



ONONDAGA COUNTY CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT
 DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL John H. Mulroy Civic Center 421 Montgomery St 13th Fl Syracuse NY 13202
 (315) 435-3537 Web Site www.ongov.net

Published
09/10/2021

**Application
Deadline
10/12/2021**

SCHOOL SECRETARY I	
Open Competitive Exam #00-213	use application form #p-200 (Open to the Public)
Departmental Promotional Exam #00-214	use application form #p-201

Office Hrs M-F
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Exam Date
12/04/2021**

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE FILED WITH THE ONONDAGA COUNTY PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

\$15.00 Non-Refundable Application Fee You are, therefore, urged to carefully compare your qualifications with the requirements for admission and file only for those examinations for which you are clearly qualified. Payable by check or money order to: "Chief Fiscal Officer," or by VISA, MC or Discover. Cash will be accepted only if paying in person.

SALARY AND VACANCIES: Changing conditions may make it necessary to certify vacancies at higher or lower salaries than those announced.

This title currently exists in the following school districts; (Salary varies)
 Baldwinsville, East Syracuse-Minoa, Jamesville-Dewitt, Lafayette, Liverpool, Lyncourt, Marcellus, North Syracuse, Westhill

The resulting open competitive eligible list will be used to fill vacancies in any jurisdiction where the title exists. The resulting promotional eligible list will be used to fill vacancies in the School Districts listed above.

Note to Promotion Examination Candidates: Successful candidates in School Districts will be certified to fill vacancies only in the agency in which they are employed on the date of examination. To qualify as a promotion candidate, the jurisdiction in which you are employed must be listed on this announcement.

DUTIES: This is responsible secretarial work involving the efficient operation of a school main office or district department. Employees in this class independently perform a variety of complex clerical operations and minor bookkeeping functions. The classification of School Secretary is distinguished from other clerical job titles by the responsibility for relieving the school principal or administrator of administrative detail and diversity of skills required. Does related work as required.

RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT: OPEN COMPETITIVE examination candidates must have resided in the United States of America or one of its territories for not less than one (1) month immediately preceding the date of exam.

Preference in appointment may be given to local residents. Appointments to positions in some municipalities are subject to residence requirements pursuant to local laws.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: On the **date of examination**, candidates **must meet** the following **requirements:**

PROMOTIONAL QUALIFICATIONS:

Candidates must be permanently employed in the competitive class or 55-a designated position and must be serving and have served continuously on a permanent basis for one (1) year immediately preceding the examination date in the title of *Typist II **or** must be serving and have served continuously on a permanent basis for two (2) years immediately preceding the examination date in the title of *Typist I or *Stenographer I; **and must** be currently employed by one of the following school districts: Baldwinsville, East Syracuse-Minoa, Jamesville-Dewitt, Lafayette, Liverpool, Lyncourt, Marcellus, North Syracuse or Westhill.

*A combination of time served in both titles sufficient to meet the maximum period of required service is also qualifying.

OPEN COMPETITIVE QUALIFICATIONS:

A) Two (2) years of office experience, or its part-time equivalent, which **must** have included typing and clerical work as a primary function of the job; **or**,

B) An Associate's Degree in Business or Administrative Assistant, or a closely related field, which **must** have included coursework in typing, keyboarding and/or word processing. ****You must provide transcripts.**

Note: Post-secondary education from a regionally accredited college, university or business school or one accredited by the New York State Board of Regents to grant degrees with a concentration in Secretarial Science or Administrative Assistant may be substituted for the above experience on a year for year basis.

****COLLEGE TRANSCRIPTS AS QUALIFYING PROOF:** If you are trying to qualify for this examination on the basis of your college training, you will need to submit either a verifiable, student copy or official transcript of college-level studies you have completed to verify course work required for this examination. In lieu of a transcript, you will need to list all courses successfully completed in the curricula listed above, the names of the courses, number of hours earned, grades awarded, approximate dates of completion, and name(s) of college(s) where you took the course.

