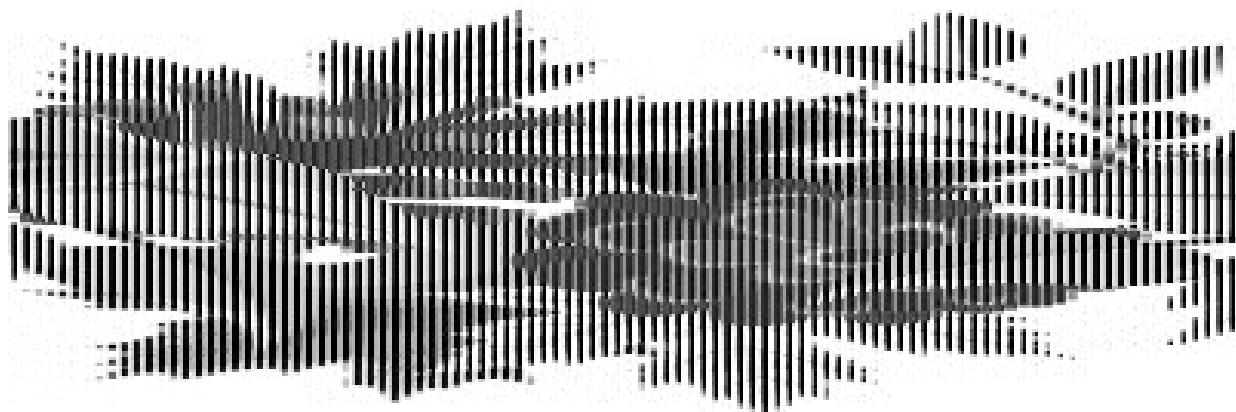


PCTA

PORT CHESTER TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

"Strength Through Unity"

PCTA Newsletter
Fall 2025-November/December
Volume II Issue II



President's Message



Dear PCTA,

I just wanted to take a moment and thank all of those who have showed interest in being part of both the STEPS Committee and Professional Development Committee. All of your interest in both of these important committees shows our devotion to our professional responsibilities, and dedicating your time, means a lot to the entire PCTA.

Second, there have been 54 who have signed up for the Rally in Albany on Sunday March 8th. Thank you for your support, but there's still work to be

done. This is our last push, as seats in the arena are filling up and we may need an additional bus, which has to be decided soon. If you have not signed up to help Fix Tier 6. Please do so now. Remember, this is bigger than us. However, if you are in either Tier 5 or Tier 6, I strongly recommend you join us and participate in an event, that is working to specifically help every member across the state.

Thank you for your continued support of our students, but another shout out to all of those who have and are stepping up to support the PCTA. Your voice in committees and participation is so vital to the continued progress and growth of our association. So thank you again!

Wishing everyone a restful and relaxing Winter Break! See you in 2026!

Chris



PCTA Members are eligible for discounted **legal services** through Mirkin & Gordon!

Save the Date!

Below are the dates a representative from the law firm will be visiting our schools:

1/7- High School room 150
2/4- JFK Lounge
3/4- Edison Lounge
4/8- KSS room 119



The Port Chester Welfare Trust offers **Financial Counseling Program** from Stacey Braun Associates, Inc., at no cost to you!

Stacey Braun & Associates, Inc. will assist you with questions about any financial matters:

- navigating through day to day cash flow issues
- long-term plans for retirement
- determining how the new Government Stimulus plan might benefit you.

Financial planners are available to

5/6- PAS room 208
6/3- Middle School room 109

Read more about the services HERE!

meet via web or phone conference. They can accommodate evening and day time appointments.

Please contact Stacey Braun
Associates, Inc. at
888-949-1925



Today 700,000 NYSUT members are celebrating a victory that will transform classrooms across New York. After more than a decade-long fight, the state is finally returning teacher and principal evaluations to local control.

We thank the governor for signing this law, which rejects a punitive, test-focused model, and embraces the creativity, growth and career development that is vital for healthy schools."

