

Syracuse City



School District

**2025-2026**

# **District Handbook**

**LARGE PRINT**

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## **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Tamica Barnett, President  
Gwendolyn Raeford, Vice President  
Twiggy Billue  
Nyatwa Bullock  
Karen Cordano  
Mary Habib  
Ranette Releford

## **Superintendent of Schools**

Pamela J. Odom

## **Senior Administrative Staff**

Britt Britton, Chief Academic Officer  
Robert DiFlorio, Ed.D., Chief Operations Officer  
Tara Jennings, Ed.D., Chief Information Officer  
Laura Kelley, Ed.D., Chief of Student Support Services  
Timothy Manning, Chief Human Resources Officer  
Michael Puntschenko, Chief Financial Officer  
Monique Wright-Williams, Chief Engagement Officer

### **Central Office**

(315) 435-4499

### **Physical Address**

725 Harrison  
Street  
Syracuse, NY  
13210

### **Mailing Address**

1025 Erie  
Boulevard West  
Syracuse, NY  
13204

## **SCSD Strategic Plan, On the Rise**

## **VISION**

Ignite a passion for learning across the SCSD family, inspiring them to make a lasting impact on their communities and beyond.

## **MISSION**

We are a community of 80+ languages. We honor the diversity of our staff and students and cultivate their unique gifts by fostering joyful, safe, and inclusive learning and working environments. We hold high expectations for teaching and learning and strive for excellence in all that we do. We achieve this through a dynamic partnership with students, families, communities, and dedicated educators who are committed to academic rigor, equity, access, and innovative educational experiences. We prepare students to graduate and pursue any path they choose.

## **2024-29 Strategic Plan Priorities**

**Culture** - Establish a culture of learning and high expectations

**Literacy and Numeracy**- Increase student proficiency in literacy and numeracy

**Belonging** - Improve belonging for all

**Engagement** - Engage families and community

**Resource Allocation** - Effectively and efficiently utilize resources

**Recruitment** - Recruit highly effective staff to reflect our student population

# **SCSD ELEMENTARY, PRE-K – 8, MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION**

## **Elementary Schools**

### **Bellevue Elementary**

PK – Grade 5

530 Stolp Ave. | (315) 435-4520

9:15 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Principal Matt Lochner

### **Delaware Primary Elementary**

PK – Grade 5

900 S. Geddes St. | (315) 435-4540

8:20 a.m. – 2:50 p.m.

Principal Moshiena Faircloth

### **Dr. Weeks Elementary**

PK – Grade 5

710 Hawley Ave. | (315) 435-4097

9:15 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Principal Diane Vitello

### **Elmcrest Children's Center**

960 Salt Springs Rd. | (315) 435-6244

8:40 a.m. – 2:40 p.m.

Principal Shirelle Dowdell

### **Franklin Elementary**

PK – Grade 5

428 S. Alvord St. | (315) 435-4550

7:25 a.m. – 1:55 p.m.

Principal Laura Mitchell

## **McCarthy @ Beard**

Special Education

220 W. Kennedy St. | (315) 435-5855

7:25 a.m. – 1:55 p.m.

Principal Merrit Kusak-McGuire

## **McKinley-Brighton Elementary**

PK – Grade 5

141 W. Newell St. | (315) 435-4605

9:15 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Principal Melissa Tooley

## **Meachem Elementary**

PK – Grade 5

171 Spaulding Ave. | (315) 435-4610

9:15 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Principal James Dow

## **Montessori at LeMoyne**

PK – Grades 5

1528 LeMoyne Ave. | (315) 435-4590

8:20 a.m. – 2:50 p.m.

Principal Jonathan Hawa

## **Porter Elementary**

PK – Grade 5

512 Emerson Ave. | (315) 435-4625

8:20 a.m. – 2:50 p.m.

Principal Dr. Priscilla Newby

## **Salem Hyde Elementary**

PK – Grade 6

450 Durston Ave. | (315) 435-4570

8:20 a.m. – 2:50 p.m.  
Principal Becky Groat

**Seymour Dual Language Academy**

PK – Grade 5  
108 Shonnard St. | (315) 435-4645  
9:15 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.  
Principal James Nieves

**STEAM @ Dr. King**

PK – Grade 5  
416 E. Raynor Ave. | (315) 435-4580  
9:15 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.  
Principal Kuricheses Alexander

**Van Duyn Elementary**

PK – Grade 5  
401 Loomis Ave. | (315) 435-4660  
9:15 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.  
Principal Amanda Thomas

**Webster Elementary School**

PK – Grade 5  
500 Wadsworth St. | (315) 435-4670  
8:20 a.m. – 2:50 p.m.  
Principal Dawn Kivlehan

## **PK-8 Schools**

### **Edward Smith PK – 8**

PK – Grade 8

1106 Lancaster Ave. | (315) 435-4650

8:20 a.m. – 2:50 p.m.

Principal Andrea Ellis-Smith

### **Frazer PK – 8**

PK – Grade 8

741 Park Ave. | (315) 435-4555

7:25 a.m. – 1:55 p.m.

Principal Latrina Brumfield

### **H.W. Smith PK – 8**

PK – Grade 8

1130 Salt Springs Rd. | (315) 435-4490

7:25 a.m. – 1:55 p.m.

Principal Theresa Haley

### **Huntington PK – 8**

PK – Grade 8

400 Sunnycrest Rd. |

(315) 435-4565

8:20 a.m. – 2:50 p.m.

Principal Daniel Killenbec

### **Roberts PK – 8**

PK – Grade 8

715 Glenwood Ave. | (315) 435-4635

8:20 a.m. – 2:50 p.m.

Principal Dr. Sharon Archer

## **Syracuse Latin PK – 8**

Grades PK-8

345 Jamesville Ave. | (315) 435-4606

8:20 a.m. – 2:50 p.m.

Principal Chelsey D'Eredita

## **Middle Schools**

### **Brighton Academy**

Grades 6-8

309 W. Brighton Ave. | (315) 435-4535

7:25 a.m. – 1:55 p.m.

Principal Peter Neeves

### **Clary Middle**

Grades 6-8

100 Amidon Dr. | (315) 435-4411

7:25 a.m. – 1:55 p.m.

Principal Hayley Downs

### **Expeditionary Learning Middle School (ELMS)**

Grades 6-8

4942 S Salina St. | (315) 435-6416

7:25 a.m. – 1:55 p.m.

Principal Kevin Burns

### **Grant Middle**

Grades 6-8

2400 Grant Blvd. | (315) 435-4433

7:25 a.m. – 1:55 p.m.

Principal David Guertin

## **Lincoln Middle**

Grades 6-8

1613 James St. | (315) 435-4450

7:25 a.m. – 1:55 p.m.

Principal Jason Rutkey

## **Syracuse STEM @ Blodgett**

Grades 6-8

312 Oswego St. | (315) 435-4386

7:25 a.m. – 1:55 p.m.

Principal Harry Valentin, Ph.D.

## **High Schools**

### **Corcoran High School**

Grades 9-12

919 Glenwood Ave. | (315) 435-4321

7:25 a.m. – 1:59 p.m.

Principal Amber Adams

### **Henninger High School (& P-TECH)**

Grades 9-12

600 Robinson St. | (315) 435-4343

7:25 a.m. – 1:59 p.m.

Principal Jaime Commisso

### **Institute of Technology @ Syracuse Central (& P-TECH)**

Grades 9-12

258 E. Adams St. | (315) 435-4300

7:25 a.m. – 1:59 p.m.

Principal Samantha Maddox

## **Nottingham High School**

Grades 9-12

3100 E. Genesee St. | (315) 435-4380

7:25 a.m. – 1:59 p.m.

