon Commission of the New York State Education Department working to revise current graduation standards for all students in the State of New York.
Baker, William	Dr. William Baker is an author, filmmaker, professor, and long-time media executive. He is a seven times Emmy Award winning producer, twenty-year president of the PBS flagship station, WNET in New York and previously president of Westinghouse Television for a decade. He launched many cable networks and helped start Oprah's talk show career. Baker has written 5 books and produced two theatrical movies. He's believed to be the eighth person to stand on the North and South Poles.
Barnum, Cindy	Dr. Cindy Barnum, ACSI Early Education Senior Coordinator in the Eastern Division, earned her Ed.D. in Christian Education Leadership from Regent University. She has served as a teacher, administrator, college professor, consultant, board member, missionary, and international speaker. She is honored to serve educators in their Kingdom call by providing resources, support, and encouragement from the wisdom and experiences the Lord has given her in over 30 years of Christian education. Cindy lives in Medina, New York with her husband, Kirk, who is also a Christian educator. They have four grown, married children and seven grandchildren.
Beale, Noelle	Dr. Noelle Beale is the Regional Superintendent for the Catholic Schools on Central Westchester in the Archdiocese of New York. She has served as teacher & leader in the Archdiocese for the past 27 years. Dr. Beale is dedicating to ensuring that there is more learning, for more students, in more ways, more of the time and that teachers and leaders each play a critical role in the learning process.
Buckley, Gerard	Gerard Buckley has dedicated his life to Catholic Education. He worked for 13 years in the Brooklyn Diocese at two different high schools as a math teacher, director of development and director of admissions. Mr. Buckley then joined St. Mary's High School where he has worked for the past 11 years as an assistant principal and principal. Mr. Buckley has a bachelor's degree from SUNY Geneseo, masters degrees from Touro University and St. John's University. Mr. Buckley is currently pursuing his Doctorate in Educational Leadership from St. John's University.
Burns Taormina, Liz	Liz taught for 15 years in independent and religious schools in New York, Connecticut and New Jersey. As chair of an interdisciplinary humanities department, she served as a coach for teachers of social studies, ELA, world languages, fine arts, and religious studies. She holds a BA in Religious Studies from Fairfield University and a master's degree from the University of Notre Dame.
Cady, Emily	Emily Cady is an educator who has spent over twenty years in educational leadership at various levels in both private and public institutions. As a passionate School Counselor, Emily has a passion for empowering educators to live healthy and joyful lives rooted in holistic and sustainable wellness practices. She is a sought-after national speaker on topics specializing in educational systems and the social-emotional health of educational institutions. At a time when the world is questioning age-old learning practices, Emily is rooted in the foundations of our survival —trusting relationships, empathy, respect, and authenticity. Emily is a member of The Harley School faculty and teaches in the EOP Summer Academy at SUNY Morrisville University.
Cattaro, Gerald Dr.	Dr. Cattaro is a Professor of Education at Fordham University, Graduate School of Education and Former Chairperson Educational Leadership Administration and Policy. Dr. Cattaro is the Executive Director of the Center for Catholic School Leadership and Faith Based Education, Editor Journal of Urban Education,

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	Journal of International Reform in Education and governing board The Journal of Catholic Education, and consultant to Vatican Dicastery of Culture and Education.
D'Agustino, Steven	Dr. Steven D'Agustino, with a doctorate in Education Leadership, Administration and Policy, is the Director of Online Learning at Fordham University. His primary role encompasses the advancement of distance learning programs. A prominent figure in instructional technology, Dr. D'Agustino's published works examine the augmentation of education through technology integration.
Gerenstein, Sue	Sue Gerenstein is Vice President, Professional Development, and is responsible for the overall development and implementation of Catapult Learning's professional development programs. Sue brings nearly 40 years of experience in teaching, school administration, management, professional development, marketing, and product development to her role. Before joining Catapult Learning, Sue served as the Vice President for Academic Partnerships for American Reading Company and Senior Director of Education for Foundations, Inc. Prior to these appointments, Sue was the Vice President of Professional Development and Curriculum for EdisonLearning, and oversaw the development of the products, tools and resources associated with school design implementation, including the creation and coordination of professional development services.
