

Keeping Current with

Stillwater

Central School District

August 2011
Volume 5, Number 1

What's Inside

Stillwater Schools Reduce Carbon Footprint

\$85,000 saved through energy management program

Federal Initiative to Improve Education Means Changes to our Schools

Find out about Race To The Top (RTTT) funding and what it means for Stillwater Central School District

National Learning Standards

Learn more about the Common Core Learning Standards

Evaluating our Leaders and Teachers

Find out about the new evaluation system for teachers and administrators

New York State Property Tax Cap Enacted

New legislation to be implemented for 2012-13 school year budget

Parent Notifications

All the notifications you need in one handy location

Board of Education Creates Strategic Plan

Plan will guide thinking, decisions of board and district leaders

After a year of critical thinking, deliberation and study, the Stillwater Central School District Board of Education has developed a strategic plan that is intended to guide the district's leaders over the course of the next five years.

The plan focuses on where district leaders should be directing their energies as education continues to evolve at the local, state and national levels.

"It is the Board's hope that the strategic plan will give us a way to thoughtfully inform our decisions," said Board of Education member and Chairman of the Goals Committee John Murphy. "The development of this plan has been a collaborative effort between the Board and the Administration, with the hopes that it guides the mission of both of our groups."

The strategic plan, which was developed over several years through public input, as well as input from district officials, covers five main topics:

- Student performance and educational programs
- Information technology
- Future growth
- Financial management
- Communication

Each of those specific areas has specific goals for the board and the administration to achieve.

For example, in the area of student performance and educational programs, the main goal is for the district "to provide educational programs designed to offer each student a path to success in an evolving 21st century world." This goal like the other topic areas, includes strategic priorities, such as ensuring that course curriculum is relevant and rigorous and reflects what students need to know in a 21st century environment.

The plan in its entirety is now available on the Stillwater Central Schools' website, www.scsd.org. The Board of Education, as always, encourages residents to read it and submit their feedback or questions.

"I think it's important to note that this plan is not set in stone," said Superintendent of Schools Stanley Maziejka. "I know the Board views this document as evolutionary and something that can be tweaked and improved upon going forward."

Superintendent's Message

~ By Dr. Stanley Maziejka, Superintendent of Schools

This newsletter signals the end of summer and the excitement and anticipation of a new school year. We are pleased that the construction of a new gymnasium, locker rooms, fitness center, and paving projects are complete; and we are confident that you will be greatly pleased with the outcome. We expect to have a formal ceremony to commemorate the new facilities which we will publicize on our website and through a formal press release.

The District is in the process of creating a new website. It is our goal to enhance our communication with all school district stakeholders with regular updates about important happenings in all of our school buildings. It is expected that we will unveil the new site by January 2012.

The District will also have a challenging year as we continue our implementation of the New York State Reform Agenda, Race to the Top. This education reform focuses on a new common core curriculum, changes in testing requirements, and a new way to evaluate teacher and principal performance which focuses on student learning.

Finally, our 2012-2013 budget deliberations will commence earlier this year. Again, we face much uncertainty about state funding which was reduced by approximately 1.8 million dollars over the last two years. Our deliberations will also be complicated by the 2% tax cap that will be instituted for this upcoming budget year. For the District to spend above the cap would require a super majority of 60% of the voters. As in the past, we welcome the input of our stakeholders as we begin our budget deliberations in the hope of balancing the responsibility of providing a quality education with the impact it has on our taxpayers.

As always, we do not take for granted the immense support we receive from our school community. On the contrary, we remain humble and have incredible gratitude. Thank you!

Your Right To Know

Pesticide Notification

New York State Education Law Section 409-H, effective July 1, 2001, requires all public and non-public elementary and secondary schools to provide written notification to all persons in parental relation, faculty, and staff regarding the potential use of pesticides periodically throughout the school year.

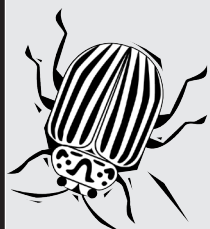
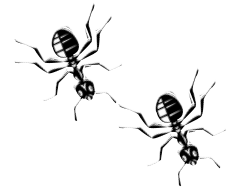
The Stillwater Central School District is required to maintain a list of persons in parental relation, faculty, and staff who wish to receive 48-hour prior written notification of certain pesticide applications. The following applications are not subject to prior notification requirements:

- A school remains unoccupied for a continuous 72 hours following an application
- Antimicrobial products
- Nonvolatile rodenticides in tamper resistant bait stations in areas inaccessible to children
- Nonvolatile insecticidal baits in tamper resistant bait stations in areas inaccessible to children
- Silica gels and other nonvolatile ready-to-use pastes, foams, and gels in areas inaccessible to children
- Boric acid and disodium octaborate tetrahydrate
- The application of EPA designated biopesticides
- The application of EPA designated exempt materials under 40CFR152.25
- The use of aerosol products with a directed spray in container of 18 fluid ounces or less when used to protect individuals from an imminent threat from stinging and biting insects including venomous spiders, bees, wasps, and hornets

In the event of an emergency application necessary to protect against imminent threat to human health, a good faith effort will be made to supply written notification to those on the 48-hour prior notification list.

If you would like to receive 48-hour prior notification of pesticide applications that are scheduled to occur in your school, please complete the form below and return it to your child's principal at SCSD.

