

Health & Safety

focus

ADDRESSING THE HEALTH AND SAFETY
NEEDS OF OUR 56 SUBSCRIBING NASSAU
COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Nassau BOCES Appoints New Supervisor

Nassau BOCES is proud to announce the appointment of Beata Walerych-Janus, MPH, as the new head of the Health & Safety Training and Information Service. With more than 20 years of experience in health and safety compliance, training and program development, Ms. Walerych-Janus brings a wealth of expertise and a proven track record of leadership to this critical role. Her predecessor, Mr. Peter LaDuca, retired in December 2024. The Health & Safety Training and Information Service is nationally recognized for its leadership in helping Nassau County school districts navigate the complex landscape of federal, state, and local health and safety regulations. The program is designed to foster safe, healthy environments conducive to both teaching and learning while providing cost-effective solutions tailored to the unique needs of schools. *“We are excited to have Beata Walerych-Janus at the helm of this essential service,”* said Larry Leaven, District Superintendent. *Her expertise, dedication and innovative approach to health and safety make her the perfect choice to lead this service. Under her leadership I am confident we will con-*

tinue to set the standard for excellence in school safety and compliance.” Ms. Walerych-Janus has been a cornerstone of this service for nearly two decades. She joined Nassau BOCES in 2003 as a Safety Training Assistant and advanced to her most recent role as Safety Training-Program Manager in 2015. Her accomplishments include developing and delivering health and safety training programs; serving as a liaison between school districts and regulatory agencies; leading health and safety committees as well as organizing emergency preparedness drills and exercises; and supervising/mentoring program staff. *“I am honored to take on this new role and to continue supporting Nassau County school districts in creating safe and healthy environments,”* said Ms. Walerych-Janus. *The Health & Safety Service plays a vital role in ensuring our schools are prepared to meet challenges and comply with safety regulations. I look forward to building on our successes and driving innovation in the field.”* Ms. Walerych-Janus has a Masters of Public Health from NYU and a Bachelor of Science in Health Care Administration from St. John’s University.



Beata Walerych-Janus
Senior Manager I
Safety Training Specialist
Nassau BOCES Health & Safety
Training and Information Service

Reminder - Injuries & Illnesses Posting Due February 1st

This is a reminder that the Summary of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses (Form SH-900.1) for 2024 is required to be posted in your school district for three months beginning February 1st and remaining through the end of April. The summary information is obtained from incidents documented on the school building Log of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses (Form SH-900). If you are inspected by the New York State Department of Labor this is one of the first documents they will ask for. If you have any questions or need assistance please contact your Nassau BOCES In-District Health & Safety Specialist.



Compliance Issues

Answers to recent compliance questions arising in school districts.

Q. Can you please explain what school districts need to do to comply with the new regulations regarding maximum temperatures in school buildings?

Our current understanding is that Education Law has been amended by adding a new section 409-n which addresses the maximum temperatures allowed in school buildings. School districts will be required to develop a policy for ensuring the health and safety of students, faculty, and other employees, on extreme heat condition days. **Extreme heat condition days are defined as days when the occupiable educational and support services spaces are found to be eighty-two degrees or greater Fahrenheit.** However, support services spaces shall not include kitchen areas used for preparation of food for consumption by students. Room temperature shall be measured at a shaded location three feet above the floor near the center of the room. Schools shall be required to take action to relieve heat-related discomfort when the occupied space temperature reaches eighty-two degrees Fahrenheit. These actions may include but, **are not limited to**, turning off overhead lights, pulling down shades or blinds, turning on fans, opening classroom doors and

windows to increase circulation, turning off unused electronics that produce heat, and providing water breaks. **Such policy shall include a plan to remove students and staff from occupied spaces where practicable when educational and support services spaces reaches eighty-eight degrees Fahrenheit. This act shall take effect September 1, 2025.** There has been a lot of confusion related to this new legislation due to recent revisions. If you have any questions please contact the Health & Safety Training and Information Service at 516-396-2387 or consult with your assigned Nassau BOCES In-District Health & Safety Specialist.

Q. Don't practices such as opening classroom doors and windows conflict with established security and HVAC guidance?

No. These are recommendations for short-term relief to potentially be utilized if practicable. If such practices would result in security concerns or defeat the purpose of the existing HVAC system then they are not appropriate. Emergency escape windows are not to be used for ventilation purposes as they present major security concerns, Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) issues, and potential fall hazards.

Nassau BOCES
Health & Safety Training
and Information Service

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The Nassau BOCES Health & Safety Focus is a review of health and safety issues for subscribing school districts. Questions and comments on this document are welcome. Please contact the Health & Safety Training and Information Service staff at:

516-396-2387 (Main)
516-396-2388, or e-mail
bwalerych@nasboces.org.



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School District Health & Safety Liaisons (Districts with BOCES Health & Safety Specialists in Bold)

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Freeport – Fia Davis
Garden City – Dana DiCapua, Robert Foley
Glen Cove – Victoria Galante, Viktor Tymchynyuk
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Long Beach – Michael DeVito, Don Kramer
Lynbrook – Paul Lynch, Joel Press

Malverne – Christopher Caputo, Daniel Balzan
Manhasset – Gaurav Passi,
Massapequa – Ryan Ruf, Tim O'Donnell
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North Merrick - Cynthia Seniuk, Sam Carder
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