Principal Hugh Hogle, IV

## **Public Service Leadership Academy @ Fowler (& P-TECH)**

Grade 9-12

227 Magnolia St. | (315) 435-4376

7:25 a.m. – 1:59 p.m.

Principal Abby Dempsey

## **STEAM Regional High School**

Grade 9

701 Warren St. South &

East Adams St., 13202

(315) 435-5882

8:25 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Principal Daniel Straub

## **DIRECTORY**

### **Adult and Continuing Education**

(315) 435-4150

### **Athletics**

(315) 435-4181

### **Attendance**

(315) 435-4895

### **Board of Education (District Clerk)**

(315) 435-4691

### **Communications**

(315) 435-5800

### **Early Childhood Education**

(315) 435-4276

### **Elementary Education**

(315) 435-4220

### **English Language Arts (ELA)**

(315) 435-4216

### **Facilities (Building Permits)**

(315) 435-4292

### **Family Engagement**

(315) 435-6459

### **Fine Arts**

(315) 435-4223

### **Food Service & Nutrition**

(315) 435-4207

### **Health & Physical Education**

(315) 435-4181

### **Health Services**

(315) 435-4145

### **Hearing Office/ Disciplinary Student Hearings**

(315) 435-6350

### **High Schools and Career and Technical Education**

(315) 435-4964

### **High School Equivalency (HSE) Program**

(315) 435-4111

### **Human Resources**

(315) 435-4171

### **Literacy Zones:**

*North Literacy Zone*

(315) 435-6376

*East Literacy Zone*

(315) 435-6000, ext. 5576

*South Literacy Zone*

(315) 435-6000 ext. 5556

*West Literacy  
Zone*  
(315) 435-  
6000 ext. 2124

**Mathematics**  
(315) 435-4303

**Middle and K-8  
Schools**  
(315) 435-4220

**Multilingual &  
Cultural  
Education  
Department  
(formally  
known as the  
ENL  
Department)**  
(315) 435-4927

**Pre-K**  
(315) 435-4276

**Public Safety**  
(315) 435-4527

**Refugee  
Assistance  
Program**  
(315) 435-5801

**Science and  
Technology**  
(315) 435-4303

**Shared  
Accountability  
(Research/  
Information  
Technology)**  
(315) 435-4281

**Social Studies**  
(315) 435-4052

**Special  
Education**  
(315) 435-4425

**Student  
Records and  
Transcripts**  
(315) 435-4103

**Student  
Registration  
Center**  
(315) 435-4545

**Student  
Support  
Services**  
(315) 435-4131

**Superintendent's  
Office**  
(315) 435-4161

**Switchboard**  
(315) 435-4499

**Teaching and  
Learning**  
(315) 435-5844

**Transportation**  
(315) 435-4260

**Volunteers**  
(315) 435-4171

**Work Permits**  
(315) 435-4131

# **Message from the Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools**

Dear Families,

We continue to positively move forward with our districtwide strategic plan – On the Rise, as we begin the 2025-26 school year.

This plan was created with input from our students, families, staff, and community members and will continue to serve as a district guidepost through August 2029. We are igniting a passion for learning throughout the district, transforming our district's image, and boosting our outcomes – academically and beyond! We continue to put an emphasis on academics – specifically, literacy and numeracy and our students' math and English Language Arts skills. That focus continues to move forward, with both a districtwide culture of high expectations and a goal of increasing student proficiency even further.

Equally as important, we have prioritized the overall culture of our district. Our goal is to improve a sense of belonging

for everyone, no matter their background or circumstances. We are also committed to helping families and communities effectively engage with the Syracuse City School District. We are also placing a focus on resource allocation to ensure that we are most effectively and efficiently utilizing the resources we have at our disposal. This includes a priority of continuing to find new and innovative ways to recruit highly effective and diverse staff that reflect our staff population. Of course, none of this positive change is possible without constant and open engagement with you – our families! We as a district leadership team have an open-door policy and encourage your questions, concerns, and feedback at any time. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us 24/7 by visiting [syracusecityschools.com/LetsTalk!](https://syracusecityschools.com/LetsTalk!)

Sincerely,

*Tamica Barnett, President, Board of Education*

*Anthony Q. Davis Sr., Superintendent*

*Pamela Odom, Deputy Superintendent*

# Syracuse City School District Board of Education

## **Tamica Barnett**

*President*

(315) 200-3979

[tbarnett@scsd.us](mailto:tbarnett@scsd.us)

## **Karen Cordano**

*Commissioner*

(315) 560-2526

[kcordano@scsd.us](mailto:kcordano@scsd.us)

## **Gwendolyn Raeford**

*Vice President*

(315) 680-5520

[GRaeford@scsd.us](mailto:GRaeford@scsd.us)

## **Mary Habib**

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(315) 680-4342

[Mahabi34@scsd.us](mailto:Mahabi34@scsd.us)

## **Twiggy Billue**

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(680) 322-3334

[cbillue@scsd.us](mailto:cbillue@scsd.us)

## **Ranette Releford**

*Commissioner*

(315) 744-5791

[RReleford@scsd.us](mailto:RReleford@scsd.us)

## **Nyatwa Bullock**

*Commissioner*

(315) 439-4746

[nbullock@scsd.us](mailto:nbullock@scsd.us)

## **Board of Education Business Meetings**

Meetings of the Board of Education are generally held on the second Wednesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. at the district's Central Office, 725 Harrison Street. The annual meeting in May will be held at 4:00 p.m. on a Tuesday. All business meetings are open to the public, and a portion of the agenda is set aside for speakers.

June 11, 2025	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.
July 9, 2025	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.
August 13, 2025	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.
September 10, 2025	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.
October 8, 2025	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.
November 12, 2025	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.
December 10, 2025	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.
January 14, 2026	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.
February 11, 2026	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.
March 11, 2026	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.

April 8, 2026

Wednesday 5:30 p.m.

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May 12, 2026

Tuesday 4:00 p.m.

## **Board of Education Work Sessions and Audit Committee Meetings**

Board of Education committee meetings consist of one monthly work session, a monthly Policy Committee meeting, and the Audit Committee. The monthly Work Session topics incorporate Teaching and Learning, Accountability, Professional Development, Finance, Human Resources, Facilities, Information and Technology, Transportation, Food Services and Security, while the quarterly Work Session focuses on Finance and Budget matters. The Policy Committee meetings on matters related to Board of Education Policies. The Audit Committee meets on matters relating to finance and audit.

## **Monday Work Sessions**

*(Mondays at 4:30 p.m.)*

June 25, 2025

July 23, 2025

August 27, 2025

September 24, 2025

October 22, 2025

November 19, 2025

December 17, 2025

January 28, 2026

February 25, 2026

March 25, 2026

April 29, 2026

May 27, 2026

## **Policy Committee**

### **Meetings**

*(Tuesdays at Noon)*

June 24, 2025

July 22, 2025

August 26, 2025

September 23, 2025

October 21, 2025

November 25, 2025

December 16, 2025

January 27, 2026

February 24, 2026

March 24, 2026

April 28, 2026

May 19, 2026

## **Audit Committee**

### **Meetings**

*(Fridays at Noon)*

July 18, 2025

September 19, 2025

December 12, 2025

April 17, 2026

## **“How To” Guide for Parents and Guardians**

### **Enroll Your Child in School**

The Department of Student Registration is the single point of entry for all new and returning families who seek to enroll their children in the Syracuse City School District.

Registration applications are submitted through our online registration system. To access the online registration tool please visit [syracusecityschools.com/registration](https://syracusecityschools.com/registration) and click on the **Register (Current Year)** link.