Mike Kinisky, the school pesticide representative, can be reached by phone at 373-6100 ext. 30523. He can also be contacted for further information on these requirements.



Stillwater Central School District

Request for Pesticide Notification

If you are a person in parental relation, list the school(s) your child(ren) attend(s):

Name	_____
Address	_____
Day Phone	Evening Phone
E-mail Address	_____





Stillwater Schools Reduce Carbon Footprint, Saves \$85,000 Through Energy Management Program

The Stillwater Central School District has reduced its energy consumption and saved just over \$85,000 in the process, thanks to the hard work of Stillwater school staff and the Capital Region BOCES Energy Management Service. Stillwater is one of seven districts, including Cairo-Durham, Duanesburg, Galway, Mechanicville, Middleburgh, and Watervliet, that participates in an energy management consortium through Capital Region BOCES.

The \$85,432.43 savings is the district's cost avoidance, or the difference between dollars spent on energy from March 2010 to April 2011, compared to the amount spent during the same 13-month period the year prior. That represents a 23 percent reduction in utility costs.

Energy education specialists from Capital Region BOCES Energy Management Service have worked closely with Stillwater's staff to create a culture of energy conservation, emphasizing simple measures such as turning off lights and computers and lowering thermostats on nights, weekends, or during school vacations when buildings are not in use.

The BOCES Energy Management Service operates as a regional shared service that brings together small and medium-sized school districts in a comprehensive conservation program designed to reduce energy consumption in school facilities and help districts save money on rising energy costs. The program uses energy-accounting software to track consumption of electricity, natural gas, and fuel oil. By monitoring and analyzing energy use, each district can identify and take steps to address issues, as necessary.

The energy management program also audits and monitors utility bills and meters for errors or overcharges, evaluates usage trends for irregularities, explores rebates and grants, and creates a "climate of conservation" to deliver sustainable savings.

Superintendent of Schools Stanley Maziejka said the program has been successful, in large part, because of school staff. "Our participation in the BOCES Energy Management Service has reduced our energy costs and it's significantly changed our perception of energy use in our schools," Maziejka said.

He added that finding ways to save money is so important during these uncertain financial times.

"Thanks to the energy management program and the diligence of our employees to control energy usage in our buildings, we have an additional opportunity to protect our community's investment in its schools," Maziejka said.

Federal Initiative to Improve Education Means Changes for our Schools

New teacher evaluations and academic standards will be implemented

As a result of the federal Race To The Top (RTTT) education initiative, administrators and teachers in the Stillwater Central Schools are working to incorporate new federal mandates into the district's schools.

New York State won a \$700 million grant from the federal government last year through RTTT, and in return, districts throughout the state must incorporate a new set of national learning standards into the curriculum, establish a new teacher and principal evaluation system, and increase the use of data to improve instruction.

Half of the \$700 million will go to the state Education Department, and half will be distributed to districts throughout the state. Stillwater will receive approximately \$80,000 over the next three years in RTTT funding.

Stillwater is one of 31 school districts who have pooled their funds to form a network team through the Washington-Saratoga-Warren-Hamilton-Essex BOCES. Network teams consist of people with expertise in the areas of data collection, curriculum/instruction and testing, and will help ensure district leaders are meeting all the requirements of RTTT.

"Although we will be receiving money from the state, implementing the mandates of RTTT will cost us additional money," said Superintendent of Schools Stanley Maziejka. "However, we hope that these changes will continue to improve our teaching and learning outcomes and overall education for our students."

National Learning Standards



With the goal of aligning high school graduation requirements with college and career success, all New York schools receiving RTTT funds must move to implement the Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS) by the 2012-13 school year.

In New York, the CCLS will replace the 2005 learning standards that all state assessments and classroom curricula are currently based on. These new standards have been touted by federal and state education officials as internationally benchmarked, rigorous with

assessments that are more performance-based, and consistent with 21st century skills, such as competence in technology, economics and the arts.

The new standards exist for all subjects in grades K-5 and in ELA and math in grades 6-12. There are also literacy standards designed to supplement the curriculum for history/social studies, science, and technical subjects in grades 6-12.

During the 2011-12 school year, the goal of the Stillwater schools will be to familiarize principals and teachers with the new standards, and to develop curriculum maps that incorporate the CCLS. In the meantime, classroom instruction will look the same as it has.

Using the district's online software next year, teachers and administrators will work to update the curriculum maps to reflect the CCLS.

The new learning standards do not dictate how teachers should teach, but rather they outline objectives and expectations for lesson plans, curricula, and end-of-year results.

Evaluating our Leaders and Teachers

Another part of the RTTT mandates is the creation of a new evaluation system for both teachers and administrators beginning in September 2011.

One of the stipulations of the new regulations is that districts must use a state-approved rubric to conduct evaluations. The good news for Stillwater is that the district is already using an evaluation model approved by the state and can therefore continue to do so.

Teachers and administrators will be placed into one of four categories based on a 100-point scoring system: highly effective, effective, developing, or ineffective.

For the first time, teachers' performance will be linked to student performance on local and state exams, which has become controversial in New York State. In addition, there are portions of the teacher evaluation process that are subject to collective-bargaining negotiations.

