

# 2011 NYSSBA Webinars

Fee-based webinars are \$75 each; call NYSSBA for a purchase form.

Complimentary webinars are available only to NYSSBA members.

SBU Number or COMP	TITLE & DESCRIPTION
GOV 102 5 Recognition Pts	<p data-bbox="566 704 638 1191">             Understanding the Open Meetings Law              ~ a School Board U training webinar~           </p> <p data-bbox="678 72 750 1813">             With few exceptions, the Open Meetings Law gives the public access to the deliberations and decision-making process of public entities, including school boards.           </p> <p data-bbox="790 155 861 1813">             While the basic concept is simple, compliance can be difficult and the consequences for mistakes serious. Your district must understand its responsibilities under the law or risk liability in both the judicial system and the court of public opinion.           </p> <p data-bbox="901 1367 933 1813">             Are you ever asked and do you know:           </p> <ul data-bbox="965 404 1220 1771" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Which types of meetings are and are not covered by the law?</li> <li>• Common mistakes school boards make regarding executive sessions?</li> <li>• What rules apply to board member discussion of school business before or after a meeting?</li> <li>• How technologies such as e-mail and instant messaging affect compliance with the law?</li> <li>• When the public has a right to speak at board meetings, and what limitations boards can impose on that right?</li> <li>• The consequences of holding a meeting in violation of the law's notice requirements?</li> <li>• When a court can impose attorneys' fees for violations of the law?</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="1260 134 1332 1813">             Let NYSSBA's experienced attorney walk you through the law's requirements, and the judicial and administrative opinions interpreting those requirements.           </p>

End. 8.2  
 Aug. 25, 2011

**TITLE & DESCRIPTION**

SBU Number or  
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**Cultivating Inclusive Schools  
through Partnerships**  
~ an informational webinar by NYSSBA's AdvisorySolutions ~

This collaborative presentation of the New York State School Boards Association (NYSBBA) and the New York State Higher Education Support Center for Quality Inclusive Schooling (HESC) is intended to share information on the opportunities and benefits of school and university partnerships. University-based teacher education programs seek to prepare teachers to meet the learning needs of ALL students, as do all P-12 schools. It is this shared goal in positive learning outcomes for all students that is the foundation of inclusive school and university partnerships. Join us to explore the opportunities, and imagine the possibilities of partnerships.

Webinar participants will walk away being able to:

- Communicate the value of IHE-school partnerships focused on inclusion to constituents; and
- Utilize the NYS Higher Education Support Center for Systems Change and its Task Force of 73 colleges and universities to design and develop partnerships with schools and school districts.

This complimentary webinar is brought to you by NYSSBA's AdvisorySolutions.

GOV 206  
5 Recognition Pts

**Savvy School District Communication Plans**  
~ a School Board U training webinar~

Strategic communication plans often just sit on the book shelf, collecting dust, right? Not if they're relevant, focused and properly executed.

NYSSBA's webinar on Savvy School District Strategic Plans will show you how to create dynamic communication plans that deliver results for your school district. Learn how to tie your communications efforts to larger district goals with laser-like focus. Distinguish between longer-range strategies and project-specific plans such as those tied to a budget proposal, facilities plan, etc.

All signs are that 2011 looks to be another tough fiscal year. Get a jump start on your communication efforts by participating in this webinar, then put your communications plan to work.

GOV 102  
5 Recognition Pts

**Using Policy to Guide the District**  
~ a School Board U training webinar~

Policy-making is the board's single most important responsibility. Attend this webinar to learn the fundamentals of policy and the policy development cycle.

Learn how fellow board members and administrators, representing three diverse districts from across the state, have successfully used policy to navigate complex issues.

This webinar will provide you with an opportunity to better understand the intricacies of policy and how policy provides the board with an opportunity to improve student achievement. Plus, gain an appreciation for using your policy manual to realize district goals and avoid common pitfalls.

Walk away with a better understanding of how your policy manual and the policy process can be one of your greatest governance assets!