## **Student Registration Center**

(315) 435-4545 / [registration@scsd.us](mailto:registration@scsd.us)

**1005 West Fayette Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor**

**Syracuse, NY 13204**

**M—F 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**Akua A. Goodrich, Director**

*The Registration Center will continue to serve our families by Appointment. To schedule an appointment please email [myappointment@scsd.us](mailto:myappointment@scsd.us) or call [\(315\) 435-6392](tel:(315)435-6392). Please note that you have a right to request a phone or in-person appointment. A Pre-K or K-12 representative will contact you to help service your needs.*

### **Registration Required Documents**

#### **1. Proof of Address (Any 1 item accepted)**

*Lease, deed or mortgage statement; **or***

*Letter signed by landlord, owner, or tenant; **or***

*Signed affidavit from someone proving your city of Syracuse address*

***\*Other proof may be considered if none of the above can be provided.***

**2. Proof of Age** (Any 1 item accepted)

*Certified birth certificate; **or***

*Record of baptism*

***\*Other proof may be considered if none of the above can be provided.***

**3. Physical Exam**

*Physical exam record (signed by a physician or clinical staff)*

**4. Immunization Records**

*Up-to-date shots record*

***\*If student is scheduled for shots, please provide proof of appointment***

**5. Additional Records**

*Parents may be required to provide proof of custody and/or legal responsibility for child(ren).*

*All registration applications are submitted through our Smartchoice online registration system. This process includes the ability to create an application for a new or returning student. To access the online registration tool please visit [syracusecityschools.com/registration](https://syracusecityschools.com/registration) and click on the **2025-2026 Registration** link.*

### ***Update Student Information***

Your child's school must be notified in the event that your home address, emergency contact numbers, email address, home telephone number or any other relevant information changes. This will ensure that you can be reached in case of an emergency, that proper transportation routing is maintained and that you are in receipt of all school and district mailings.

To update your address, you must provide the proper documentation. Please see the required documents outlined in the previous section for a listing of acceptable documentation. You can change your address by providing this information to your child's school or by emailing the

necessary documentation, along with (1) your child's first and last name, (2) your child's date of birth, (3) your first and last name and (4) a contact telephone number to the Registration Center at [addresschanges@scsd.us](mailto:addresschanges@scsd.us).

Visit [syracusecityschools.com](http://syracusecityschools.com) to find the Parent Home Access site by clicking on the SchoolTool button at the top of the page. This will allow you the opportunity to update guardian telephone contact information yourself.

In the event that there is a guardianship change, you must provide a copy of a custodial order or other court ordered documentation. The Department of Student Registration is the only entity in the Syracuse City School District that can update guardianship information.

*\*Please be advised that the individuals who are listed on a child's birth certificate will be granted access to the child's information via SchoolTool unless there is a court order or other legal document that allows or disallows the district to share information with an individual listed in that specific order or legal document.*

## **Accessing Student Records**

Requests for student information cannot be released to anyone other than the parent, guardian or student unless there is written authorization from the parent, guardian or the student who is 18 years of age or older. The district will fulfill each request within two weeks from the date of the request.

Important Note: the district can release records to Child Protective Services (CPS) upon request, and any other legal entity without written authorization from the parent, guardian or student. In most cases, the district receives a subpoena from a legal entity and is required to honor that request within a mandated period of time.

In addition to accessing student records, parents or guardians also have the right to make copies of the records. Please note that there may be a fee associated with making copies and payment is necessary before copies can be made.

Parents or legal guardians have the right to request the deletion of inaccurate, misleading or inappropriate data contained in the student's records. If there is a disagreement regarding removing or changing material from a student's record, the parent may request a hearing before an impartial third party. In each case, the hearing officer will be a person designated by the Superintendent of Schools.

To access information or records for a child who is currently enrolled in the district, please contact your child's school directly. To obtain information for a student who is not enrolled, a previous student or graduate, please visit [www.syracusecityschools.com](http://www.syracusecityschools.com) and click on Student Records. You will be required to complete a form and submit your request online. Please call (315) 435-4103 or email [records@scsd.us](mailto:records@scsd.us) for further information on accessing student records for inactive students.

### **View Your Child's Grades and Attendance**

SchoolTool enables parents and families to view their child's current year information via the Internet. For elementary

students this includes registration information, attendance, report cards, discipline history and test scores. For secondary students this includes all of the above in addition to class schedules, interim progress reports, transcripts and class assignments.

## **Home Access Center (SchoolTool)**

**Step 1:** Visit [syracusecityschools.com](http://syracusecityschools.com)

**Step 2:** Click on the SchoolTool button.

**Step 3:** If this is your first time logging

in, type in your email address and click login. "New User or Forgot Password" will appear on the screen (if it doesn't, please call (315) 435-4545). Click on these words and re-enter your email address to have a temporary password sent to your email to get started.

Once you have logged in, please change your password to something you will remember. You can view student information as often as you wish. If you happen to be linked to a student's account for whom you are not the parent or

legal guardian, please contact your child's school building to correct the situation.

## **Emergency School Closings**

In the event that schools are closed due to severe weather or other emergency situations, announcements will be made on local television and radio stations and you will be notified on your home phone via our parent notification system. Announcements by the news media generally begin airing at 6:00 a.m. School closing updates will also appear on our website at [www.syracusecityschools.com](http://www.syracusecityschools.com).

While rare to authorize an early dismissal, there may be instances where it is necessary for the safety of our students. It is important that your child have an emergency plan in the event that extreme weather conditions would warrant an early school closing. When city public schools are closed, no transportation will be provided to any schools or programs served by the SCSD.

Your child's safety is of the utmost concern to us. Ultimately, you know the conditions in your neighborhood and your child's age and health; therefore, please be sure to prepare your child(ren) properly during inclement weather.

If schools remain open during inclement weather, it is the responsibility of parents to decide if it is safe for their children

## **Make-Up Days**

### **School Closing Due to Weather Related Conditions or Other Situations**

The following will apply relative to the administration of the school calendar to ensure that school closings do not cause the number of days in session for students to drop below the number required by law. The calendar allows for the use, without loss of State Aid, of six (6) school closing days.

## **School Closing Day Impact**

If zero (0) inclement weather days are used, then **May 21, May 22 and May 26** become recess days.

If **one** (1) inclement weather day is used, then **May 22 and 26** becomes recess day.

If **two** (2) inclement weather days are used, then **May 26** become recess days.

If **three** (3) inclement weather days are used, the school calendar remains intact, with all contingency days used as days in session. At this point, and any additional days hereafter, staff attendance may be impacted, as 184 minimum days of work may not be met. Information will be shared further in this instance.

If **four** (4) inclement weather days are used, the school calendar remains intact for students.

If **five** (5) inclement weather days are used, the school calendar remains intact for students.

If **six** (6) inclement weather days are used, the school calendar remains intact for students.

If an emergency situation forces the Syracuse City School District schools to close more than six (6) days, school will be in session beginning with **March 30, 31**, and then to **April 1, 2, 3** (for each day beyond six (6) up to ten (10)). If an emergency situation forces school to be closed more than ten (10) days, the District and the Association will meet for the purpose of discussing the calendar adjustments necessary to conform to State Law. As a result, staff is cautioned NOT to commit themselves to any irrevocable plans for the Spring Break in the event that any or all of these days will be required to make up for lost student days in excess of the amount provided for in this calendar.

### **Mentor, Volunteer or Partner**

The district is committed to building partnerships that contribute to the success of our students and welcomes community involvement. Meaningful opportunities are

available for partners, including tutoring, mentoring and school-to-career experiences.

For more information on how to volunteer or become a partner with a school, please call the Volunteer office at (315) 435-4171 or visit [syracusecityschools.com/mentor](http://syracusecityschools.com/mentor).