► Melinda Person
NYSUT President

As you may know, The **New STEPS Evaluation**, (Standards-based Educator Evaluation and Professional Support) which will eventually replace the current APPR process. To ensure this transition is thoughtful, collaborative, and truly reflective of our school community, we are forming a **STEPS Planning Committee**. This specific committee will be twofold.

One part of the larger committee (K-12) will only entail your involvement with PCTA leadership and fellow colleagues (this subcommittee may include many members). That committee will then be consolidated to have only a few representatives, who will then meet with the district on a monthly basis and report back to the larger committee regularly to help guide the development of the new evaluation system. We are seeking members from all roles and positions—teachers, support staff, specialists, and more—as well as representation from every level, Kindergarten through High School. Your diverse perspectives are essential to creating a system that works for everyone.

The Larger K-12 subcommittee will work together to:

- Review and understand the components of the STEPS model
- Provide input on how the system can best support professional growth
- Discuss ideas what should be shared with District leaders and Administration to shape the rollout of the new evaluation process
- Communicate updates and gather feedback from colleagues throughout the transition

If you are interested in serving on this committee please email your PCTA Level Vice President(see below), PCTA VP APPR Rosa Pena and Chris Kazim ASAP!

Elementary VP- Clara Barreto- cbarreto@portchesterschools.org
PCMS VP- Jessie Goldstein- jgoldstein@portchesterschools.org
PCHS VP- Renee Aubry- raubry@portchesterschools.org
PCTA VP APPR- Rose Pena rpena@portchesterschools.org

Your voice and perspective are incredibly valuable as we move forward together. Thank you for your continued dedication to our students and to each other.

APPR

Read this important **APPR/Observation presentation!**

Observation Timeline for Probationary Teachers:

1st, 2nd, and 3rd year of Probation:

- 1st Observation- by Nov 30th
- 2nd & 3rd Observation- by Feb 28th
- 4th Observation- by April 30th

Final year of probation:

- 1st by Oct 31st
- 2nd & 3rd by Dec 15th
- 4th by Feb 21st

Rosa Pena the VP of APPR for the PCTA will be hosting a virtual **Q&A session about the presentation on Tuesday October 7th from 3:10-3:45pm**. A Google Calendar invite on the morning of the meeting.



Observation Timeline for Tenured Teachers:

Two Observations

- One Announced 30-45 minutes max
- One Unannounced (in a one-month window with notification ahead; 15-45 mins max)

Last observation no later than May 1

Domain 4 Due May 8th

Evaluation Due June 15

Any questions regarding APPR contact Rosa at PCTAVPAPPRPena@gmail.com

1 Hour PD Dates

Save the follow dates for 1 hour district wide professional development sessions held afterschool. Be on the look out for more specific details as the dates approach.

Upcoming:
January 27th, 2026
April 14th, 2026



Community Event

The PCTA executive board, building representatives and members distributed 1,000 books at Port Chester's Halloween in the Park event! Children and their care givers were extremely excited to receive brand new, high quality books. Seeing their teacher was a nice bonus too! Thank you to the First Book Organization for supplying us with the books.







Health & Safety



As we enter winter, classroom temperatures should not go lower than 68 degrees. If classrooms dip below NYS regulations, administration and custodial staff need to be alerted immediately. Building H&S reps have thermometers to register temperatures of any room in question.

Please be mindful of any holiday decorations in classrooms; they should be unplugged at the end of the day

Any food should be kept in containers and brought home, especially with the long winter break approaching.

Please take care of any new appliances purchased by the PCTA. Wiping out the microwave and throw out any expired food in the refrigerator. Take time over the next two weeks to clean out refrigerators. The sinks and water fountain drains are not garbage disposals; please refrain from emptying anything other than clear liquids down the drains.

Plug-in air fresheners can trigger headaches, asthma and often are considered fire hazards. Please refrain from using them in your classrooms.

Happy 2026 to all PCTA members from the Heath & Safety Team,
Tom Moravick PCHS
Rebecca Peters PCMS
Bermary Maria KSS
Yvette Vera-Pignato JFK
Maureen Gallo PAS
Mirjana Lezaja TAE
Melissa Coletti Chairperson PCTA H&S

Please use the online form that H&S reps shared earlier in the year to document on-going issues. We are asking for members to take a more proactive role in the health and safety issues that we encounter during the work day.

