



Get the FACS

New York State Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Education
Vol. 6 Issue 6
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Due to the importance of this issue, we are eliminating columns for easy reading. Please read thoroughly.

President's Message:

The second half of the school year has gotten underway with a feverish start for NYSAFCSE. On February 4-5, our own NYSAFSE leaders met in Albany for professional development, the area coordinators convened to discuss business, and the NYSAFCSE board gathered to discuss business and take action on several issues. We held four work sessions that addressed:

(1) Positioning FACS for Career and Technical Education in NYS and PR Strategies; (2) CTE Month – February 2011; (3) Board of Regents Regional Meeting Responses – NYSAFCSE analysis; and (4) NYSAFCSE legislative plan and action with federal and state representatives.

Since then the NYS Board of Regents met in Albany on February 7-8 for its monthly meeting. Among the many things they are considering is mandate relief, including Home and Career Skills. This agenda item was buried in the agenda item P-12 Education/State Aid. Our SED Associate, Dawn Scagnelli, was able to attend the meeting on Monday when this topic of mandate relief was discussed. (See attachment for her summary of the BOR meeting)

Of course, this issue is of very serious concern to all of us and we do need to take thoughtful, proactive action. We have worked hard in the last week to prepare some tools for you to use in addressing the importance of Career and Technical Education (CTE)-Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS). In this Get the FACS issue you will find a checklist of action steps that we are recommending that you address in the next week or so. Some of the suggested actions will be quicker to do than others; some of them will be just the first step. It is our hope that each of our members will choose three things on the checklist and put them into action.

This is CTE Month and you can start by bringing attention to FACS and CTE. We have prepared a news release for you to use with your local newspapers (see attachment). While you could send the article as is, it would have much more meaning if you inserted a paragraph about your own local FACS program and perhaps include a photograph or two. We have also prepared a fact sheet for you to use (see attachment). More great resources can be found at <http://www.acteonline.org/ctemonth.aspx> including the 2011 winning PSA which you could have broadcast on your school announcements or local cable network.

We will need to do some letter writing. I am preparing a letter to be sent on behalf of NYSAFCSE to Commissioner of Education David Steiner and his Senior Deputy John King, and another letter to each of the members of the Board of Regents. I would ask that each of you consider writing a letter to your local regent. He or she needs to see how eliminating the mandate for Home and Career Skills would adversely affect the educational mission. You might use CTE Month as a launching point for your letter. Be positive in your approach by pointing out

the value of CTE in your students lives; include some specific examples of how your students develop the four process skills – communication, leadership, management, and thinking – through the FACS education they receive in your classroom.

Home and Career Skills(HCS) is the first formal introduction or the gateway to CTE. In their consideration of mandate relief, we need to remind the regents members that it is important to maintain this curriculum in the middle schools as it very much aligns itself with middle level philosophy of exploratory education. It is a key way in which our students discover a career path that they may want to pursue. Other areas of instruction have been taught throughout elementary schools but this is their first exposure to many topic areas such as careers, money management, problem solving, food preparation, and family management. In this time of crisis over the national obesity rates we would do a disservice the children of New York State by eliminating one area where we teach children to make better decisions about food, teach them proper food preparation techniques so they can eat at home instead of eating out, and help them to better manage their food budgets. HCS is also the only subject which addresses the area of financial literacy and budget development.

Begin a local chapter of FCCLA – and call it that. Start small so you are not overwhelmed. If you already have a “club” as part of your FACS department then introduce those students to FCCLA and give them the opportunity of becoming a local chapter member; they could see FCCLA as their national and state connection for the local club you already oversee. This is a very effective way to have all of the stakeholders in education in New York State see first hand the benefits of youth leadership opportunities.

Get involved in the political process in some way. Members of Congress need to hear from their constituents to ensure that funding for CTE programs is protected. It is up to each of us to make the connection between CTE, students, communities and jobs. A severe cut in funding or the elimination of any part of the Perkins Career and Technical Education Act would jeopardize the livelihood of CTE programs across the country. This could be a great civics lesson. Talk with your students about the importance of support and funding for CTE at both the federal and state levels. Get them involved in some way.

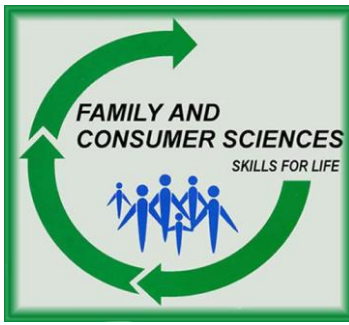
Finally, this ACTION STEPS CHECKLIST is not an exhaustive list. Many of you already do very proactive and creative things, and will come up with even more ideas of things we could do to promote FACS and CTE. This is not an exhaustive list, but it could be exhausting if each of us tried to do everything on the list. I am asking that each of us do something (actually three “somethings,” if possible!) and collectively we will have the best professional impact for Family and Consumer Science across the state. Ultimately we all care about children and families...that is why we became FACS teachers. We need to continue to get the message out and be heard about the value of FACS to our students and their families as well as our communities.

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NYS AFCSE ACTION STEPS CHECKLIST

Please choose three of the following action steps to complete.