Administrator evaluations will also be based on a 100-point scale and will consider factors such as assessments, growth toward determined goals, a supervisor's (or other trained evaluator's) assessment of leadership and management, and other benchmarks.

Because information about the evaluation process was released only within the last few months, many details are still forthcoming, and leaders expect the process will continue to evolve once it begins.

Anti-Idling Law

The Anti-Idling Law prohibits the idling of a diesel or non-diesel fueled engine for more than five consecutive minutes, except to maintain temperatures inside the vehicles during the cold or hot weather when it is required by certain regulations and the operation of equipment.

Stillwater Schools Transportation Department monitors compliance with the Anti-Idling Laws. When loading or unloading our buses at school, buses are shut off during those times. The school is also responsible to ensure visitors at our school follow the same rules and regulations regarding the idling of buses.

District Asbestos Management Plan

The Stillwater Central School District Asbestos Management Plan for school year 2011-2012 has been updated and is in compliance with the EPA Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act.

This memo is intended to fulfill annual notification, stating that the Asbestos Management Plan for the school building is available at the Maintenance Department office at the high school building and is available for review weekdays during the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Fire Inspection Completed

Fire inspections for the 2011-2012 school year have been completed and are available for public inspection. Certificates as to the inspection and approved use of school facilities are posted throughout the school buildings. Any party wishing to review or read the completed report can do so by contacting Mike Kinisky or Kevin Waldron at 373-6100.



Federal Healthy Children Initiative Means Changes to What You'll See at School

School lunch prices will increase to reflect changes

Lunch in the Stillwater schools may look a little different next year as a result of new federal legislation that requires, among other things, that schools offer certain healthier foods.

Some of the many changes include increased portion sizes, higher protein content in meals, as well as more whole grains and green leafy vegetables, orange vegetables, and winter squashes. More fresh fruits and vegetables will be offered as well.

"It is always our objective to offer nutritionally sound meals that are compliant with state and federal guidelines," Food Service Director John MacDonald said. "The new legislation is just another step toward continuing to offer our students healthy meals in the most cost effective way possible."

The legislation, called the Healthy Hungry-Free Kids Act, which will go into effect for the 2012-13 school year, also calls for a decrease in the amount of high-starch foods, such as potatoes, peas, and corn that are served in schools.

Although schools are not required to implement many of the regulations for another year, school prices will increase this fall in order to accommodate some of the changes that are taking place. These include ensuring water is readily available at no cost to students during meal times and offering milk that is lower in fat content. The law also requires school districts to begin raising their prices so that they fall within specific guidelines.

At the June 21 Board of Education meeting, the BOE approved price increases for school breakfasts and lunches, beginning this coming September. The new prices are:

- Elementary Breakfast \$1.25
- Elementary Lunch \$1.75
- MS/HS Breakfast \$1.25
- MS/HS Lunch \$2

The district is already compliant with some of the new regulations, such as using whole grain breads or breading wherever possible. However, there are still some products, such as English muffins, where the district purchases white bread because it costs significantly less than the same product in the whole wheat variety. These transitions will continue to take place throughout the school year.

Finally, the new law will include nutritional audits for school districts every three years to ensure they are complying with the laws.

School Meal Programs

Letter to Parents for School Meal Programs

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Stillwater Central School District offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs \$1.25; lunch costs \$1.75-\$2.00. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals. Reduced price is \$0.25 for breakfast and \$0.25 for lunch.

- 1. Do I need to fill out an application for each child?** No. Complete the application to apply for free or reduced price meals. Use one Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application for all students in your household. We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information. Return the completed application to: [name, address, phone number].
- 2. Who can get free meals?** All children in households receiving benefits from food stamps, the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations or TANF, can get free meals regardless of your income. Also, your children can get free meals if your household's gross income is within the free limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines.
- 3. Can foster children get free meals?** Yes, foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court, are eligible for free meals. Any foster child in the household is eligible for free meals regardless of income.
- 4. Can homeless, runaway, and migrant children get free meals?** Yes, children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant qualify for free meals. If you haven't been told your children will get free meals, please call 518-373-6100.
- 5. Who can get reduced price meals?** Your children can get low cost meals if your household income is within the reduced price limits on the Federal Eligibility Income Chart, shown on this application.
- 6. Should I fill out an application if I received a letter this school year saying my children are approved for free meals?** Please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. Call the school at 518-373-6100 if you have questions.
- 7. My child's application was approved last year, do I need to fill out another one?** Yes. Your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year. You must send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year.
- 8. I get WIC. Can my child(ren) get free meals?** Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please fill out a FREE/REDUCED PRICE MEAL application.
- 9. Will the information I give be checked?** Yes and we may also ask you to send written proof.
- 10. If I don't qualify now, may I apply later?** Yes, you may apply at any time during the school year. For example, children with a parent or guardian who becomes unemployed may become eligible for free and reduced price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.
- 11. What if I disagree with the school's decision about my application?** You should talk to school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: Stanley Majieka, Superintendent, Stillwater CSD, 1068 Hudson Ave., Stillwater NY 12170. **May I apply if someone in my household is not a U.S. citizen?** Yes. You or your child(ren) do not have to be U.S. citizens to qualify for free or reduced price meals.
- 12. Who should I include as members of my household?** You must include all people living in your household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends) who share income and expenses. You must include yourself and all children living with you. If you live with other people who are economically independent (for example, people who you do not support, who do not share income with you or your children, and who pay a pro-rated share of expenses), do not include them.
- 13. What if my income is not always the same?** List the amount that you normally receive. For example, if you normally make \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only made \$900, put down that you made \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but do not include it if you only work overtime sometimes. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.
- 15. We are in the military. do we include our housing allowance as income?** If you get an off-base housing allowance, it must be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income.
- 16. My spouse is deployed to a combat zone. is her combat pay counted as income?** No, if the combat pay is received in addition to her basic pay because of her deployment and it wasn't received before she was deployed, combat pay is not counted as income. Contact your school for more information.
- 17. My family needs more help. Are there other programs we might apply for?** To find out how to apply for food stamps or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call 1-800-342-3009.