Gilson, Al	Meet Al Gilson, a dedicated and accomplished regional director at Catapult Learning. With a rich background in education and leadership, Al plays a pivotal role in shaping the company's success in New York. Their passion for innovation and commitment to fostering educational excellence has led to significant advancements in the field, making Al a respected figure in the education industry. With a focus on collaboration and a vision for transformative education, Al continues to inspire and drive positive change throughout the region.
Glynn, Christine	Christine E. Glynn, B.A, M.A, M.S: of Long Island, NY is an administrator whose background is in Theology and School Building Leadership. Alumni of Catholic University and two-time graduate of Saint John University. Outside of school hours, Christine serves as PD facilitator specializing in Pastoral Care and Digital Marketing.
Goldstein, Lea	Dr. Lea Goldstein has been a very successful K-8 principal for 19 years. Before that, she thoroughly enjoyed her 17 years as an elementary school limudei kodesh teacher. Lea earned her doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of Rochester's Warner School, and her Master's in Educational Administration from SUNY Brockport. She has permanent teaching certification from both NYS and the Israeli Misrad HaChinuch/Education Department. Dr. Goldstein has been mentoring and training teachers for decades and recently presented at a conference at Oxford University.
Grillo, Jim	Jim Grillo is in his fourth year as the Principal at Holy Trinity Diocesan High School, a Catholic school of the Diocese of Rockville Centre in Hicksville, NY serving students in grades 9 through 12. Through a unique partnership with Catholic Health, Holy Trinity established the Center for Medicine and Research, which opened at the school last January. Jim is a member of the Catholic School Administrators Association of New York State and serves as one of five voting members of the Executive Council of the Catholic High School Football League. He earned a Master's Degree in Kinesiology from CUNY-Brooklyn College and a Masters Degree in Education (Supervision and Administration) from Fordham University. Away from school, Jim umpires Division I College Baseball in the Patriot League and works as an observer of women's basketball officials for several NCAA conferences in the northeast.
Iacono, Valerie	Valerie Iacono joined the Brooklyn Diocese in 2021 as an Enrollment Management Field Representative and has worked towards helping schools use their social media to drive recruitment and retention.
Johnson, Jonna M.	Jonna Johnson has her Masters in Elementary Education from Medaille College and her Master's in Educational Leadership from Canisius College. She has been in the field of education for 17 years and has spent the last 7 of those years as the Principal of St. John the Baptist School in Alden. She has two children, both of which have attended Catholic School since PreK and has been married to her husband Steve for 17 years.
Kaplan, Josh	Josh Kaplan is, first and foremost, a parent, and also the Director of the Randolph School (PK-5) in the Hudson Valley. He worked in a variety of school settings before leading a progressive school, which has informed opportunities for innovation in the face of an ever-changing educational landscape. Central to

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	<p>the strength of any community is the integration of content and collaboration of staff, which Josh believes can not only solve common and recurring problems, but it also strengthens school culture (and retention).</p>
Kilbridge, Martin	<p>Martin Kilbridge, Ed.D. is President of Academy of the Holy Names in Albany. Previously he served as Principal of Our Lady of Mercy School for Young Women and of Siena Catholic Academy in Rochester. He and his wife have raised five amazing children.</p>
Leibowitz, Shoshannah	<p>Seeing education in a new light, Shoshannah Leibowitz's mission in life is to bring out the leader in every child. The world is changing so fast, and our children need to be guided and taught how to fit in so they are ready to take on their futures once they graduate. By using education as a starting point, I guide my students to bring out the best in themselves.</p>
Mancini, Theodore	<p>Ted Mancini has served as a teacher and school leader for over 30 years. He is currently the Principal of Aquinas Institute of Rochester, a position he has held since 2011. His work in education and leadership has led to presenting workshops on best practices and servant leadership for St. John Fisher University, and the CSAANYS/St. John's University Emerging Leaders Program. Ted has also presented twice on leadership in effective school programs at the National Catholic Educational Association National Conference. Ted has served as a mentor for school leadership interns from the University of Notre Dame, and for the University of Rochester Educational Leadership program and is passionate about creating opportunities for quality leadership in religious and independent schools.</p>