### **Obtain Working Papers**

Students under 18 must obtain working papers (employment certificates) to hold a job in New York State. Applications are available through the school's main office, guidance, nurses' office and district website. To apply, students need a completed application form and a physical completed within the past year.

Please contact the Office of Student Support Services at (315) 435-4131 with any questions.

### **Stay Connected**

The Syracuse City School District is connected! The SCSD website, [www.syracusecityschools.com](http://www.syracusecityschools.com), allows us to

showcase the talent and hard work of our students, along with providing information in an accurate and timely manner. You can also connect with us on social media.

Facebook.com/SyracuseCitySchools

@SyracuseSchools

@SyracuseSchools

Flickr.com/scsd

## **Let's Talk!**

The Syracuse City School District is committed to engaging all stakeholders in the education of our children. To share your questions, comments or concerns 24/7 with the district, visit "**Let's Talk**" at [syracusecityschools.com/LetsTalk](http://syracusecityschools.com/LetsTalk).

## **Academics & Supports**

### **Graduation Requirements**

A Regents diploma will be awarded upon completion of 22

credits (see table) and passing of 5 required Regents exams with a score of 65 or better. A Regents diploma with Advanced Designation will be awarded upon completion of 22 credits (see table) and passing any one of the Regents Exam Combinations and/or Department approved alternatives (see Regents with Advanced Designation section).

**Regents Diploma**

<b><i>Content</i></b>	<b><i>Credits</i></b>
English .....	4
Social Studies....	4
Math .....	3
Science .....	3
Physical Education .....	2
Language Other Than English ...	1
Art/Music.....	1
Health .....	.5
Electives.....	3.5
<hr/>	
Total	22

## Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation

A student must earn an additional 2 units of credit in LOTE or a 5 unit sequence in the arts or CTE. These credits can be included in the 22 required credits.

<b><i>Content</i></b>	<b><i>Credits</i></b>
English .....	4
Social Studies ..	4
Math .....	3
Science.....	3
Physical Education .....	2
Language Other Than English.	3
Art/Music .....	1
Health .....	.5
Electives .....	1.5
<hr/>	
Total	22

## **Regents Diploma**

Complete all course requirements and score 65% or better on five Regents exams as follows: 1 Math, 1 Science, ELA, 1 Social Studies and 1 Pathway Assessment or 1 Math, 1 Science, ELA, 1 Social studies and meet all requirements of the CDOS Commencement Credential.

## **Regents with Honors**

Complete all course requirements and have a computed average score of 90 or better on five Regents exams as follows: 1 Math, 1 Science, 1 ELA, 1 Social studies and either 1 Pathway Assessment or meet all requirements of the CDOS Commencement Credential.

## **Regents with Advanced Designation**

Complete all course requirements and pass any one of the following combinations of Regents exams and/or Department approved alternatives if applicable:

1. Traditional Combination: ELA, Global History and Geography, US History and Government, 3 Math, 2 Science

- (1 must be life science and 1 must be Physical Science) = 8 Assessments
2. Pathway Combination (other than STEM): ELA, 1 Social Studies, 3 Math, 2 Science (1 must be Life Science and 1 must be physical science), and either 1 Pathway (other than science or math) or meet the requirements for the CDOS Commencement Credential = 7 or 8 Assessments
  3. STEM (Math) Pathway Combination: ELA, 1 Social Studies, 4 Math, 2 Science (1 must be Life Science and 1 must be Physical Science) = 8 Assessments
  4. STEM (Science) Pathway Combination: ELA, 1 Social Studies, 3 Math, 3 Science (1 must be Life Science and 1 must be Physical Science) = 8 Assessments

In addition, a student must pass either a locally developed Checkpoint B LOTE exam or complete a 5 unit sequence in the Arts or CTE.

## **Regents with Advanced Designation (Mastery In Math Or Science)**

Complete all course requirements and meet all assessment requirements for the Regents with Advanced Designation and, in addition, score 85 or better on each of three Regents Exams in Math or Science.

## **Regents with Advanced Designation With Honors**

Meets all assessment requirements for the Regents diploma with advanced designation (see above) with a computed average score of 90 or better (no more than 2 Department approved alternatives may be substituted and will not count in the computed average).

## **Local Diploma (Through Appeal)**

Complete all course requirements, score 65 or better on at least three required Regents Exams and 60-64 on 2 Regents Exams for which an appeal is granted by the District per Commissioner's Regulation 100.5(d)(7) as follows: 1 Math, 1 Science, ELA, 1 Social Studies and either

1 Pathway Assessment or meet all the requirements for the CDOS Commencement Credential.

## **Local Diploma Safety Net Options**

Complete all course requirements and meet all assessment requirements by either:

- 1. Low Pass Safety Net Option:** Five required Regents Exams with a score of 55 or better as follows: 1 Math, 1 Science, 1 ELA, 1 Social Studies and either 1 Pathway Assessment or meet all the requirements for the CDOS Commencement Credential
- 2. Low Pass Safety Net and Appeal:** Three required Regents exams with a score of 55 or better and 2 Regents exams with a score of 52-54 for which an appeal is granted by the local district per Commissioner's Regulation 100.5(d)(7) as follows: 1 Math, 1 Science, 1 Social Studies, ELA, and either 1 Pathway Assessment, or meet all the requirements of the CDOS Commencement Credential

4. **Compensatory Safety Net Option:** Student scores between 45-54 on one or more of the five required Regents exams, other than the ELA or Math exam, but compensates the low score with a score of 65 or higher on another required Regents exam. A score of at least 55 must be earned on both the ELA and Math exams. A score of 65 or higher on a single exam may not be used to compensate for more than one exam for which a score of 45-54 is earned.
5. **English Language Learners:** Four required Regents exams with a score of 65 or better and the ELA Regents exam with a score of 55-59 for which an appeal is granted by the local district per Commissioner's Regulation 100.5(d)(7); or 3 required Regents exams with a score of 65 or better, 1 Regents exam with a score of 60-64, and the ELA Regents exam with a score of 55-59. For both the 60-64 and the 55-59 scores, an appeal is granted by the local district per Commissioner's Regulation 100.5(d)(7) as follows: 1 Math, 1 Science, 1 Social Studies, ELA, and

either 1 Pathway Assessment or meet the requirements of the CDOS Commencement Credential.

## Report Card Schedule

<b>REPORT CARD SCHEDULE</b>		
	<b>Period Ends</b>	<b>Distribution</b>
<b>Pre-K</b>	January 14	January 28
	June 25	June 25
<b>Elementary &amp; Middle</b>	October 22	November 4
	January 14	January 28
	April 15	April 27
	June 25	June 25
<b>High School</b>	October 28	November 7
	January 16	January 27
	April 10	April 21
	June 16	June 25

## **Request Information About Teacher Qualifications**

Parents have the right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of their child's teacher(s) and teaching assistant(s). To do so, please complete the online electronic request form at [syracusecityschools.com/RTK](http://syracusecityschools.com/RTK).

Once the form is submitted, it may take up to two weeks to receive a response.

## **Academic Eligibility for Extracurricular Activities**

The Syracuse City School District values and encourages student participation in extracurricular activities including athletics, drama, musical productions, school sponsored clubs and other non-credit bearing areas. These activities are an integral part of the educational program offered by the district.

*Middle School & 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th Year HS Students*

1 Failure      Monitoring

2 Failures    Limited Participation

3 or More Failures    Ineligible

In order to motivate as many students as possible to participate in extracurricular activities, a two-tiered academic eligibility policy has been developed. To view this policy, please go to [www.syracusecityschools.com](http://www.syracusecityschools.com) and click on Athletics.