Continues on next page

Keeping Current with
Stillwater
Central School District

**2011-2012 INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES
FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS OR FREE MILK**

REDUCED PRICE ELIGIBILITY INCOME CHART

Total Family Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	\$20,147	\$1,679	\$840	\$775	\$388
2	\$27,214	\$2,268	\$1,134	\$1,047	\$524
3	\$34,281	\$2,857	\$1,429	\$1,319	\$660
4	\$41,348	\$3,446	\$1,723	\$1,591	\$796
5	\$48,415	\$4,035	\$2,018	\$1,863	\$932
6	\$55,482	\$4,624	\$2,312	\$2,134	\$1,067
7	\$62,549	\$5,213	\$2,607	\$2,406	\$1,203
8	\$69,616	\$5,802	\$2,901	\$2,678	\$1,339
*Each additional household member add:	\$7,067	\$589	\$295	\$272	\$136

How to Apply for Meal Programs

How to Apply: To get free or reduced price meals for your children you may submit a Direct Certification letter received from the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, OR carefully complete one application for your household and return it to the designated office. If you now receive food stamps, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) for any children, or participate in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), the application must include the children’s names, the household food stamp, TANF or FDPIR case number and the signature of an adult household member. All children should be listed on the same application. If you do not list a food stamp, TANF or FDPIR case number for all the children for whom you are applying, the application must include the names of everyone in the household, the amount of income each household member, and how often it is received and where it comes from. It must include the signature of an adult household member and the last four digits of that adult’s social security number, or check the box if the adult does not have a social security number. An application that is not complete cannot be approved. Contact your local Department of Social Services for your food stamp or TANF case number or complete the income portion of the application.

Reporting Changes: The benefits that you are approved for at the time of application are effective for the entire school year. You no longer need to report changes for an increase in income or decrease in household size, or if you no longer receive food stamps.

Income Exclusions: The value of any child care provided or arranged, or any amount received as payment for such child care or reimbursement for costs incurred for such care under the Child Care Development (Block Grant) Fund should not be considered as income for this program.

Nondiscrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly. In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Meal Service to Children With Disabilities: Federal regulations require schools and institutions to serve meals at no extra charge to children with a disability which may restrict their diet. A student with a disability is defined in 7CFR Part 15b.3 of Federal regulations, as one who has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities. Major life activities are defined to include functions such as caring for one’s self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and working. You must request the special meals from the school and provide the school with medical certification from a medical doctor. If you believe your child needs substitutions because of a disability, please get in touch with us for further information, as there is specific information that the medical certification must contain.

Confidentiality: The United States Department of Agriculture has approved the release of students names and eligibility status, without parent/guardian consent, to persons directly connected with the administration or enforcement of federal education programs such as Title I and the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), which are United States Department of Education programs used to determine areas such as the allocation of funds to schools, to evaluate socioeconomic status of the school’s attendance area, and to assess educational progress. Information may also be released to State health or State education programs administered by the State agency or local education agency, provided the State or local education agency administers the program,

Continues on next page

and federal State or local nutrition programs similar to the National School Lunch Program. Additionally, all information contained in the free and reduced price application may be released to persons directly connected with the administration or enforcement of programs authorized under the National School Lunch Act (NSLA) or Child Nutrition Act (CNA); including the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, the Special Milk Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, Summer Food Service Program and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC); the Comptroller General of the United States for audit purposes, and federal, State or local law enforcement officials investigating alleged violation of the programs under the NSLA or CNA.

The disclosure of eligibility information not specifically authorized by the NSLA requires a written consent statement from the parent/guardian. We will let you know when your application is approved or denied.

Sincerely,

Dr. Stanley Maziejka, Superintendent

Date Withdrawn _____

Attachment IIIA
 *Temp Free Expires _____

2011-2012 Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals/Milk

To apply for free and reduced price meals for your children, read the instructions on the back, complete only one form for your household, sign your name and return it to (name/school) _____, Call (phone number) _____, if you need help. Additional names may be listed on a separate paper.

1. List all children in your household who attend school:

Student Name	School	Grade/Teacher	Foster Child	No Income
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Food Stamp or TANF Benefits:

If anyone in your household receives either food stamp, TANF or FOPFR benefits, list their name and CASE # here. Skip to Part 5, and sign the application.

Name: _____ CASE # _____

3. If any child you are applying for is homeless, migrant or a runaway, please call this number: _____

Homeless Migrant Runaway

(Homeless/Migrant/Education Coordinator)

4. Household Gross Income: List all people living in your household, how much and how often they are paid (weekly, every other week, twice per month, monthly). If you have listed a foster child above, you must report their personal income.

