



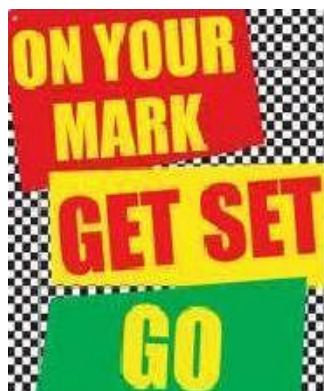
# This Week in New York

## Covering New York State and City Government

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## *In the News – New York State*



### Governor to School Districts: On Your Mark, Get Set.....Go

New York this week launched the School District Performance Improvement Awards program that is designed to “transform New York State's education system by incentivizing student achievement and encouraging school districts to implement innovative reforms to improve student performance.”

The program was first announced by Governor Andrew Cuomo during his State of the State Address in January. The Governor's plan includes two rounds of grant opportunities for school aid. The first is a school performance fund which includes a \$250 million competition fund for districts that increase performance in the classroom. The second is a \$250 million competition for districts that can find administrative savings through efficiencies and shared services.

Under the performance program, the awards will be granted to school districts that have demonstrated the most success in increasing student performance, narrowing the achievement gap, and increasing academic performance among students with the greatest educational needs. The awards will also be available to school districts that exhibit the greatest potential for continued improvements in student performance. Up to \$75 million in grants will be distributed over the next three years, with additional awards to be distributed in future years. Districts that do not receive awards are eligible to reapply.

According to Governor Cuomo, currently, education aid is primarily distributed through formula-based grants without performance incentives or requirements. He explained the need for change as New York's public schools spend more money per pupil than those in any other state. However, in measures of student performance, New York ranks 40th nationally in graduation rates and 34th nationally in the percentage of adults who have a high school diploma or the equivalent.

In addition, this week the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) results showed that New York's fourth-graders were the only students nationwide who did statistically worse on standardized math tests than in 2009.

"The NAEP results for New York students are disappointing and unacceptable," State Education Commissioner John King said. "New York needs change. The NAEP scores make clear a tough but necessary truth: our students are not where they should be."

The State Board of Regents has already begun the reform process, adopting a comprehensive reform agenda including the new Common Core Standards. Schools are beginning to pilot the Common Core this year in preparation for implementation next year and State assessments have been made more rigorous. These reform efforts could be intrinsic to school districts participating in the Governor's version of "Race for the Top."

Districts' academic performance over the last two years — how their students' scored on state math, English, and science exams, and their high school graduation rates — count for a large portion of the award criteria. In addition, school districts will be graded based on success in implementing innovative programs to increase student performance including, models to improve and expand middle school student performance, college level or early college programs, college admission, and career and technical education training programs.

Only school districts can apply for the grant money — individual schools, such as charters, cannot. School districts must submit applications to the State Education Department by January 17, 2012, and the first round of awards will be announced and awarded during the 2011-2012 school year.



## All Aboard the *Jobs Express*

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo this week announced the launch of "Jobs Express," a new website designed to help New Yorkers who are seeking employment.

The site (<http://www.labor.ny.gov/jobs/regional.shtm>) takes thousands of jobs listed on the New York State Jobs Bank and sorts them by region to help job seekers evaluate what industries are growing in their area and find out what opportunities are available in specific economic sectors. The Labor Department will update the job listings daily.

"The Jobs Express website makes it easier for New Yorkers to learn about what jobs are available and to know where to find them," Governor Cuomo said. "...job seekers can also get the latest on topics such as resume writing and interview techniques. I encourage every employer who is looking for workers to post their vacancies with the New York State Job Bank. "

Currently, the New York State Job Bank has 42,370 job openings, detailed below:

- Capital District - 2,726
- Central New York - 2,373
- Finger Lakes - 2,228
- Hudson Valley - 1,681
- Long Island - 5,973
- Mohawk Valley - 628
- New York City - 22,684
- North Country - 454
- Southern Tier - 924
- Western NY - 2,699

A search for current job openings in the Capital District yielded the following results:

**November 2011 Current Job Openings**

**Capital Region Including Counties: Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Warren, and Washington**

<b>Vacancies in This Region</b>	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Positions</u>
<b>Architecture and Engineering</b>	<b>389</b>
<b>Arts, Design, Sports, and Media</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Building/Grounds Maintenance</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Business and Financial Operations</b>	<b>143</b>
<b>Community and Social Services</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Computer and Mathematical</b>	<b>265</b>
<b>Construction and Extraction</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Education, Training, and Library</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>Farming, Fishing, and Forestry</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Food Preparation and Serving Related</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Healthcare Practitioner and Technical</b>	<b>302</b>
<b>Healthcare Support</b>	<b>87</b>
<b>Installation, Maintenance, and Repair</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Legal</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Life, Physical, and Social Science</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>Management</b>	<b>335</b>
<b>Office, Clerical and Secretarial</b>	<b>329</b>
<b>Personal Care, Service, and Gaming</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Production</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>Protective Service</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Sales and Related</b>	<b>266</b>
<b>Transportation and Material Moving</b>	<b>89</b>

<b>Companies With the Most Jobs in This Region</b>	
<b><u>Company</u></b>	<b><u>Positions</u></b>
<b>Albany Medical Center</b>	<b>366</b>
<b>Global Foundries</b>	<b>346</b>
<b>General Electric</b>	<b>195</b>
<b>Glens Falls Hospital</b>	<b>153</b>
<b>Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory</b>	<b>131</b>
<b>Metlife</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>Champlain Stone LTD</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Yonder Fruit Farms</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Loram Maintenance of Way</b>	<b>29</b>

## *In the News – New York City*

### **Public Advocate Calls For EDC to Close Gaps in Jobs Data**

Following the release of an Independent Budget Office (IBO) report on NYC Economic Development Corporation (EDC) subsidies, Public Advocate Bill de Blasio has introduced new legislation requiring EDC to report the number and cost of jobs created at each of its project sites.

The IBO report, conducted at the request of Public Advocate de Blasio, found that EDC often only reports on a company’s total employment across the five boroughs. IBO’s report was produced using information disclosed in accordance with Local Law 48, a measure passed in 2005 to increase transparency of economic development subsidies. The law does not require EDC to disclose project site-specific employment data. New York City’s subsidies include grants, tax credits, tax-free financing and the use of public land through sales or leases. For projects on state-owned land, the city charges payments in lieu of taxes, which typically are lower than what would be owed if property taxes were levied.

EDC currently manages \$898 million in discretionary City aid commitments to economic development projects. Over half of the 1,098 subsidized projects were in Brooklyn and Queens, with over a quarter in Manhattan, the report said.



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*“More targeted reporting will help us identify effective projects so we can replicate them, and weed out those efforts that fail to create jobs,” said Public Advocate Bill de Blasio.*

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The Public Advocate’s legislation would expand EDC’s job reporting requirements to include site-specific numbers, allowing City officials and the general public to identify which programs produce the most jobs. Specifically, the new legislation would require EDC to report for each project site:

- The number of jobs prior to receiving subsidies;
- The projected number of jobs when subsidies end;
- The current number of jobs; and
- The subsidy cost per job.

## *In Brief*

### **Call Letter Goes Out**

State Budget Director Robert Megna sent the annual budget “call” letter to state agency heads this week, directing the agencies to reduce their budgets by 2.5 percent for the 2012-13 state budget. The projected budget deficit for the upcoming fiscal year, which begins April 1, is currently \$2.4 billion. However, the Governor, Division of the Budget, and State Comptroller anticipate that it will increase.

The Division of the Budget, the Senate, Assembly, and State Comptroller are scheduled to submit their forecasts of revenues and expenditures by Saturday as part of the 2012-13 budget process. A consensus forecast of New York’s financial position has to be released by November 15<sup>th</sup>.

The Division of the Budget announced this week that the annual hearings during which the State agencies present their budget requests have been postponed until further notice. Agencies have until November 11th to submit their requests to the Division of Budget.

A copy of the letter from Mr. Megna is attached.

## Gubernatorial Appointments

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo this week announced his appointment of Leecia Eve to Deputy Secretary for Economic Development and his recommendation of Gil Quiniones to be President and Chief Executive Officer of the New York Power Authority (NYPA).

