

SPENCER-VAN ETTEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

16 DARTTS CROSSROAD

SPENCER, NY 14883

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage PAID

Spencer, NY 14883

Permit No. 1

Postal Patron Local



Attendance Matters

Your child's attendance matters to us! Research shows that students missing 10% of school, which equals approximately 2 days per month or 18 days per year, negatively affects their academic performance. Although we understand there are many factors that contribute to your child missing school, we continue to emphasize the importance of your child's attendance.

Students who miss valuable class time often academically fall behind their peers and struggle to keep up with the pace of their class. Due to the increase in the academic standards, it is imperative that we all work together to keep each child on track.

We recognize that there are circumstances outside of your control where your child may need to stay home. The district would like to work with you to help develop strategies to improve daily attendance.

Effective strategies include:

- Practice good health habits with your children
- Develop alternate transportation to the school
- Acknowledge your child's great attendance

Promoting positive attendance at an early age will increase opportunities for success in school and in the future. If your child is going to be absent, late or dismissing early, please use the district's SafeArrival program. If you have any questions or need any assistance, please contact your child's school.



SPENCER - VAN ETTEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

March 2016

Transportation News

Hello Community,

It's that time of year when I would like your support in the purchase of four (4) new buses for the Spencer-Van Etten Central School District.

In the past, I have spoken about the aid we have received on buses that we purchased. Since state aid has not changed (remaining at 90%), it only makes sense to continue the practice of acquiring vehicles in this manner.

State aid, in partnership with our plan to replace buses every five to seven years, not only strengthens the schools fiscal position but increases the safety and well being of our students.

How is this possible? When we receive (on average) better than 90 percent aid on the purchase price of buses, along with good trade-in values, the burden to the local taxpayer is low.

Here is an example, using round numbers, of how the process works:

If the district were to purchase

Four (4) Buses @ \$120,000 each

Total Purchase Price= \$480,000

The Total \$480,000 x 90% State Aid

Total State Aid = \$432,000 on the four (4) buses

Taxpayers would be responsible for the remainder of the cost, in this example \$48,000, over 5 years.

This would equal out to the local share of \$9,600 for each year of the 5 years for this bus purchase.

The local share is then reduced by the trade-in values received when the buses are replaced.

As you can see, it is to our advantage to continue the plan we have chosen. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the Transportation Department. Thank you for your support!

John Horvath

Transportation Supervisor



Additional Transportation News

VOTE WILL TAKE PLACE

Tuesday, March 22, 2016

S-VE High School Auditorium Lobby

12:00 PM - 8:00 PM

*Please bring valid ID

Three (3) 72-Passenger School Buses

Unit Price = \$116,685.95

Total Price for (3) = \$350,057.85

One (1) 66-Passenger Bus with wheelchair capability

Unit Price = \$126,575.72

Total Price for (1) = \$126,575.72

Total Estimated Price for 2015-16 Bus Purchase = \$476,633.57

Trade-In Quotes

Bus	Quote
#139 2008 66-Passenger with wheelchair capability	\$5,800.00
#143 2009 72-Passenger	\$18,000.00
#144 2010 72-Passenger	\$24,000.00
#145 2010 72-Passenger	\$24,000.00

TOTAL for all trades listed above = \$71,800.00

PROPOSITION I – TRANSPORTATION PROPOSITION

Shall the Board of Education be authorized to expend a sum not to exceed \$480,000 to purchase three (3) 72-passenger buses and one (1) 66-passenger bus with wheelchair capability, and so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of said School District and collection in annual installments as provided by Section 416 of the Education Law, and, in anticipation of such tax, obligations of said School District shall be issued?

Changes for the 2016 Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Tests

(Advocacy for Students in Action)

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) has recently announced significant changes to the 2016 Grades 3-8 English Language Arts and Mathematics Tests. In an informational memo sent to the school district, NYSED has outlined the following changes:

1. NYSED has changed vendors for test creation from Pearson to Questar.

2. Greater Involvement of Educators in the Test Development Process-

Starting in the fall of 2015 and continuing for the future a greater number of NYS educators have been and will continue to be involved in the review of test questions and final test forms. Educators are also having an increase role in test creation in an effort to better align NYSED tests with what is being taught in NYS classrooms.

3. Decrease in the Number of Test Questions

- NYSED believes that reducing the number of questions would allow students to better demonstrate reading comprehension and thoughtfully respond to questions.
- Students will have the ability to read the passage more closely and apply their knowledge and skills in answering questions.
- A strong expectation to decrease testing fatigue.
- Both Math and ELA will have fewer questions to answer.

4. A Shift to Untimed Testing –

“NYSED is pleased to announce the transition to untimed testing for the Spring 2016 Grades 3-8 ELA and Mathematics Test.” “...this will mean that as long as students are productively working they will be allowed as much time as they need to complete the ELA and Mathematics tests.”

5. Unlinking of the NYS 3-8 Math and ELA Test from the Teacher/Principal Evaluation System

There has been a delay on linking 3-8 Math/ELA Test scores to teacher/principal evaluation scores. The changes outlined above are a result of strong advocacy from parents and educators on the behalf of students. Across New York State both parent and educators advocated for improvements to the 3-8 NYSED Math and ELA Exams. These changes are a significant improvement to the testing system and should better align with what is being taught locally in NYS classrooms. A copy of the memo from NYSED can be found at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/ei/2016/changes2016grades3-8ela-math-tests.pdf>.