Name of household member	Earnings from work before deductions Amount / How Often	Child Support, Alimony Amount / How Often	Pensions, Retirement Payments Amount / How Often	Other Income, Social Security Amount / How Often	No Income <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. Signature: An adult household member must sign this application and provide the last four digits of their Social Security Number (SSN), or mark the "I do not have a SSN box" before it can be approved.

I certify (promise) that all of the information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that the information is being given to the school will get federal funds; the school officials may verify the information and if I purposely give false information, I may be prosecuted under applicable State and Federal laws, and my children may lose meal benefits.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Email Address: _____ Last Four Digits of Social Security Number: _____

I do not have a SSN

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ Home Address _____

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE – FOR SCHOOL USE ONLY	
Annual Income Conversion (Only convert when multiple income frequencies are reported on application) Weekly X 52; Every Two Weeks (bi-weekly) X 26; Twice Per Month X 24; Monthly X 12	
<input type="checkbox"/> Food Stamp/TANF/Foster <input type="checkbox"/> Income Household: Total Household Income/How Often: _____ / _____ Household Size: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Free Meals <input type="checkbox"/> Reduced Price Meals <input type="checkbox"/> Denied/Paid <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary Free 45 Days Expires ____/____/____	
Date Notice Sent: _____	Signature of Reviewing Official _____

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

To apply for free and reduced price meals, submit a Direct Certification letter received from the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance OR complete only one application for your household using the instructions. Sign the application and return the application to the school. If you have a foster child in your household, you may include them on your application. A separate application is no longer needed. Call the school if you need help: 373-6100. Ensure that all information is provided. Failure to do so may result in denial of benefits for your child or unnecessary delay in approving your application.

PART 1 ALL HOUSEHOLDS MUST COMPLETE STUDENT INFORMATION. DO NOT FILL OUT MORE THAN ONE APPLICATION FOR YOUR HOUSEHOLD.

- (1) Print the names of the children, including foster children, for whom you are applying on one application.
- (2) List their grade and school.
- (3) Check the box to indicate a foster child living in your household, and check the box for each child with no income.

PART 2 HOUSEHOLDS GETTING FOOD STAMPS, TANF OR FDPIR SHOULD COMPLETE PART 2 AND SIGN PART 5.

- (1) List a current Food Stamp, TANF or FDPIR (Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations) case number of anyone living in your household. Do not use the 16-digit number on your benefit card. The case number is provided on your benefit letter.
- (2) An adult household member must sign the application in PART 5. SKIP PART 4. Do not list names of household members or income if you list a food stamp case number, TANF or FDPIR number.

PART 3

Before completing an application for a child who may be homeless, a migrant education student, or a runaway, please call your school's homeless liaison or migrant education coordinator at this number:

_____ (Homeless Liaison/Migrant Education Coordinator name and Phone Number)

PARTS 4 & 5 ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLDS MUST COMPLETE THESE PARTS AND ALL OF PART 5.

- (1) Write the names of everyone in your household, whether or not they get income. Include yourself, the children you are applying for, all other children, your spouse, grandparents, and other related and unrelated people in your household. Use another piece of paper if you need more space.
- (2) Write the amount of current income each household member receives, before taxes or anything else is taken out, and indicate where it came from, such as earnings, welfare, pensions and other income. If the current income was more or less than usual, write that person's usual income. Specify how often this income amount is received: weekly, every other week (bi-weekly), 2 x per month, monthly. The value of any child care provided or arranged, or any amount received as payment for such child care or reimbursement for costs incurred for such care under the Child Care and Development Block Grant, TANF and At Risk Child Care Programs should not be considered as income for this program.
- (3) The application must include the last four digits only of the social security number of the adult who signs PART 5 if Part 4 is completed. If the adult does not have a social security number, check the box. If you listed a food stamp, TANF or FDPIR number, a social security number is not needed.

OTHER BENEFITS: Your child may be eligible for benefits such as Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). In order to determine if your child is eligible, program officials need information from your free and reduced price meal application. Your written consent is required before any information may be released. Please refer to the attached parent Disclosure Letter and Consent Statement for information about other benefits.

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

Privacy Act Statement: This explains how we will use the information you give us.

The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires the information on this application. You do not have to give the information, but if you do not, we cannot approve your child for free or reduced price meals. You must include the last four digits of the social security number of the adult household member who signs the application. The last four digits of the social security number are not required when you apply on behalf of a foster child or you list a Food Stamp, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) case number or other FDPIR identifier for your child or when you indicate that the adult household member signing the application does not have a social security number. We will use your information to determine if your child is eligible for free or reduced price meals, and for administration and enforcement of the lunch and breakfast programs. We MAY share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund, or determine benefits for their programs, auditors for program reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules.

DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINTS

Non-discrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly. "In accordance with Federal Law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call toll free (866) 632-9992 (Voice). Individuals who are hearing impaired or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age (“eligible students”) certain rights with respect to the student’s education records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student’s education records within 45 days of the day the school receives a request for access.

Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal (or appropriate school official) a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible students of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

2. The right to request the amendment of the student’s education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate.