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**NYS Teacher & Principal Effectiveness Evaluation Policy Options**  
~ NYSSBA Member Benefit - A Complimentary Webinar ~

Senior Deputy Commissioner John King will give a progress report on New York State's development of new teacher and principal evaluation systems.

This webinar will begin with a background on the process for creating the new teacher and principal evaluation systems. Senior Deputy King will also provide an introduction to some of the issues and options the Board of Regents will consider as it develops new regulations. Those issues and options include teacher of record, value-added modeling, local assessment, measures of student growth, growth in non-tested subjects, and other measures of teacher and principal effectiveness.

During this webinar, participants will have an opportunity to both ask questions and provide comments to Senior Deputy King regarding all issues related to implementation of the new law and soon to be announced regulations.

SBU Number or COMP	TITLE & DESCRIPTION
GOV 204 5 Recognition Pts	<p style="text-align: center;"> <b>Team Operating Procedures</b>  <i>~ a School Board U training webinar~</i> </p> <p>Sometimes policy is not enough when it comes to guiding the board's operations. NYSSBA's webinar on Team Operating Procedures will introduce a new tool, <b>A Blueprint for Better School Board Operating Procedures</b>, that can help your district develop detailed procedures for both district-level administrators and school board members to follow.</p> <p>We will also explain how our new board assessment survey can be used to identify areas of board operations that need attention. Areas of concern may be public participation in board meetings, board committee functions, meeting agenda preparation, information requests, and superintendent evaluations.</p>
DIS 102 5 Recognition Pts	<p style="text-align: center;"> <b>Student Rights, Risks and Responsibilities</b>  <i>~ a School Board U training webinar~</i> </p> <p>Get a primer in the legal rights students have in school – from student constitutional rights to student discipline and safety.</p> <p>From potentially threatening speech to religious expression, how much freedom of speech do students enjoy? What can districts do when student expression disrupts the educational environment and/or threatens school safety? What ability do school district enjoy to conduct searches on the part of students which properly protects the school environment without violating the constitutional rights of such students? Learn how to balance the tension between school safety imperatives and students' rights.</p> <p>Key takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the limitations as well as the authority that districts have to censor student speech.</li> <li>• Discover how the state's student discipline statute works, its intent, and the procedures that districts must follow.</li> <li>• Learn how school and law enforcement officials can work together to ensure school safety without violating students' constitutional rights.</li> <li>• Find out what school officials can and cannot do when conducting searches of students and their property, conducting student interviews and providing student information.</li> <li>• Explore the parameters of applicable state and federal laws, and learn where common sense fits in.</li> </ul> <p>By attending this webinar, you will learn the responsibilities school boards have to ensure students their rights and the risks they take when their districts are not in compliance with legal obligations in this area.</p>

FIS 208  
5 Recognition Pts

**Education Foundations' Financial Management ~ a School Board U training webinar~**

One of the most vital aspects of any nonprofit organization is sound financial management and planning. Learn from John Olsen, an experienced CPA with years of work with nonprofits, the essentials of financial management for your education foundation.

Find out –

- Which documentation should be reviewed by your attorney or a CPA?
- What information must be included in your IRS Forms 1023, 990 and NYS CHAR500 and when must they be filed?
- How will the relationship between your foundation and school district best be structured?
- Can you share personnel and how do you handle administrative costs?
- What books and records should be kept?
- Will you use a cash basis or accrual basis to track your finances?
- When you need an audit, how will you go about it?
- What are the key concerns of the IRS and NYS Charities Bureau that may apply to the operations of your Foundation?

DIS 203  
5 Recognition Pts

**Weathering the Economic Storm: Fiscal Options, Shared Services and Cost Savings Measures ~ a School Board U training webinar~**

The budget for public schools in New York State has the largest total cut in state history - \$1.2 billion. All school districts will be affected.