## **Adult and Continuing Education**

The Syracuse City School District serves the city's adult population through General Education Development (GED) classes, English as a New Language and Civics classes, GED and ENL vocational classes, food service training, workplace education, test preparation, and case management services. Programs exist for adults seeking career skills, adult basic education (ABE), a high school equivalency diploma, or to learn/improve English as a new language. For information on the adult and continuing education programs offered by the SCSD, contact the Adult Education Office at (315) 435-4150 or visit the department's page at [syracusecityschools.com/adulted](http://syracusecityschools.com/adulted).

## **LITERACY ZONES**

The Literacy Zones are a NYS Education Department initiative aimed at helping lift community members out of poverty. Literacy Zone Case Managers help parents, adult students, and community members connect to essential community services from a Family Welcome Center in severely distressed communities designated as high need. A Literacy Zone enables individuals and families to access a variety of existing community services that they would be unable to navigate and acquire without the intervention and cooperation provided by the Literacy Zone. There is a Family Welcome Center in each zone:

### **North Family Welcome Center**

The Refugee Assistance Center

516 Prospect Ave. / Syracuse, NY, 13208

Phone: (315) 435-6000, ext. 6376

### **West Family Welcome Center**

The Westside Learning Center

422 Gifford St. / Syracuse, NY, 13204

Phone: (315) 435-6000, ext. 2124

### **East Family Welcome Center**

Dr. Weeks Elementary School

710 Hawley Ave, / Syracuse, NY 13203

Phone: (315) 435-4097

### **South Family Welcome Center**

STEAM @ Dr. King School

416 E. Raynor Ave. / Syracuse, NY 13202

Phone: (315) 435-6000, ext. 5556

### **ENGLISH AS A NEW LANGUAGE:**

#### **Refugee Assistance Program (RAP of "Bob's School")**

Elizabeth Deng, Facilitator

516 Prospect Ave.

Syracuse, NY 13208

Phone: (315) 435-5801

## **West Side Learning Center (located at the former St. Lucy's School)**

Janet Staub, Facilitator

422 Gifford Street

Syracuse, NY 13204

Phone: (315) 435-4013

## **HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY**

Sites are located throughout the community. Call (315) 435-4115 for more information or to make an appointment for intake.

## **Multilingual and Cultural Education Department (formerly known as the ENL Department)**

The Syracuse City School District's Multilingual and Cultural Education Department is dedicated to supporting students who are multilingual, whose home language may be other than English, and those who aspire to become bilingual or multilingual. Our mission is to celebrate and sustain the rich

linguistic and cultural diversity of our community while promoting academic excellence and equitable access to learning for all students. We proudly serve a diverse population, including English Language Learners (ELLs)/Multilingual Learners (MLLs), heritage language speakers, and students interested in learning additional languages. Our programs are designed to foster language development, cultural understanding, and global citizenship—core values of the SCSD.

Our department offers the following programs:

**English as a New Language (ENL):** ENL services provide targeted English language instruction and academic support in core classes. ENL instruction includes both stand-alone and integrated models, with a strong focus on culturally responsive teaching, family engagement, and student growth.

**World Languages:** SCSD students have the opportunity to study American Sign Language, Arabic, French, and Spanish. The curriculum supports students in developing

interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational communication skills in the target language. High school students may also pursue the New York State Seal of Biliteracy, which formally recognizes their proficiency in English and at least one additional language, enhancing college and career opportunities.

**Bilingual Education:** Our Dual Language programs promote biliteracy and bilingualism, primarily for students whose native language is Spanish or English. Instruction is delivered in both languages across academic subjects, supporting balanced language development and academic achievement. The program fosters cross-cultural understanding, cognitive flexibility, and long-term academic success. Family involvement and community partnerships are essential components of this model.

**Native American Education Program:** This program supports the academic, social, and cultural success of Native American students throughout the district. It honors the unique heritage, traditions, and contributions of Indigenous peoples and ensures that Native students feel seen, valued,

and empowered. Services include academic support, cultural enrichment, and family engagement.

For more information about language and cultural learning opportunities in the Syracuse City School District, contact the Multilingual and Cultural Education Department at (315) 435-4927 or visit [syracusecityschools.com/mced](http://syracusecityschools.com/mced).

## **Families Experiencing Temporary Housing (McKinney-Vento)**

The McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless children and youth as individuals who lack fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

The McKinney-Vento Act provides rights and services to homeless children and youth including those who are sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations.

Social workers and school counselors may assist students and families in need when identified at the school level. For more information and additional assistance, please call the McKinney-Vento Coordinator at (315) 435-4131.

## **Special Education**

The Special Education Department provides services to students with educational disabilities to help them become more successful in the school setting. Special Education services include direct or supplementary instruction by a special education teacher for all or part of the day and/or services such as speech/language and occupational/physical therapies.

Prior to being evaluated for these services, your child's school is required to develop a series of interventions designed to increase the student's academic skills. These interventions are often successful and the student does not need to be referred to the Special Education Department. If, however, the interventions do not assist the student in

becoming more successful, a referral for Special Education may be initiated. At that time, parent/guardian consent is required before the testing may begin.

Once the Special Education Department receives the referral, you will receive a pamphlet that describes your rights during the referral process. The testing will consist of a psychological evaluation and a social and medical history. Other professionals, such as a speech/language pathologist, may also evaluate your child if necessary. You are entitled to receive the results of all evaluations. Following the evaluation, you will be invited to participate in a Committee on Special Education (CSE) meeting where it will be determined if your child has an educational disability as described under Part 200 of the Commissioner's Regulations and, if so, what the disability is and what services are needed. At that meeting, your child's Individual Education Program (IEP) will be designed.

If your child does have an educational disability, you will be asked to provide the Special Education Department with a

signed consent for services. Parents/guardians have a right to appeal decisions of the CSE if they disagree. Following the CSE meeting, you will receive a copy of the IEP through the mail. Each year, your child's IEP will be reviewed at an Annual Review meeting and at least every three years your child will be re-evaluated to determine if the current program is meeting your child's needs. As a parent/guardian, your involvement is very important in every step of this process.

For further information, ask your Syracuse City School District Special Education Department or the Parent Partnership Network for the guide, "Your Child's Rights in Special Education."

### **Discipline and Students with Disabilities**

Factors considered when determining any discipline include: student's age; grade in school; prior disciplinary record; the superintendent's belief that other forms of discipline may be more effective; input from parents, teachers or others; and other extenuating circumstances. A student with a disability may be suspended and scheduled for a Manifestation

Determination meeting to determine if there is a connection between the behavioral incident and the student's disability. The Syracuse City School District's Student Code of Conduct, Character and Support is applicable to all students.

### **Educational Foundation**

The Syracuse City School District Educational Foundation is an independent, non-profit community organization whose purpose is to expand and enhance the educational experiences of all students in Syracuse City Schools. The Foundation accomplishes its mission by funding education projects that broaden personal achievement, promote future workplace success, establish positive links to the greater community, and reflect the district's diversity and goals.

Each year, the SCSD Educational Foundation provides grants for projects that are not included in the district budget, that would not be possible without the Foundation's support, and that enhance student curriculum in extraordinary and creative ways. Teachers and district administrators may apply for Foundation grants online, and

projects are selected and funded in the fall of each calendar year.

Founded in 2003, the Foundation has supported more than 330 education projects impacting thousands of students from kindergarten through high school. To raise the funds for these projects, the Foundation hosts two signature fundraising events each year — a spring recognition breakfast and a summer golf tournament. In addition, District employees, SCSD alumni, and individual donors may designate the Foundation in their annual United Way contributions or send personal donations directly to the Foundation. With the generous support of corporate and individual contributions, the Foundation has donated more than \$900,000 to teachers and schools in the district.