Parents or eligible students may ask the school to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate. They should write the school principal (or appropriate school official), clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student’s education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the school has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school district to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20202-4605

Title IX and 504 Compliance

The Stillwater Central School District hereby advises students, parents, employees, and the general public that it offers employment and educational opportunities, including vocational education opportunities, without regard to sex, race, color, national origin, or handicap. Secondary vocational education opportunities available to district residents under age 21 are courses in Business Education, Home Economics and Technology Industrial Arts Programs. Inquiries regarding this nondiscrimination policy may be directed to the following administrator at the Stillwater Central School District, 1068 Hudson Avenue, Stillwater, New York 12170, telephone (518) 373-6100. This official will provide information, including complaint procedures to any citizen, student or employee who feels that his or her rights under Title IX or Section 504 may have been violated by the district or its official: Title IX Coordinator (Sex Discrimination) and Section 504 Coordinator (Handicapped Discrimination): Stanley Maziejka, Superintendent of Schools.

Grievance procedures relative to Title IX and Section 504 discrimination are posted in the Middle/Senior High School Guidance Office and faculty and staff rooms of the high school and elementary school buildings at 1068 Hudson Avenue, Stillwater, New York 12170.

Modifications for the physically handicapped will be made to equipment and workspaces in the Technology, Business, and Home and Career Skills classrooms in order to accommodate physically handicapped students when the need arises.

New York State Property Tax Cap Enacted

New legislation will be implemented for the 2012-13 school year budget

After months of debate, New York State now has a property tax cap. The cap, which was adopted by the Legislature at the end of June, seeks to limit the annual increase in the tax levies of local governments and school districts.

The legislation also included a number of items that are expected to offer mandate relief, or relief from costs that are derived as a result of state laws or regulations, to local governments and schools. In addition, the cap will allow for some exemptions.

“We are still trying to determine exactly what the tax cap will mean for our schools in Stillwater,” said Superintendent of Schools Stanley Maziejka. “While we are still working to understand the law and precisely how it will affect our schools, we do know that we will continue to be open and transparent during our school budget process and encourage our residents to ask questions and participate.”

How is the cap calculated?

Though much-publicized, the “lesser of 2 percent or the rate of inflation” is only one factor contributing to a district’s tax levy limit. In fact, there are eight different steps to the calculation outlined in the legislation. As such, many districts may propose tax levy increases above the 2 percent threshold and still be within the “cap.”

Will voters still have a say on the school budget?

Yes, voters will still decide on school budgets. If a district proposes a budget that would increase the tax levy by more than allowed by its cap, a supermajority (60 percent) of voters will be required for passage. If a district is within the limit of its tax cap, a simple majority is needed to pass the budget.

What happens if the budget is defeated?

As it has been historically, if a district’s budget is defeated twice, a district must go straight to a contingency budget. All the same contingent budget rules will still apply, plus the district will be prohibited from raising the tax levy at all (a 0 percent increase).

How does the tax cap affect tax rate?

The tax cap is calculated considering a school district’s levy, not its rate. The tax levy is the total amount of taxes a district collects. Tax rate is the amount per \$1,000 of assessed value that an individual must pay in taxes. Tax rate increases can vary from town to town within the same school. The tax cap does not prevent the tax rate or an individual tax bill from increasing more than 2 percent.

One of the nuances of the tax cap that particularly concerns Stillwater district leaders relates to the building of Global Foundries. The tax cap accounts for tax base growth, if, for example, a new subdivision is built with 40 new homes.

However, the Global Foundries development will not be considered tax base growth because the company is making payments in lieu of taxes (PILOT).

“This could be challenging for us as a school district,” said Maziejka. “As we understand it now, the impact of a PILOT in calculating our levy cap, could mean that we’d need a supermajority (60 percent of voters) to approve any proposed budget, even if our tax levy decreased.”

The district will continue to keep residents informed as the tax cap is clarified. Please check our district website www.scsd.org for updates.

School Bus Safety Reminders

Please Review the Following School Bus Rules With Your Children

- Follow all directions given by the bus driver.
- Be on time at the bus stop in the morning. The bus will not wait for children to finish dressing or arrive at the pick-up site.
- When waiting for the bus, do so in an orderly manner, without pushing or “horseplay.” Stand well off the road, especially in snowy or icy weather.
- Wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before moving to board the bus.
- Upon arrival at school or at home, wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before getting off. When it is necessary to cross the road after getting off the bus, wait for the driver to signal to you to cross.
- No fighting or arguing. No feet in the aisles, no throwing objects. No hands, arms or heads out the windows. No eating, no smoking. Do not bring large articles on the bus.

In addition, parents please review the following safety rules with your child(ren):

- If your child misses the bus, **DO NOT CHASE THE BUS.** For your child’s safety, please bring the child to school.
- Stay away from the danger zones around the bus - the driver must be able to see you.
- Don’t try to pick up something dropped near the bus.
- Remember that other cars don’t always stop for a stopped school bus - use extreme caution whenever getting on or off the bus.

Parents: Important Safety Alert

Help us protect your children as they travel to and from school. Certain types of clothing can create a hazard as your child gets off the school bus. Especially dangerous are:

- Long, dangling jackets or sweatshirt drawstrings
- Long backpack straps
- Long scarves or other loose clothing.