Recently, you may have seen the report, *Staying Ahead of the Curve: School Districts Responding to Fiscal Challenges*, issued by the NYS Office of the Comptroller. Taking a cue from this report, superintendents from school districts across the state will discuss the impact to their region and the creative strategies they are employing to bridge the fiscal gap.

Many school districts are responding to the harsh economic challenges by reducing spending (see NYSSBA 2011 Budget Impact Survey results). However, many districts are also seeking ways to save costs and gain revenue by employing strategies such as sharing services, consolidating business practices and seeking out additional sources of income. (continued)

Participate in this webinar to consider the options and hear a wide range of examples of what other districts are doing across the state.

**Financial Options:**

- Ensure you have solid board policies
- Look for ways to increase revenues
- Decide if you can reduce expenditures without eliminating staff and programs
- Fund Balance – To Use or Not to Use

**Shared Services & Cost Savings:**

- “Bending the Curve” in contract negotiations
- Creativity in scheduling and staffing
- Retirement incentives
- Transportation efficiencies
- Health insurance adjustments
- Athletics and extra curricular activities
- Hear from a panel of superintendents commenting on what is happening in their districts and areas

COMP  
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Members Only

**Teacher Contract Snapshot**  
– *Members Only* –

***Complimentary for NYSSBA Member Districts***

Join us as we unveil the latest data from NYSSBA’s annual teacher contract survey. Find out what the survey reveals about current teacher compensation packages and other negotiation issues, and compare your district with other areas of the state. Then learn from two school labor contract negotiators about current trends in collective bargaining negotiations, including real-world examples of concessions school districts have been able to obtain from teacher bargaining units. Plus, see what kinds of concessions may be had in the present economic environment and how the new teacher evaluations will impact negotiations.

School board members and superintendents from all member school districts should plan to attend.

**Conflict Management: Mending Damaged Relations While Building Respect & Trust**  
~ a School Board U training webinar~

Is conflict taking your governance team down? Do you have competing priorities within the team or difficult personalities that make consensus an unattainable goal? The more time it takes to resolve a conflict, the greater the toll is on your school board's performance – and ultimately, the greater the impact on your district. Learn positive ways to manage conflict on your team, how to deal with difficult personalities and communication styles, and how to build trust within the team to keep conflict at bay.

**Who Should Attend?**

- School board members
- Superintendents
- Assistant Superintendents
- Department heads

**Why Attend?**

- Learn how to set a climate of positive interactions and communications
- Reverse a negative team climate
- Avoid generating more conflict with problematic statements and approaches
- Eliminate the causes of conflict
- Begin to utilize the conflict management styles that work for you
- Strengthen your skills to mediate conflict with your colleagues
- Bring your most pressing questions to our panel of experts

**Learning Objectives:**

- Pinpoint the seven causes of conflict and dysfunction in your governance team
- Learn about five conflict management styles for conflict resolution
- Understand how to deal with difficult personalities and communication styles
- Learn what is necessary to building trust on the Governance Team

Walk away with solid information and skills on how to build trust and positive communications within your team!

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**Response to Intervention:  
Ready for the 2012 Challenge?**  
*~ an informational webinar by NYSSBA's AdvisorySolutions ~*

2012 is fast approaching... Is your RTI Framework ready and your team primed to meet the challenge?

Effective **July 1, 2012**, all school districts in NYS must have an RTI program in place as part of its evaluation process to determine if a student in grades K-4 is a student with a learning disability in the area of reading.

In this complimentary webinar, hear about a global and organized way of creating a common academic and assessment framework for schools and districts. Working on a continuum, this step-by-step practical and no-nonsense approach is specifically tailored to the needs of inundated educators at any level seeking to create and implement an effective and measurable RTI program for their students. You will gain the necessary tools to establish collaborative team strategies while cultivating a shared mindset, common language, realistic interventions and assessment framework.

