

Notes from County President's Meeting, Joe Sugar Day in Albany

1. **Standards-** The week of March 3 there was a memo put out by NYSSMA looking for interested music teachers to write the new standards. Survey will be coming out soon to help develop strategies for implementation. Contact Zone Rep if interested.
2. **4 + 1 Pathway-** alternative path to graduation, which includes 4 regents plus Art with a possible portfolio assessment. 5 years to phase in: Phase I would include using IB and AP exams as intermediates while the new pathway assessment is developed.
3. **NYSSMA Winter Conference-** session proposals due March 15th. Performing ensembles can apply until May 1st. Theme of the conference is "Advocacy" with sessions on Saturday for parents to attend.
4. **NYSSMA Jazz-** Lead trumpet player auditions start this year, which is separate audition in addition to the regular audition.
5. **NYSSMA Manual-** 1st year of Manual 31. Make sure you have a current copy.
6. **Summer Conference-** August 14-16 at the Albany Hilton, Presidents Meeting is August 15th.
7. **NYSSMA Website-** please utilize awards, press release templates, and advocacy materials. Please sign-up for your NYSSMA Membership if you are not a member. Would be great to advocate with greater numbers as far as membership. PR person needs to email PR@nyssma.org to insure information is correct. Please feel free to associate MCMEA page with NYSSMA.org.
8. **Budget Season-** Budget votes are rapidly approaching. Advocacy is always a necessary evil when it comes to music. Utilize the materials at NYSSMA.org.