

News Release

Issued July 21, 2009

New York State Middle Level Summit²

Summit² will be held at the Legislative Office Building (LOB) in Albany, on Thursday, August 13 (10 am to 4 pm – Reception in LOB Well 4 – 5:30) and Friday, August 14 (9 am to 3 pm).

Contact Person: Dennis M. Tosetto,
NYSMSA Executive Director

Phone: 716-754-4803
Email: dtosetto@nysmsa.org

We request that members of the media choosing to cover this event make arrangements in advance with the above contact person. NYSMSA will make every effort to accommodate all special requests of the media in ways that will be compatible with the scheduled program. Please keep in mind that the LOB is a government building and special security precautions are in effect.

The New York State Middle School Association (NYSMSA) will be holding NYS Middle Level Summit² at the Legislative Office Building in Albany, NY on August 13 - 14. As occurred last year, representatives from New York State's diverse education-related organizations and other organizations that support young adolescents will be in attendance. Dr. Merryl H. Tisch, Chancellor of the NYS Board of Regents, will provide opening remarks.

The National Middle School Association's (NMSA) Executive Director, Dr. Betty Edwards, will address summit participants this year, and it is expected that Governor David A. Paterson will issue a proclamation at that time declaring October as the Month of the Young Adolescent (MOYA).

Participating organizations include the State's subject area organizations; the New York City Middle Level Initiatives organization; the State's teachers' union, NYSUT; The School Administrators Association of New York State; the NYS Council of School Superintendents; the NYS School Boards Association; and the National Middle School Association. Additionally, representatives from the NYS State Education Department, the New York City Council, the NYS Legislature, the Governor's Office, the NYS Department of Public Health, the NYS BAR Association, and the NYS Permanent Judicial Commission on Justice for Children will be in attendance.

The sole purpose of Summit² is to provide an opportunity for participating organizations to actively work together cooperatively to initiate the full implementation of the *New York State Regents Policy Statement on Middle Level Education* and the State Education Department's *Essential Elements of Standards-Focused Middle-Level Schools and Programs* as required by Commissioner's Regulation 100.4. (These documents, with explanation, can be found at www.nysmsa.org.)

NYSMSA has significantly contributed to the development of both of these important documents which are fully aligned with NMSA's *This We Believe: Successful Schools for Young Adolescents*. Representatives from organizations wishing to participate in Summit² are invited to contact Dennis M. Tosetto, NYSMSA Executive Director, at tosetto@nysmsa.org. There is no fee for participating in this collaborative event which will be attended by representatives from about 100 organizations and governmental bodies representing all facets of New York State's broadly based school community.