**Webinar Highlights**

- RTI: Definition, Purpose and the 3 Tier Model
- Understand the connection between RTI, achievement outcomes and interventions
- Identify key trends and their impact on your current intervention model
- Establish and define academic intervention and common criteria
- Delineate and establish levels of interventions
- Identify purpose and types of Progress Monitoring & Assessments
- Bring fidelity and alignment to an RTI Model



**Integrating New Board Members Into Your Governance Team**  
*~ A School Board U training webinar~*

School boards are constantly faced with the transition of incorporating new members into their governance teams. Being able to operate at a highly functional level permits governance teams to work well together in spite of this transition and the constant challenges facing them. How do school boards remain highly functional while incorporating new members into their team? A new member orientation is a critical first step, along with providing information, training and a place for new members to ask questions. Welcome your new board members with opportunities to learn what makes an effective board member. Modeling the characteristics and behaviors of a highly functional team also helps new members establish solid footing for themselves.

NYSSBA will have a panel of school board members from several districts and with varying tenures answer the following questions:

**Highly Functional Team – Members of the Warwick Valley Central School District Board of Education**

- What keeps the team together as a team?
- How do you deal with the transition of members?
- What are some of your best new member orientation techniques?
- How do you ensure the team stays focused on student achievement and district success?
- What are the 5 most important characteristics and 5 most important behaviors of a highly functioning team?

**Strong Leadership – Loretta Ferraro, Superintendent, and Jay Lippert, Board President, Fire Island School District**

- How does cohesive leadership help the governance team through member transition?
- What are key leadership roles during such transition?
- What helps the most during the intense 1st year learning curve for new members to be the most productive?
- What are the 5 most important characteristics and 5 most important behaviors of highly functioning leaders?

**New Members – Marie Cinti and Camille Rutan, Board Members, Penfield Central School District**

- What helped you the most as a new board member?
- What were your biggest challenges?
- What do you wish you had been available to you as a new member?
- What are the 5 most important characteristics and 5 most important behaviors for new members to possess?

Don't miss this valuable webinar that will provide a roadmap for welcoming and transitioning your newly elected school board members onto your governance team!

**TITLE & DESCRIPTION**

**SBU Number or  
COMP**

STU 205  
5 Recognition Pts.

**Data-Based Decision Making**  
~ A School Board U training webinar~

The use of data can strengthen your school board's leadership. Research shows that consistent use of data helps school boards set priorities, shape policies and evaluate progress. Understand why data is key to good school governance, helping to shape constructive conversations and smart decisions. Discover how you can strategically set direction by organizing data around the goals and objectives of your district. Plus, find out the critical questions you should be asking in order to improve student achievement.

**Participants will:**

- Learn how to organize data in a meaningful way
- Understand approaches to analyzing data to shape important conversations around the information presented
- Review logic models that feed into goals and objectives
- Examine how multiple measures will enhance data-driven decision-making
- Find out about the continuous improvement cycle and how to ask the right questions

Be sure to attend this informative webinar that will enlighten all participants on the use of data in decision making!

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**Only**

**Maximizing Your NYSSBA Membership**

~A Complimentary Webinar for Members-Only~

Are you taking advantage of the member benefits and services offered by the New York State School Boards Association? Whether you've just joined or you've been with us for years, we want to be sure that you are benefiting from the full range of products and services available to you through NYSSBA. Join this webinar to:

- Gain a better understanding of what NYSSBA, as your association, delivers to its members.
- Take a tour of NYSSBA's information-rich website and members-only area.
- Understand the resources and tools you have at your fingertips as a member, including:
  - *Advocacy efforts* at the state and national level, as well as lobbying events like the State Issues Conference.
  - *Relevant and timely news and research*, including daily E-Clips, On Board newspaper, research reports, and social media efforts.
  - *Leadership development opportunities* offered through School Board U, including workshops and webinars.
  - *In-house experts* available to answer your questions on legal issues, employee relations, governance, public relations, policy matters, and so much more.

Make plans to join this complimentary webinar for NYSSBA member districts. Whether you're new to the board or a seasoned board member,

SBU Number or COMP	TITLE & DESCRIPTION
	you're sure to discover something new about your NYSSBA membership!