Such clothing can be caught in the bus handrail, door or other equipment as the student gets off the bus.

Please check your children’s clothing to make sure it is safe.

Discipline

We need the cooperation of all students so that everyone can be transported safely to and from school. Students who do not obey the listed rules will be disciplined as follows:

- 1. Warning to the student:** This may involve notification of the parent, depending on the situation.
- 2. Written reprimand by the driver:** This will be followed up by the Director of Transportation, with a copy sent to parents. A parent conference at school may be required, and, in some cases, may be followed by suspension of bus transportation privileges.

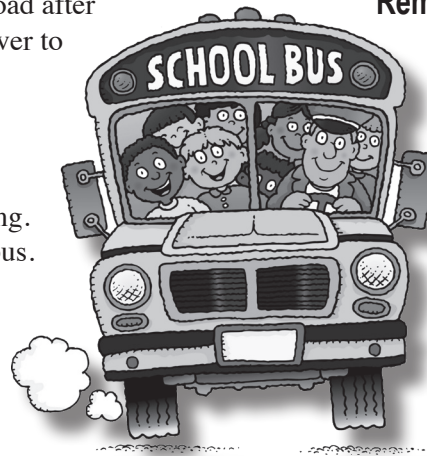
Reminders to Parents

Parents should contact the bus garage as soon as possible if there are any changes in pickup or drop-off sites.

For kindergarten students, please make sure someone is at the bus stop to pick up the child when the bus comes. If no one is there, the driver will normally not let the child get off of the bus. The drivers do become familiar with the person who is there everyday. If someone else will be there, please notify the bus garage.

Post cards have been sent to parents informing them of their child’s new bus number, stop location and pick up and drop off times. If you have not received a post card, please call Director of Transportation Christopher Nelson at 664-5661.

Mr. Nelson asks that parents provide information to the transportation department as soon as possible regarding babysitter changes, new phone numbers and/or addresses.



CAUTION

If you have preschoolers at home, please make sure you are in constant contact with your child when the bus arrives and departs.

DO NOT let your child run to meet his/her brother or sister. Hold on to your child and stay at least 15 feet away from the bus.

REMEMBER: Cross in front of the bus and far enough ahead of the bus to be seen by the driver.

Student Privacy - Notification to Parents

The Board of Education recognizes that student privacy is an important concern of parents and the Board wishes to ensure that student privacy is protected pursuant to the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment, as revised by the No Child Left Behind Act.


Pursuant to the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment, as revised by the No Child Left Behind Act, you have the right to opt your child out of the following activities:

1. The collection, disclosure, and use of personal information gathered from students for the purpose of marketing or selling that information. This does not apply to the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating, or providing educational products or services for, or to students, such as:
 - a. College or other postsecondary education recruitment, or military recruitment;
 - b. Book clubs, magazines and programs providing access to low-cost literary products;
 - c. Curriculum and instructional materials used in schools;
 - d. Tests and assessments used to provide cognitive, evaluative, diagnostic, clinical, aptitude, or achievement information for students or to generate other statistically useful data for the purpose of securing such tests and assessments, and the subsequent analysis and public release of the aggregate data from such tests and assessments;
 - e. Student recognition programs; and
 - f. The sale by students of products or services to raise funds for school-related activities.

2. The administration of any survey revealing information concerning one or more of the following:
 - a. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent;
 - b. Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family;
 - c. Sex behavior or attitudes;
 - d. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
 - e. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
 - f. Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians and ministers;
 - g. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or the student's parent; or
 - h. Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program).

3. The administration of any non-emergency, invasive physical examination, or screening that is required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school not necessary to protect the immediate health or safety of the student or other students and not otherwise permitted or required by state law. This does not include a hearing, vision, or scoliosis screening. It does not apply to any physical examination or screening required or permitted under State law, including those permitted without parental notification.

If you have any questions about the district's student privacy policy and your right to opt your child out of certain activities, please contact your Building Principal.



School Starts Wednesday, September 7

Elementary School	Starts 8:45 a.m. Dismissal 3:05 p.m.
Middle/High School	Starts 7:30 a.m. Dismissal 2:10 p.m.

Stillwater Students Make Strides on State Tests

Administrators stress continued commitment to academic growth

Scores released by the New York State Education Department in August for the English Language Arts (ELA) and math exams that all students in grades 3-8 took this past spring showed some significant gains in student achievement, despite changes in the state testing program over the past several years.

Last year, test scores across the state showed sharp declines after the state “raised the bar” for student achievement and increased the “cut points” that are used to determine where students fall in one of four categories of proficiency. Raising the cut point scores made it harder for students to achieve proficiency on tests that had the same format and measured the same concepts and skills as prior years.

This year, the State Education Department made changes to the format of the tests, lengthening the amount of time each test takes to complete.

For example, the 2011 grades 3–8 English Language Arts Tests were similar to the 2010 tests, in that they were each aligned with the three learning standards within the reading, writing and listening sections. However, the 2011 tests at some levels did not include the editing paragraph and two extended response questions that were historically used to assess writing mechanics. Instead, multiple-choice questions were included to assess the students’ knowledge of grammar, punctuation, and word usage.

“Student performance is not on the decline, but the new cut scores and changes to the tests have presented some challenges for us in terms of the numbers of students who are achieving proficiency,” said Superintendent of Schools Stanley Maziejka.