Marks, David	<p>David Marks holds the position of Director of Blended Learning and Education Analytics at the Hebrew Academy of Long Beach (HALB). He began actively participating in HALB's shift to blended learning in 2015 and assumed leadership of the team four years ago. Under his direction, the team develops and integrates data-driven methodologies for both academic operations and pedagogy. Mr. Marks additionally consults with various schools and educational entities on the subjects of analytics and blended learning. He is a graduate of Yeshiva University's Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education.</p>
McLaughlin, Patrick	<p>During the past 42 years in education, I have served as a Health & Physical Education teacher, Department Chairperson, Assistant Principal, Coordinator of Driver Education, baseball & basketball coach, intramural moderator, Director of Summer Camps and Academies and currently as Principal at St. Francis Preparatory School in Fresh Meadows, New York. St. Francis Prep changed the administration model to the President/Principal Model at the start of the 2013-14 school year in which I became the first lay Principal in the 161-year history of the school. The Alumni Association inducted me into the Alumni Hall of Fame on May 10, 2003, and I was the Honoree for the 2012 SFP alumni golf outing. In my current position as Principal, my primary responsibility is overseeing the daily operation of the school. I have acted as the school's Internal Coordinator for Middle States Accreditation both in 1991 and 2001, helping to facilitate and organize our Strategic Plan. As team member and chairperson of Middle States Visitation Teams, I have over 20 years of experience of visiting schools to assess and promote school strategic planning. I am currently President of the Catholic High School Principals Association for the Diocese of Brooklyn. Starting in the fall of 2008 I had the opportunity to become a member of the faculty at St. John's University's School of Education serving as an adjunct professor in the Department of Administrative and Instructional Leadership. At St. John's, I was also a team member for the Capstone Review class which prepared graduate students for the New York State School Building Leaders Certification exam and acted as a presenter on the Common Core State Standards for Catholic High School teachers' initiative. I was presented with The St. John's University Outstanding Administrator Award at the Dean's Convocation on May 3, 2011, as well as receiving the School of Education's Alumni Award for Outstanding Achievement in 2013. For four years I was an Adjunct Professor at Queens College working within the Scope research study program. The objective was to supervise student-teachers using specific evaluative tools to monitor progress and develop data to be presented at the annual AAPHERD convention. I also served as the assistant men's basketball coach at Adelphi University in the early 1980's.</p>
McLeod, Robyne	<p>Robyne McLeod is the Director of Program Design at the Center of Professional Development at FullBloom. Ms. McLeod brings a depth of experience to deepen leaders and educators professional learning journey, from school leadership to leading national teams of professional development specialists.</p>

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Migliorino OSF, David	Brother David is presently celebrating 50 years as a Franciscan Brother. He has been involved in Catholic Education serving as a teacher and administrator for the past 47 years. He has served in New York, Missouri and Connecticut. Brother Loves Catholic Education, especially Mother Seton the foundress of Catholic Schools in America. He lives out the Virtue of HOPE.
NYSED	Thank you to the New York State Education Department representatives who shared their knowledge and expertise to support this conference.
Pryce, Khadijah Jean	Khadijah Jean Pryce, Ed.D., has been the principal of the Islamic Cultural Center School (located on the Upper East Side of Manhattan) since its opening in 2011. She is a frequent presenter at educational conferences, focusing on effective communication techniques and effective leadership strategies, as well as creating positive school cultures. Dr. Pryce has a background in human resource development, training, as well as adult education. She is also an active member of the NYS Interfaith Coalition.
Rosenberg, Danielle	Daniella has had a passion for educating the next generation for as long as she can remember. Coming up with new and innovative ways to reach children in a classroom setting is what drives her daily. She has created a curriculum that integrates social-emotional learning with academic state standards. Daniella has spent the last few years working as a new teacher mentor in various schools in the Tri-State area. She is always looking for new growth opportunities and is a breath of fresh air wherever she goes.
Russell, Suzanne	Suzanne Russell started Over the Moon in 2010. Since then, it has grown from a half-day preschool to a full-day independent private school for preschool through elementary. Recently, Suzanne expanded the OTM Brand to include an educational consulting and coaching agency, OTM EDventures. After more than a decade as Head of Schools, Suzy is transitioning to CEO of OTM EDventures with the goal of assisting educators and institutions on their journey to provide exceptional education to their community.