*Leecia Eve* most recently served as Senior Vice President and General Counsel to Empire State Development (ESD). Prior to joining ESD, she was the Vice President for Policy of the Washington, D.C. – based No Limits Foundation. From 2007 to 2008, Ms. Eve was a Senior Policy Advisor for the Hillary Clinton for President campaign. Previously, Ms. Eve served as Senate Counsel and Homeland Security Advisor to Senator Clinton from 2001 to 2005. Before joining Senator Clinton's office, Ms. Eve practiced law for five years at Hodgson Russ, Western New York's largest law firm. She is a graduate of Harvard Law School.

*Gil C. Quiniones* currently serves as acting president and CEO of the New York Power Authority. He has been the chief operating officer since June 2008. Before joining the Power Authority staff in October 2007 as Executive Vice President of Energy Marketing and corporate affairs, Quiniones served for more than four years as senior vice president of energy and telecommunications for the New York City Economic Development Corporation. Quiniones received a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from De La Salle University in Manila.

## Public Advocate Launches Online Tools to Track Freedom of Information Requests

Public Advocate de Blasio this week launched new online tools to track Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) requests he has received since taking office. Under the New York City Charter, the Public Advocate is empowered to oversee the "responsiveness of City agencies to individual and group requests for data or information." The Public Advocate's website allows individuals to submit a FOIL request and view its status online; as well as access a Document Library containing public records and correspondence from the Public Advocate's office. Mr. de Blasio announced the new tools following his proposal of the Accountability in Information Requests (AIR) Act, requiring City agencies to report monthly to the Public Advocate and the City Council on how many FOIL requests they receive and grant—along with explanations for any delays or denials.

The Public Advocate's website allows individuals to: access the Document Library at <http://advocate.nyc.gov/public-documents>; submit a FOIL request online at <http://advocate.nyc.gov/foil-request>; and check the status of a submitted request.

## **Mayor Approves Bill to Give Communities More Information About School Capacity**

Mayor Michael Bloomberg this week approved legislation that will require the New York City Department of Education (DOE) to report annually to the Council on school capacity and utilization in schools. The Schools F.A.C.T. (Facility Accountability Capacity Transparency) Act is aimed at allowing for more transparency regarding the types of spaces school buildings contain, allowing parents to make more informed choices regarding school enrollment.

Specifically, the legislation will require the Chancellor to report to the City Council on an annual basis, starting in November 2013, on the usage of certain instructional and non-instructional spaces within school buildings. The report will include information on the total number and square footage of rooms used for academic intervention services, instruction in the arts and computers, libraries, occupational or physical therapy, school-based support teams, testing accommodations for students with disabilities, health clinics, physical fitness space and non-school organization occupancy. The report will also indicate whether or not a room is shared by multiple schools, and whether or not non-instructional space, such as hallways and stairways, are used for instruction. This data will now reflect utilization citywide, as well as by school district, council district and borough.

## *Coming Up*

### *New York State*

#### *Monday, November 7*

##### *Mortgage Foreclosures in New York*

Assembly Committees on Housing, Judiciary & Banks

Assembly Hearing Room, 250 Broadway, Room 1923, 19th Floor, New York, 11 a.m.

#### *Thursday, November 10*

##### *Merger of the Department of Correctional Services (DOCS) and the Division of Parole into the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS)*

Assembly Standing Committee on Correction

Roosevelt Hearing Room C, Legislative Office Building, 2nd Floor, Albany, 11 a.m.

### *New York City*

#### *Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup>*

*Committees on Veterans & General Welfare, 250 Broadway - Committee Rm, 14th Fl., 1 p.m.*

*Oversight: Veteran Homelessness*

***Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>***

***Committee on Health & General Welfare, 250 Broadway - Committee Rm, 14th Fl. 10 a.m.***

***Oversight:*** Coordination between the Department of Health and the Administration for Children's Services when inspecting and monitoring child care centers in New York City.

***NYC Campaign Finance Board, Conference Room, 19th Floor, 40 Rector Street, New York, 10 a.m.***

A detailed agenda will be made available the day before the meeting.

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