- Send a press release to your local newspaper or pennysaver promoting CTE month; include a specific example of what you do in your FACS classroom
- Arrange to have the ACTE 2011 CTE public service announcement air on your school announcement broadcast or local cable television network
- Prepare a well-written letter to your local Regent about the value of CTE and FACS in particular; include specific examples of classroom events or activities that you do. Be positive and forward-thinking. The link to a listing of Board of Regents by region is: <http://www.regents.nysed.gov/members/findrep.html>
- Encourage a FACS teacher who you know is not a member of NYS AFCSE to join the association – there is great strength in numbers
- Start a local chapter of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA); see <http://www.nysfccla.org/> for more information
- Start the process to get an articulation agreement with a college for students to receive college credit for one of your high school courses
- Begin a discussion with your school administration to apply for CTE Approval for your program; see <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/cte/ctepolicy/> for more information
- Complete the College and Career Readiness Survey by Feb. 18; see <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LJTTZ6R>.
- Get one more person that you know to complete the survey
- Talk with one of your classes next week about the value of FACS and CTE. Then take them to the computer lab in your school to complete the survey
- Arm yourself with data and personalized stories. Every data point should have a face to it. When you write your Regents letter or meet with your Members of Congress, or invite them to your school, be sure to have facts ready on how FACS and CTE make a difference in your community, and provide real-life examples.

- Call your Members of Congress' offices and schedule a meeting. Take advantage of recess periods to visit with your Member in the district office. Calling is better than e-mailing; some legislators take a long time to respond to their general e-mail accounts. See <http://www.acteonline.org/> to find out who your representatives are.
- While you are on the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) website please consider joining. This national organization is our umbrella organization for NYSAFCSE. Your membership dollars (\$80 for professionals, \$31 for retirees) help tremendously in supporting the advocacy work done.
- Invite your Members of Congress to your school and program. By working with the offices' scheduler, you will be sure to have your policymakers' undivided attention. Site visits are a great way to demonstrate and explain CTE.
- Build partnerships in the community. Reach out to parents, teachers, administrators, local policymakers and businesses to ensure that there is one large, unified and collective voice to carry forth the CTE message. Start a FACS Advisory Council in your school.

If you have not decided which three "somethings" you are going to do from the above list, take a moment to read the poems below. Our President wants to remind each of us how very important it is to be an active NYSAFCSE member. Thank you!

"Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, And Nobody"

This is a story about four people:
 Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody.
 There was an important job to be done
 and Everybody was asked to do it.
 Everybody was sure Somebody would do it.
 Anybody could have done it,
 but Nobody did it.
 Somebody got angry about that
 because it was Everybody's job.
 Everybody thought Anybody could do it,
 but Nobody realized
 that Everybody wouldn't do it.
 It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody
 when actually, Nobody asked Anybody.

Message from SED Liaison:

Mandate relief is being discussed by the Regents because of budgetary shortfalls. At the February 7 meeting, the Regents briefly discussed a “set of draft mandate relief items intended to increase flexibility and reduce requirements in ways that do not adversely impact the health and safety of students and essential elements of education reform” Elimination of the middle school mandates for Home and Career Skills, Introduction to Technology, and Library and Information Skills were included on a 53 item mandate relief list.

Please see the attached “What happened at the Regents meeting?” and “What actions might the FACS field take?” document for more information.

It seems the Regents may need information to help them make their decisions regarding mandate relief. They need to see how eliminating the mandate for Home and Career Skills and Introduction to Technology would adversely affect the educational mission.

The NYSAFCSE leadership has developed a set of action steps to take in response to this Regents item. The action steps along with suggestions, templates, talking points, and other resources are included in this special edition of the February 14, 2011 NYSAFCSE e-news.

Please consider the NYSAFCSE recommendations when you prepare your response. We want to avoid a copy/paste letter and we want to avoid an avalanche of letters to the Commissioner. NYSAFCSE is promoting the powerful effect of a multi-pronged response which will include your well-written, specific letters to the Regents and many other options working together. Prepare for a meaningful response by reading this e-news and the attached information.

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SKILLS FOR LIFE



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Theresa Phillips reminds us there have been updates made to the Dietary Food Guidelines. Every five years they are reviewed. If you would like to register to receive current nutrition and school lunch information sign up below to receive their electronic newsletter.

www.healthyschoolfood.org

Thank you, Theresa for reminding us of this wonderful resource.

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February is CTE Month and FCCLA Week (2.7-13.2011)



www.ACTEonline.org and www.FCCLAinc.org offer a wide selection of resources to help promote CTE Programs and FCCLA in our schools and communities. Our students are the future for CTE. Let us inform our schools and communities of CTE's important impact on the future.

Each month NYS AFCSE also sends along the Ultimate FCCLA E-news. Please take the time during this month to copy the newsletter and give to your students. This monthly newsletter is written by the NYS FCCLA officers and is geared to share what is happening in NYS with FCCLA. Please encourage your students to read it and log on to www.NYSFCCLA.org for more information about this student leadership organization.

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YSA (Youth Service America) is currently accepting applications for 2 grant programs supporting Global Youth Service Day projects, including:

Sodexo Youth Grants (Deadline: February 25)

\$500 grants for youth-led projects in the United States addressing childhood hunger in their communities on GYSD

Disney Friends for Change Grants (Deadline: March 10)

\$500 grants for youth-led projects around the world to help the environment on GYSD.

Please consider applying, or sending this information to others you know who might be interested. More information is below, or visit www.YSA.org/grants

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Editor's Note: On behalf of all NYS AFCSE members I would like to extend our sincerest thanks to our Executive Board and NYSED liaison for everything they are doing to continually promote our discipline with integrity.

E-news is brought to all current members via email list provided by the Membership chairperson. Please remind new and non members to send in their annual dues. This is a benefit for paid members. Dodi.cechnicki@gmail.com and sware@nscsd.k12.ny.us