

## **Greetings from Assistant Commissioner Kathleen R. DeCataldo, Esq.**

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Office of Student Support Services, I wholeheartedly welcome everyone to the 2022-2023 school year!

Across the State, thousands of students had access to quality summer learning and enrichment (SLE) programs. Schools and districts leveraged funding from the 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant, Extended School Day/School Violence Prevention grant, and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State Reserves to create, sustain, or increase the capacity of their SLE programs. SLE programs engaged students in academic enrichment, social and emotional learning, and recreation

# IMMUNIZATION & VACCINATIONS

Fall is just around the corner, and that means a new school year begins!  
As we think about getting ready for school, we would like to remind schools and

causes and resolve barriers to school attendance. The New York State Council on Children and Families produced the [Every Student Present](#) initiative to increase access to information related to student attendance and chronic absenteeism for families, schools, and communities.

School districts and schools may find some of the following best practices helpful in developing a robust attendance system that improves school attendance:

1. Create district and school attendance committees responsible for developing, implementing, and assessing positive attendance plans.
2. Use district and school [self-assessment tools](#) to assess current practices and plan to implement practices by setting reasonable goals to reduce student absences.
3. Consider best practice [strategies for reducing chronic absenteeism](#) including the [3-tiered intervention](#)

# **SEPSIS AWARENESS MONTH**

-threatening response to infection that can lead to tissue damage, organ failure, and death. Sepsis is preventable and treatable. It is vital that students and schools learn about sepsis, how it can be prevented, and its symptoms, so that immediate medical treatment can be sought. To accomplish this, the Department is encouraging the inclusion of sepsis education in a comprehensive K-12 health education program.

To learn more information about Sepsis and access educational resources, including sample curricula and developmentally appropriate resources, visit the [New York State Education Department](#). We are encouraging schools to educate students about sepsis as part of the health education curriculum and to weave it into other curricula throughout all grade levels. Together we can provide our students with skills that will benefit them throughout their lives.

## Top 5 Favorite Books to Celebrate the International Day of the Girl Child

The International Day of the Girl Child: Celebrating Girls Around the World

I am Anne Frank

Fly Girl, Fly!: Shaesta Waiz Soars Around the World

111 Trees: How One Village Celebrates the Birth of Every Girl

She Was First! 45 Impressive Women Who Broke Barriers

NYSED established [The Girls of Color Interagency Advisory Workgroup](#) with expert membership in a range of areas to improve outcomes, provide opportunities, and address the unique needs of girls of color. Additionally, NYSED has produced two resources for school districts and schools to promote the authentic identity of girls of color.

## BULLYING PREVENTION MONTH

### What is bullying?

Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time.

### An Imbalance of Power

Kids who bully use their power — such as physical strength, access to embarrassing information, or popularity — to control or harm others. Power imbalances can change over time and in different situations, even if they involve the same people.

### Repetition