This year, 63.3 percent of students across the state achieved proficiency in mathematics and 52.8 of students in New York achieved proficiency in ELA.

Under the state’s testing system, scores on these exams are used to classify students into one of four performance levels. Students at Level 1 are not meeting learning standards; those at Level 2 are meeting the basic standard; students at Level 3 are meeting the proficiency standard and those at Level 4 are exceeding that standard.

In Stillwater, students showed significant gains in mathematics, particularly in grades 4 and 8 where the percentage of students scoring at Level 3 or above rose from 58 percent to 82 percent and 71 to 83 percent, respectively.

District leaders are currently in the process of analyzing ELA scores for grades 3, 5 and 7 - where performance seemed to decline - as well as the grade 5 math scores, which declined as well.

“We are not satisfied with the overall results,” said Middle School Principal Patricia Morris. “Our goal is make sure that all of our students continue to improve as learners from year-to-year.”

Elementary Principal John Goralski agreed.

“Our next step is to continue analyzing individual student results to inform instruction,” he said.

Administrators said they have begun to review Stillwater’s testing data and plan to work with teachers to modify instruction as needed so that academic growth is realized for all students.

“As always, it is our goal to see every student succeed to the best of their ability,” Maziejka said. “These exams are one of the many indicators that help us in achieving this goal.”

Percent of Students Scoring at Level 3 or Above

	Math	Math	ELA	ELA
Grade	2009-2010	2010-2011	2009-2010	2010-2011
3	63%	63%	71%	59%
4	58%	82%	67%	68%
5	76%	62%	67%	56%
6	72%	77%	74%	74%
7	76%	78%	61%	57%
8	71%	83%	55%	60%

High School Regents Results for June 2011

REGENTS EXAMINATION	TOTAL # OF STUDENTS TAKING EXAM	TOTAL PASSING	% OF STUDENTS PASSING	STUDENTS ACHIEVING MASTERY	% OF STUDENTS ACHIEVING MASTERY
Sciences					
Chemistry	61	57	93%	21	34%
Earth Science	73	66	90%	33	45%
Living Environment	88	84	95%	40	45%
Physics	15	5	33%	2	13%
Mathematics					
Algebra 2/ Trigonometry	73	47	64%	6	8%
Geometry	81	69	85%	15	19%
Integrated Algebra	100	82	82%	29	29%
English					
Comprehensive English	118	113	96%	51	43%
Foreign Language					
French	15	13	87%	6	40%
Spanish	41	39	95%	16	39%
Social Studies					
Global History and Geography	94	80	85%	32	34%
US History and Government	118	111	94%	73	62%

Opt Out Option - Military Recruitment Info

The Federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, under Section 9528, requires the Stillwater Central School District to provide students' names, addresses, and home phone numbers to military recruiters when requested.

However, the law also states that schools must notify parents and students that they have the right NOT to be included when the school releases the information.

To exercise your legal right to have this information kept private, you need to notify the school office that you do not wish this information to be released. Either use the form below or call the school for a form. Unless you use this OPT OUT FORM, the school district cannot refuse the military recruiters' requests and you and your student may be contacted by them at home.

To OPT OUT of the Military Recruitment Provisions of the NCLB Act, please complete this form and return it to the High School Office by October 1, 2012.

MILITARY REQUEST OPT OUT REQUEST FORM

We are exercising our right under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, and hereby request that the name, address and telephone listing of _____ who is currently a student at the Stillwater Central School District, **NOT** be released to military recruiters without prior written consent. We do however consent to the disclosure of such information to colleges and universities other than military schools.

Name of Student

Print Name of Parent/Guardian

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Signature of Student

Stillwater

Central School District

1068 Hudson Avenue
Stillwater, NY 12170

Board of Education

Timothy Ryan, President
Lawrence D'Alberto, Vice President
Pamela Bisailon
John Butler
Susan Kardash
Valerie Masterson
John Murphy
Jay Peacock
Andrew Roy

ECRWSS Postal Customer

Dr. Stanley W. Maziejka, Superintendent

Nonprofit Org
US Postage
PAID
Stillwater, NY 12170
Permit #2

2011-2012 Stillwater School Calendar

SEPTEMBER 2011						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

OCTOBER 2011						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

NOVEMBER 2011						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

DECEMBER 2011						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JANUARY 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

FEBRUARY 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

MARCH 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

APRIL 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

MAY 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JUNE 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



Superintendent's Conference Day



Classes Not In Session



Regents Testing

TOTAL PUPIL DAYS - 185

VACATION DAYS ARE
TENTATIVE & DEPENDENT
UPON POSSIBLE EMERGENCY
NEEDS

Revised 8/8/2011

September 1 and 6
September 7
October 10
October 21
Nov. 10 - Early Dismissal
November 11
November 23-25
December 23 - January 2
January 3
January 16
January 24-27
February 20-24
April 6-13
May 28
June 13-22
June 22
June 23

Superintendent's Conference Day
Classes Begin
Columbus Day
Superintendent's Conference Day
Emergency Release Day
Veterans' Day
Thanksgiving Recess
Holiday Recess
Classes Resume
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Regents Testing
Mid-Winter Recess
Spring Recess
Memorial Day
Regents Testing
Last Day of School
Graduation