As a volunteer organization, the Foundation offers a wide range of opportunities for individuals, district employees and educators, parents, and alumni organizations to become involved. For more information please visit [scsdfoundation.org](https://scsdfoundation.org), or email [admin@scsdfoundation.org](mailto:admin@scsdfoundation.org).

## **Office of Family Engagement**

The Syracuse City School District, in recognition of the connection between student success and family engagement, has instituted an Office of Family Engagement (OFE). SCSD is proud to partner with students, families and the greater community to ensure the best possible education for all our children. The OFE helps to create school communities that are educated, engaged and empowered to share the responsibility in creating thriving schools for Every Family and Every Child, Every Day.

OFE includes Family Engagement Facilitators (FEFs), Program Aides (PAs), Social Work Assistants and a Nationality Worker who facilitate communication between schools and families. OFE also provides parents and families with the necessary resources to support their children's academic and social-emotional growth and development and works to increase the number of parents who feel positively connected to their child's school. Every SCSD school building has a dedicated OFE staff person on site. The department also has a Director of Community Partnerships

who serves as a link between the District and the Syracuse community, businesses and other interested parties.

Attendance initiatives are coordinated through the department by an Attendance Coordinator who oversees district Impact Teams and collaborates with building attendance teams.

**Our Mission:** The Office of Family Engagement builds the capacity of the Syracuse City School District's schools, staff, families, students and the community to establish partnerships that strengthen student learning and improve schools.

**Our Vision:** SCSD will welcome every family and every student, every day; actively engaging them as partners in student learning and achievement. Every family will be able to identify what their child should know, where their child is in terms of what they should know, and what they can do at home to help their child be successful.

For more information on the Office of Family Engagement, contact Monique Wright-Williams, Chief Engagement Officer, at (315) 435-6459.

## **Health and Medical Services**

### **Health and Safety Information**

SCSD will continue to follow all health and safety guidelines from the NYS Department of Health and the Onondaga County Health Department. SCSD will follow good individual health and safety practices such as frequent hand washing and optional mask wearing. Frequent cleaning and good ventilation will be in effect in schools and support buildings. Flu and COVID-19 vaccination and boosters are recommended but not required. If your child has Flu or COVID-19 symptoms such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, keep them home and contact your healthcare provider.

## **Health & Medical Services**

### **SCSD Health Services Department**

**(315) 435-4145**

If your child becomes sick or injured at school, the school nurse will assess your child's condition, call parents/guardians as necessary, refer your child for additional care, and/or provide first aid. If your child has any of the following: a fever greater than 100.4° F, vomiting, diarrhea, they will need to go home and remain home until all symptoms are gone for 24 hours.

*Keep your child at home and do not send them to school if they are ill.*

### **Emergency Contact Information**

Your child's school must be notified in the event your home address, emergency contact numbers, home telephone number or any other relevant information changes. This will ensure that you can be reached in case of emergency, or your child suddenly becomes ill at school.

## **Medication Policy**

Whenever possible, medication should be administered at home. If it is necessary to give the medication in school, the school nurse must have signed consent from the parent and a copy of the healthcare provider's order. All medication should be delivered to school by the parent or guardian in a properly labeled pharmacy bottle. Parents/guardians must pick up the medication at the end of the school year, or the medications will be discarded per NYS guidelines by the school nurse. Nurses will not routinely give medications at the start of the school day. These medications should be given at home. For those students who may need asthma treatments at school, using inhalers with spacers are preferred over nebulizer treatments.

## **Mandated Physical Exams**

New York State requires all students new to the district, including kindergartners and children in grades Pre-K or K, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11 to have a physical examination. School physicals required by NYS include examination of the head and neck, heart, and lungs, abdomen, male hernia check, as

well as a musculoskeletal (including scoliosis) system and neurological examination.

These physicals should be performed by your child's healthcare provider with a copy of the physical and immunizations sent to the school nurse. All student athletes and students needing working papers are required to have a physical preferably performed by their own healthcare provider and completed within a year of the beginning of the athletic season or employment. Students who do not have their own healthcare provider or insurance should contact the school nurse for assistance with getting a physical.

Mandated vision, hearing, and scoliosis screenings, if not completed on the physical exam provided by your child's healthcare provider, will be done for required grades by the school nurse.

## **Immunizations**

There are many immunizations required by New York State for school entry. A list of all the shots required for school

can also be found on the SCSD website under the Department of Health Services.

The requirements include:

Dtap - 4/5 doses for K-5th grades, 3 doses for grades 6-12,

Polio - 4 doses K-12,

Hepatitis B- 3 doses K-12,

MMR & Varicella - 2 doses grades K-12,

Meningitis A – 1 dose after the age of 10 for grades 7-11 & 1 dose after the age of 16 for grade 12,

Tdap - grades 6-12 given after the age of 10,

PreK requires 4 doses of Dtap, 3 Polio, 3 Hepatitis B, 1 MMR& Varicella. Also included are Haemophilus influenza type B and Pneumocccal Conjugate doses vary dependent on age.

The influenza and COVID-19 vaccines are highly encouraged but not mandatory.

Please call your child's healthcare provider's office to make sure your child has all the immunizations required for school.

Although the SCSD does not want any child to miss valuable time in school, students who do not have the required immunizations will, by law, be excluded from school until the nurse receives a healthcare provider's note verifying that the student has received the appropriate shot(s).

*Please be advised that on June 13, 2019, the law that allows parents to request and obtain an exemption from immunization requirements based upon statements of religious belief was repealed. Students will no longer be allowed to attend school at the Syracuse City School District without required immunizations.*

*This law does not affect those students who currently have an updated immunization record or those students who currently have a medical exemption. This law affects only those who have had religious exemptions in the past and any students currently applying for religious exemption.*

*Please see additional guidance on District website under Department of Health Services and call your doctor to schedule your child's immunizations as needed.*

## **Health Insurance**

If you or your child needs health insurance including Medicaid, Medicaid Managed Care, or Child and Family Health Plus, please call NY State Health, toll free at (855) 355-5777 or ACR Health (315) 475-2430. You will get the assistance of a "navigator" to help you sign up. Benefits include medical visits, hospital and emergency care, vision, speech and hearing services, prescriptions, mental health, and, in some cases, dental care.

## **Mandated BMI Report**

When your child receives a physical exam, his or her height and weight are measured. These numbers are used to calculate the student's Body Mass Index (BMI) which helps the healthcare provider or nurse know if the student's weight is in the healthy range or is too high or too low. NYS Education Law requires that BMI and weight status group be included in a state report. No name or information regarding

an individual child is used in the report. If you do not wish to have your child's weight status group information included as part of the survey, please notify your school nurse in writing that you do not wish your child's information to be included in the state report.

### **School-Based Health Centers**

There are School-Based Health Centers (SBHC's) at Delaware, STEAM at Dr. King, Franklin, PSLA, Grant, H.W. Smith, Dr. Weeks, and Syracuse STEM at Blodgett.

SBHC's provide comprehensive health services including primary healthcare with a nurse practitioner or physician's assistant on-site. The healthcare provider can do physical exams, give immunizations, and prescribe medication.

Children enrolled in SBHCs can have their teeth cleaned, get sealants if indicated and see a dentist at school. If your child needs mental health counseling, those services are also available on-site.