Vitale, Patti	Patti Vitale is the Head of School at Brown School, an independent school located in Schenectady, NY. Mrs. Vitale has served as Head of School since 2010. Prior to serving as Head of School, Mrs. Vitale worked with the Hawn Institute implementing MindUP curriculum. The focus of MindUP is to help students focus their attention, improve self-regulation skills, build resilience to stress, and develop a positive mindset in school and in life. The Brown School was the first school to implement this social-emotional program school-wide in the United States. Previously, Mrs. Vitale served as an elementary teacher for over 20 years.

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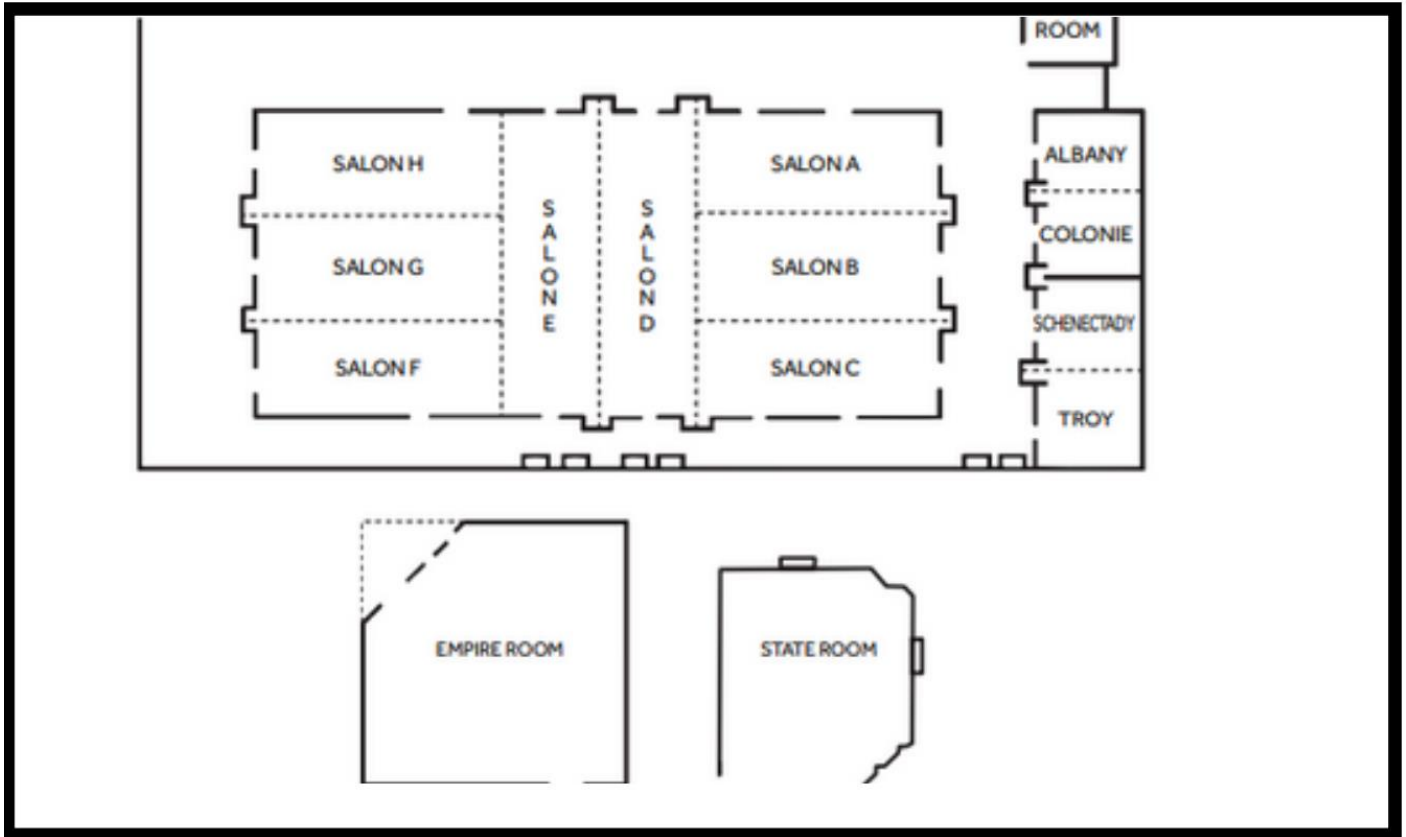
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