

Senate Finance Committee Chair Krueger, Assembly Ways and Means Chair Weinstein, Senate Education Chair Mayer, Assembly Education Chair Benedetto, Assembly Libraries and Education Technology Chair Woerner, and distinguished members of the Legislature:

Thank you for inviting me today. My name Dr. Amy DelCorvo, Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director, New York State Association for Computers and Technologies in Education (NYSCATE).

Initially, by way of background, NYSCATE is a non-profit, professional organization representing more than 30,000 technology using educators and administrators in New York State. NYSCATE is the NY affiliate of the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE), Consortium for School Networking (COSN) and State Education Technology Directors Association (SETDA), in addition, NYSCATE collaborates with the New York State Education Department (NYSED), state and national educational organizations, to further the appropriate use of technology in our schools. NYSCATE serves on various state committees to define statewide policy regarding the use of technologies in education.

NYSCATE has drawn strength and support from our talented and diverse membership since 1965. With a current membership of over 30,000 members, all regions of the state are represented in our community teachers, administrators, school board members, parents, and students looking to further a career in education.

**Our overarching mission is to lead the transformation of teaching and learning through technology.**

Several years ago, utilizing one-time federal CARES Act I funding, NYSCATE partnered with NYSED to offer online professional development courses. Course were developed and facilitated by New York educators, aligned to New York State standards and expectation of quality, that reflected an understanding of New York's regional variations and need.

More specifically, NYSCATE, in partnership with NYSED, developed forty online professional development courses for all New York State educators and administrators with the limited funding. Courses were developed by expert in-service teachers located throughout New York State. These courses were made available to all public, private, and pre-service educators at no cost through an online learning management system. Each of the courses, ranging from 3-18 credit hours, were eligible for Continuing Teacher and Leader Education (CTLE) credit, which is required by every New York State teacher. All courses were written in multiple languages, adhering to the New York State Professional Development Standards and Guiding Principles of CTLE.

The success of the project was evident, engaging over 30,000 educators, the majority during the last month of project funding alone, which ended in October 2022. Since program conclusion, there have been thousands of educator requests to continue to access the courses as well as expansion of the current course catalogue to include updated NYSED priorities and initiatives such as the Computer Science and Digital Fluency Standards, not just as an overview but by grade bands with integration strategies.

One only has to hear several testimonials from teachers to fully understand the impact of the project:

“I really enjoyed this course it made me think and reflect what I was doing before and made me analyze what might be done more in my classroom to connect the students to the real world to prepare them for the future!”

“This course is amazing! You go at your own pace. The instructor is very clear and it is easy to follow! She presented so many tools that can help any educator in any level!!!”

“I do not have words to say thanks for this course. I found everything that all paraprofessionals should know about Google in only one course. I am very excited to know how to do the slides like teachers do and use in the classroom and online lessons. This course has been more than amazing!!”

“This was an AMAZING course. I'm overwhelmed with the amount of skills, tricks and tools I never knew I had access to. I can't wait to apply them next school year!”

At a time when teacher shortage issues are becoming more and more prevalent across the country (New York State officials estimate that New York will need 180,000 new teachers in the next decade), shouldn't we be meeting teachers where they are? The short answer is a resounding YES!

NYSCATE firmly believes that we need to build on this successful program and I am here today to raise awareness of the program and to respectfully request that all work together to ensure its continuation well into the future. To that end, NYSCATE is proposing that the Legislature dedicate \$2 million in the one-house budget proposals and, ultimately, the enacted budget for NYSCATE/NYSED program continuation. Let's empower all teachers the professional development they need, when they need it – all developed by NYS educators for NYS educators.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony and allowing me to provide information on NYSCATE and the recent success of our partnership with NYSED regarding professional development offerings.