Administration of the School-Based Health Program is provided by Syracuse Community Health. You are encouraged to have your child see their own healthcare

provider however, when your child presents with an illness and you are unable to get to the healthcare provider, the staff at the SBHC can provide the care your child needs. Insurance information is required at the time of enrollment. If your child does not have health insurance, they will still be able to receive services with no out of pocket costs. If you have a child who attends these schools and would like to enroll them in the School-Based Health Center program, please contact the school nurse at one of these schools or call:

Delaware Primary (315) 435-4452

Dr. Weeks (315) 435-4030

Franklin Elementary (315) 435-4102

Grant Middle (315) 435-4040

HW Smith (315) 435-6266

PSLA at Fowler (315) 435-4410

STEAM at Dr. King (315) 435-4031

Syracuse STEM at Blodgett (315) 435-6431

Contact Health Services at (315) 435-4145 if you have further questions or concerns.

# **Transportation, Nutrition, and Student Privacy**

## **Transportation**

Students in grades K-8 are eligible for transportation on yellow buses, if they live more than 1 mile from the school they attend. Students in grades 9-12 that live more than 1.5 miles from the school they attend, shall ride Centro buses unless the student receives special transportation service related to an IEP or 504 Plan.

Students should arrive to their bus stop ten minutes before the scheduled pick-up time. Students who ride Centro, should contact Centro directly at (315) 442-3400, for schedule information.

To ensure efficiency, regular bus stops may be approximately 2-3 blocks from the student's home.

Selection of safe bus stops is the district's responsibility, but the safety of children traveling to and from a stop is the responsibility of the parent or guardian. Group stop assignments will be implemented to reduced run time, and risk of accidents due to frequent stopping.

**Childcare requests** and regular transportation service must be consistent 5 days per week.

Pick-up and drop-off locations can be different but must be consistent. Change of residence or address must be reported to the Registration Center immediately. Failure to do so, could disrupt a child's transportation.

If a child qualifies for curb-to-curb service, the child must be brought to the door of the bus in the morning and afternoon by the parent, legal guardian, or someone over the age of 16, or the child may be returned to their school. A legal guardian, parent, or a person who is approved by the legal guardian/parent who is over the age of 16, should arrive to the stop at least ten minutes before the student is scheduled to be picked up and dropped off.

**Child Care Request forms** must be completed and returned to the Transportation Department no later than July 31st of the current calendar year. This procedure must be followed every year as there is no automatic renewal of this service. Medical transportation requests must be sent

directly to the Health Services Department and must also be renewed on a yearly basis.

The Code of Conduct applies to Transportation Services. Transportation can be revoked from students who are unsafe to themselves or others on the bus.

If you have questions regarding your child's transportation, please contact the Transportation Department at (315) 435-4260.

## **Food and Nutrition Services**

Nutrition and food access are critical to student success in school, and the Syracuse City School District's Food and Nutrition Services Department works hard daily to ensure that our students are equipped with nourishing food to grow their minds, bodies, and sense of wellbeing.

Each day Food and Nutrition Service provides more than 10,800 breakfasts and 14,200 lunches, free of charge, in our school communities. We also offer free supper and

snack menus for after school and high school sports programs, a fresh fruit and vegetable program that allows elementary students to be exposed to a wide range of produce items, summer feeding programs at schools and community sites, and a weekend food pack program that provides supplemental food items for students who face nutrition insecurity.

In accordance with the National School Breakfast and Lunch Program, students are offered balanced, healthful, fresh meals and snacks that include milk, fruits, vegetables, meat or meat alternates, and whole grains. Monthly calendars of all meals services are available at your child's school and online at [syracusecityschools.com/food](https://syracusecityschools.com/food).

While all students at the Syracuse City School District eat free, for the District to continue to provide free meal service and receive state and federal funding, we need each family to complete a household income eligibility form.

School lunch applications are available to be completed online at [syracusecityschools.com/food](https://syracusecityschools.com/food).

The health of your child is important to us. To ensure the safety and protection of your child from any potential allergens, communicating any known allergies and dietary restrictions to the school nurse is critical. A parent letter and documentation from a medical authority are mandatory. If you have further questions concerning school meals, or to speak with the School Dietitian about special diets please contact Food and Nutrition Services at (315) 435-4207.

## **Student Privacy**

### **FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)**

FERPA is a federal privacy law that gives parents certain rights and protections with regard to their child's education records such as report cards, transcripts, disciplinary records, contact and family information and class schedules. Parents have the right to inspect and review their child's education records and to request changes under certain circumstances. The law also gives these rights to students who have reached 18 years of age. For more information,

please contact Tara Jennings, Ed.D., Chief Information Officer, at (315) 435-4281.

## **Military Recruitment and Student Rights**

The federal government requires that schools disclose student names, addresses and telephone numbers to the military on request. It also gives students and parents the right to tell the school NOT to give student information to recruiters without “prior parental approval” — in other words, going back and asking parents again.

A school must give students and parents an opportunity to remove their names from the list before giving it to military recruiters. If the student or parent objects, information cannot be released. To keep the military from getting information about a student, the student or a parent should submit a request to the school in writing, stating that the school should not give the student’s information to the military. The school should give a form to students and parents, but any written request should be honored.

For further information, contact Tara Jennings, Ed.D., Chief Information Officer, at (315) 435-4281.

### **Permission for Photographs/Audio/Video**

Throughout the school year, photographs, audio and/or video may be taken of students for use in district publications, on the website and/or social media or by news media.

Parents or guardians must indicate media consent by submitting their child's emergency/information card at the start of each school year. The back of the card contains a yes/no box, where the parent/guardian may indicate if their child may be photographed or recorded.

# **Safety and Student Code of Conduct, Character and Support**

## **School Resource Officers**

It is our belief that children are our community's most valuable asset, and the safety of our students and staff is a priority for the Board of Education and the Syracuse Police Department. The partnership that exists between the School Resource Officer (SRO) and the school community — students, staff, parents and guardians — contributes toward the safety and security of the school environment.

An SRO is an active, fully equipped certified law enforcement officer from the Syracuse Police Department assigned to a specific school or quadrant within the SCSD. It is vital that SROs understand the role they play within a particular school under the leadership of the school principal. They work collaboratively with the school administrators and staff to assist with the development of procedures designed to provide a safe, positive and productive learning and working environment.

## **Complaints:**

Complaints concerning the SRO's performance should be brought to the attention of the principal, who will communicate with the School Resource Supervisor and the Superintendent's designee. Complaints can also be brought to the School Resource Supervisor for review by the Syracuse Police Department process, and/or to the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee. The Superintendent's designee will conduct an investigation and submit a report to the Superintendent of Schools. To obtain a complaint form, go to [www.syracusecityschools.com](http://www.syracusecityschools.com).

## **File a Complaint**

The district is committed to ensuring all children's rights under the law. If you are concerned that the district may have violated a law, rule or regulation in the administration of any "covered Federal program" under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the district has a process for addressing your concerns. These procedures offer parents and other stakeholders the opportunity to file complaints,

allowing for their timely resolution. Visit [syracusecityschools.com/complaints](http://syracusecityschools.com/complaints) for more details.

### **Sex Offender Registration Act (“Megan’s Law”)**

The New York State Sex Offender Registration Act (“Megan’s Law”) provides that a comprehensive listing of sex offenders be available for viewing on the website of the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services at [www.criminaljustice.state.ny.us](http://www.criminaljustice.state.ny.us).

### **Why Do We Have a Student Code of Conduct, Character and Support?**

The goal of the Syracuse Student Code of Conduct, Character and Support is to ensure all students are educated in a safe and caring environment. It is based upon the laws that say all have the right to an education while protecting the rights of each individual.

The Code recognizes that schools are public places that must balance individual rights with behaviors that make it possible to live peacefully and productively with all members of society. The Code of Conduct, Character and Support

serves as a guide to good citizenship and provides the tools for helping students to understand and appreciate the norms of positive behavior within the school.

