NEW YORK STATE SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS
RESOLUTION FOR BOARD ACTION
JUNE 2003

RESOLUTION #04-06/2003

SUBJECT: Mandated Technology Education for New York State Middle Schools

SUBMITTED BY: Broome Chapter NYSSPE

WHEREAS, On November 3, 1990, the Board of Directors of NYSSPE adopted a
Resolution to “express directly to the New York State Commissioner of
Education, NYSSPE’s support of the Technology Education Program and the
need to provide students with technological literacy; and encouraged individual
NYSSPE members to contact their local schools to aid and encourage
implementation of the Principles of Engineering Programs”; and

WHEREAS, with New York State nurture, the Principles of Engineering Program has
blossomed into a 4-year high school pre-engineering curriculum called Project
Lead the Way and “grown from 11 high schools, mostly in upstate NY in 1997,
to 500 high schools in 33 states by 2003” (source – Engineering Times, April
2003); and

WHEREAS, all students need to be exposed to mandatory Technology Education in Middle
School in order to gain some familiarity with how to use, manage, and
understand technology in the society in which they will live and work; and to
encourage underrepresented minority students to participate in pre-engineering
and other technology education courses in high school to jump start their
enrollment in College programs leading to exciting, high-paying technology
careers; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Education Department is currently “taking purposeful
actions to strengthen middle grades education and to improve student
performance on the State’s intermediate assessments, ...including, “what is the
role of the exploratory courses (art, music, technology education, home and
career skills, physical education, etc.) in the middle grades program”, with an
aim to making a decision by February 2004; and

WHEREAS, neighboring states Massachusetts (2000, Board of Education) and New Jersey
(2003, State Legislature), with whom we compete directly for high technology
industry and jobs, have taken national leadership as the first states to adopt
engineering and technology studies as part of the K-12 core curriculum; and

(Continued)
WHEREAS, New York State cannot afford to relinquish its position of leadership with Technology Education instruction of its youth in this extremely competitive national and global economic environment; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That The New York State Society of Professional Engineers express directly to the New York State Commissioner of Education, Richard P. Mills, and the Board of Regents members, its support for continuing Technology Education including Grade 8 assessment as part of the mandated curriculum for New York State Middle Schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That individual NYSSPE Chapters and members be encouraged to send letters of support for mandatory New York State Middle School Technology Education and Grade 8 assessment to the Commissioner and Board of Regents members in their immediate area.