Edison

[**2025-2026 Health & Safety PCTA Member Reporting Form: Edison**](#)

JFK

[**2025-2026 Health & Safety PCTA Member Reporting Form: JFK**](#)

King Street

[**2025-2026 Health & Safety PCTA Member Reporting Form: King Street**](#)

Park Avenue

[**2025-2026 Health & Safety PCTA Member Reporting Form: Park Avenue**](#)

PCHS

[**2025-2026 Health & Safety PCTA Member Reporting Form: PCHS**](#)

PCMS

[**2025-2026 Health & Safety PCTA Member Reporting Form: PCMS**](#)

Fix Tier 6

Wear your fix Tier 6 T-Shirt every 6th of the month to show solidarity for this movement!

Tier inequities impacts us all!



SAVE THE DATE
March 8th, 2026
Fix Tier 6 Rally in Albany NY

Over the past year, NYSUT members have turned out in big numbers to rally in all corners of the state to Fix Tier 6. Because of our ongoing advocacy, we've secured historic wins on our way to pension fairness: We reduced vesting from 10 to 5 years, protecting pensions for 85,000 Tier 6 members.

We also lowered the Final Average Salary calculation from 5 to 3 years, the most significant pension reform in 20 years!

Now it's time for the biggest action yet.

On March 8, 2026, we will fill the MVP Arena in Albany with over 10,000 NYSUT members and other union advocates for retirement tier equity. **Registration for this event is still open .**

To help our members from across the state make the trip to Albany, NYSUT will coordinate bus transportation from many regions. We will be in touch with more information on the rally, busing and other logistical details in the coming months.

For now, please share with your members and encourage them to register.

Learn More & Register

<https://fixtier6.org/events/statewide-rally-to-fix-tier-6>

Every seat filled equals more pressure on lawmakers. And every voice raised brings us closer to victory.

And remember, we won't quit until we Fix Tier 6!



Tenure Luncheon at Colony Grill

The PCTA celebrated 45 members who received Tenure this fall! During lunch hour on Superintendent's Conference Day we gathered together at Colony Grill for a quick bite, comradery and congratulations.







PCTA Swag

[SHOP HERE](#) to purchase some swag & represent the PCTA



Did you know we are eligible for benefits such as legal/financial counseling, life insurance, shopping & travel discounts and much more through NYSUT?

Explore the [NYSUT website](#) to learn more!



The Teacher Center of Central Westchester

Do you need addition in-service credits?

The Teacher Center of Central Westchester offers FREE, virtual classes for our members. [Visit their website](#) to register easily on frontline for highly engaging classes. You may even take a class taught by some of our very own Port Chester Teachers!

New PCTA Website is coming soon!





PORT CHESTER TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
"Strength Through Unity"

AND



PRESENT

SHARE THE LOVE FOOD DRIVE

JANUARY 12-FEBRARY 13

Canned tuna	Peanut butter
Canned salmon	Oatmeal or hot cereal
Canned chicken	Granola bars / cereal bars
Canned beans	Cooking oil
Dry beans or lentils	Shelf-stable broth or stock
Canned soups and stews	Pancake mix
Canned vegetables	Syrup
Canned fruit	Holiday sides (stuffing, instant potatoes, gravy packets)
Pasta	Canned yams / cranberry sauce / pie filling
Pasta sauce	Nuts, trail mix, or dried fruit
RICE	Spices, salt, pepper
Boxed Mac & Cheese	
Shelf-stable milk (boxed or powdered)	
Oatmeal or hot cereal	

Drop off donations to your
Faculty Room!

UPCOMING EVENTS



- January 12-Feburary 13th--Share the Love Food Drive
- January 27th--1 Hour District PD
- ⑥**March 8th-- Fix Tier 6 Rally
- March 11th--Superintendent's Conference Day

PCTA | 1 Tamarack Rd. 1 Tamarack Rd. | Port Chester, NY 10573 US

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