## **Dignity for All Students Act**

The Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) prohibits acts of harassment and bullying, including cyberbullying and/or discrimination by employees or students on school property or at a school function, including but not limited to such conduct based on a student's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender (defined to include gender identify or expression) or sex (Education Law 12[1]). Cyberbullying is defined as harassment or bullying which takes place through any form of electronic communication. (Education Law 11[8]). If you have any questions, please contact your school DASA Coordinator or Student Support Services at (315) 435-6447. To submit a complaint, visit [syracusecityschools.com/support](http://syracusecityschools.com/support) for a DASA Complaint Form.

## **Feedback Procedures**

Each school will accept and consider individual and group feedback. If there is a claim that there has been a violation or misapplication of a written provision of school policy, that feedback would be entered as a complaint. Feedback can be made by using the district's **"Let's Talk"** communication system accessible on the district's website.

## **Getting Help with a Problem**

Bullying and cyberbullying, harassment and intimidation, hazing and bias behaviors are unsafe and do not reflect respect for others as defined by the Student Code of Conduct, Character and Support. If you or someone you know is a target of one of these behaviors, you can report it using the Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation Reporting Form, available on the school website or in the main office or the counseling office of your school. You can also tell a staff member, who will respond quickly and provide a practical, private and safe place to report.

To obtain information on the full process for getting help or providing feedback, please refer directly to the Code of Conduct, Character and Support.

**Looking for a full copy of the Student Code of Conduct, Character and Support?**

The Student Code of Conduct, Character and Support is available on the district's website at

[www.syracusecityschools.com/codeofconduct](http://www.syracusecityschools.com/codeofconduct)

# **Say Yes Syracuse**

## **Say Yes Syracuse**

Say Yes Syracuse is comprised of parents, students, teachers, principals, district officials, business leaders, higher education institutions, faith leaders, political leaders and community members, working together to foster college success for every student in Syracuse. Because of the community's commitment, students in Syracuse receive financial support to help pay for college, along with high-quality and sustained academic, social/emotional, health and family supports throughout the K-12 years and beyond.

## **What is the Say Yes tuition scholarship?**

Say Yes scholarships cover the balance of tuition that remains after students have completed the financial aid process that includes; completing a FAFSA application, and for students attending a college in New York State, a TAP (Tuition Assistance Program) application. Once the FAFSA and TAP applications are complete, the New York State and Federal governments determine if the student is eligible for

federal Pell and New York State TAP grants. If eligible those grants get applied towards tuition, and the Say Yes Scholarship covers the balance. If the student is not eligible for New York State TAP and/or federal Pell grants the Say Yes Scholarship covers the entire tuition.

### **Who can receive a Say Yes scholarship?**

Say Yes Scholarships and grants are available to students residing in the city of Syracuse that were continuously enrolled in an SCSD high school in for 3 continuous years (typically 10th – 12th). With proper documentation the following students are also automatically deemed eligible regardless of continuous years of enrollment.

Refugee students with I-94 arrival departure records

Legally designated as homeless under the McKinney-Vento Act. Note that McKinney is spelled wrong in the document.

Have documented Foster Care placement or ward of the court

Students must apply for financial aid each year by filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form.

Students must also enroll in college within one year of high school graduation.

### **Are SYTE scholarships available for any college?**

Students can choose from any two- or four-year public college in New York State (SUNY) or New York City (CUNY) systems. A wide variety of private colleges, including all Ivy League colleges, also offer aid to students whose family income is less than \$75,000. Some colleges may consider family assets for total income and have a limited number of Say Yes Scholarships available. The University of Rochester offers aid to students whose income is less than \$100,000, and Syracuse University does not have a cap on family income. To view the full list of Say Yes Syracuse colleges/universities, visit [www.sayyessyracuse.org](http://www.sayyessyracuse.org).

### **What if my family income is more than \$75,000?**

Say Yes Choice Grants of up to \$5,000 are available for students attending a Say Yes Syracuse private college. Choice grants combined with state and federal aid cannot exceed the cost of attendance.

## **Does the scholarship cover all costs?**

The Say Yes Scholarships cover tuition. Students are responsible for books, fees, room and board. The only exception is if a student attends a SUNY or CUNY institution, has received a combination of enough Federal Pell Grant and New York State TAP Grant to cover the cost of tuition, resides on campus or campus affiliated housing and still has a high need for financial aid. Grants of up to \$3,000 per year are available for books, fees, room and board under the Say Yes Opportunity Grant program.

## **Will I automatically get into a Say Yes college if I graduated from the SCSD?**

No; students still have to apply to college and meet standards for admission. Say Yes Syracuse requires that students certify that they have been accepted to college and have filled out their FAFSA forms online before scholarship or grants can be provided. The financial aid process must be completed each year to keep scholarships and grants current. If a student transfers or graduates from a two-year

college and goes to a four-year institution they must update their record with Say Yes Syracuse.

### **Do we receive a check for my child's scholarship?**

No, scholarships and grants go directly to the college.

Please contact Say Yes Syracuse with any questions regarding timeline, what to expect, and when to expect Say Yes awards.

### **Where does the scholarship money come from?**

Generous individuals and companies have donated toward Say Yes Syracuse scholarships. The donations are invested in an endowment at the Central New York Community Foundation. (An endowment fund is created when donors require that their gift is invested and only the income earned on those gifts can be used for a specific purpose.) Private Say Yes Syracuse partner colleges have agreed to guarantee tuition for Say Yes students with their own institutional funds (it does NOT come from the Say Yes to Education endowment).

## **Is there enough money for all the scholarships?**

The annual cost of scholarships is more than \$1 million. Say Yes Syracuse has raised enough funds to build a local endowment that will sustain this annual cost.

## **Will the scholarship be available in the future?**

Yes, funds that have been donated are a permanent source of scholarships for the benefit of SCSD graduates.

## **Who makes decisions about scholarship criteria?**

A local council of community members, including donors, business leaders, members of the faith community and higher education partners, review the criteria for eligibility annually. Private partner colleges with a limited number of Say Yes scholarships ultimately decide which Say Yes eligible students will receive the Say Yes tuition guarantee.

## **Can anyone donate and are gifts tax deductible?**

All gifts help to make the scholarships available to the largest number of students. Donors can make a pledge to be paid over a period of up to five years. Gifts and pledge payments will be acknowledged by the Central New York

Community Foundation and are tax deductible. Donors can choose to support the general Say Yes scholarship fund or they can donate to the Say Yes STEM Scholarship Fund which provides scholarships for students going into Science, Technology, Engineering or Math.

To make a gift online visit [www.sayyessyracuse.org](http://www.sayyessyracuse.org) and search for Say Yes in the search field to find all active funds supporting Say Yes. Donations and pledges can be mailed to the following address. (Please specify Say Yes Syracuse or specific fund name in the memo line.):

Central New York Community Foundation

431 East Fayette Street | Syracuse, NY 13202

Ahmeed Turner, Executive Director

(315) 422-9538 | [ahturner@sayyestoeducation.org](mailto:ahturner@sayyestoeducation.org)

## **NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION**

The Syracuse City School District hereby advises students, parents, employees and the general public that it is committed to providing equal access to all categories of employment, programs and educational opportunities, including career and technical education opportunities, regardless of actual or perceived race, color, national origin, Native American ancestry/ethnicity, creed or religion, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, age, gender identity or expression, disability or any other legally protected category under federal, state or local law.

Inquiries regarding the District's non-discrimination policies should be directed to:

Civil Rights Compliance Officer

Syracuse City School District

725 Harrison Street • Syracuse, NY 13210

(315) 435-4131

Email: [CivilRightsCompliance@scsd.us](mailto:CivilRightsCompliance@scsd.us)

**For all District information, visit**

**[www.syracusecityschools.com](http://www.syracusecityschools.com)**