SPECIAL NECESSARY REQUIREMENT: A candidate's typing proficiency will be evaluated during the employee's probation period.

Volunteer Experience: Volunteer experience will be allowed to substitute for paid work experience as long as the volunteer experience is equivalent in nature to the paid work experience required for the position.

SUBJECT OF EXAMINATION: There will be a written test, which you must pass in order to be considered for appointment. The written test will be designed to test for knowledge, skills and/or abilities in the following areas:

1. **Spelling:** These questions test for the ability to spell words that are used in written business communications.
2. **Grammar, Usage, Punctuation:** The grammar and usage questions test for the ability to apply the basic rules of grammar and usage. The punctuation questions test for a knowledge of the correct placement of punctuation marks in sentences.
3. **Keyboarding Practices:** These questions test for a knowledge of preferred practices in such areas as letter format, capitalization, hyphenation, plurals, possessives, work division, work and figure style for numbers, and common proofreading marks. In addition, you will be given a passage to proofread and asked questions about how to correct the errors in the passage.
4. **Office Record Keeping:** These questions evaluate your ability to perform common office record keeping tasks. The test consists of two or more "sets" of questions, each set concerning a different problem. Typical record keeping problems might involve the organization or collation of data from several sources; scheduling; maintaining a record system using running balances; or completion of a table summarizing data using totals, subtotals, averages and percent's.
5. **Office Practices:** These questions test for knowledge of generally agreed-upon practices governing the handling of situations which stenographers, typists, and secretaries encounter in their work, as well as knowledge of efficient and effective methods used to accomplish office tasks. The questions will cover such topics as planning work flow; setting priorities; dealing effectively with staff, visitors and callers; filing and retrieving information; safeguarding confidentiality; using office equipment; and making procedural decisions and recommendations which contribute to a well-managed office.

TEST GUIDE: The Test Guide for the *Senior Stenographer/Typist Series* is available on the New York State Department of Civil Service web site at: <http://www.cs.ny.gov/testing/testguides.cfm>. Copies are also available at the following address or to request a copy by mail send a written request to: Onondaga County Personnel Dept., 421 Montgomery St. 13th fl, Syracuse NY 13202.

CALCULATORS: Unless otherwise notified, candidates are **PERMITTED** to use quiet, hand-held, solar or battery powered calculators. Devices with typewriter keyboards, 'Spell Checkers,' 'Personal Digital Assistants,' 'Address Books,' 'Language Translators,' 'Dictionaries,' or any similar devices are prohibited. You may **not** bring books or other reference materials. You may **not** bring cellular phones, beepers, pagers, or headphones.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS: Applications and credit card payment forms may be obtained in person from the Onondaga County Department of Personnel, by mail (include a self-addressed, stamped envelope) or downloaded at www.ongov.net/employment/document_center

APPLICATION FEE: Although a separate application is required for each examination number, candidates applying for more than one examination may pay all fees with a single check/money order or credit card form. You may pay by check, money order or by VISA, MasterCard, or Discover, payable to "Chief Fiscal Officer". Cash will be accepted only if paying in person. Payment must accompany your application(s) (indicate examination number(s) on your check or money order). We do not accept applications by fax.

APPLICATION FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE. You are, therefore, urged to carefully compare your qualifications with the requirements for admission and file only for those examinations for which you are clearly qualified. If proofs (i.e. copy of license, certification, or transcript) are required, be sure that they accompany your application. If you want "Proof That You Submitted Your Application and/or Examination Fee", ask for a receipt or, if mailing your application, enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope and request a receipt.

NOTE: *A bounced check fee will be charged to you for any checks returned. Unless such fees are paid in full, you will not be permitted to participate in any examination(s) or be considered for appointment from resultant eligible lists. In addition, any subsequent application fees will not be refunded unless all such fees are paid in full.*

FEE WAIVER: A waiver of application fee will be allowed if you are unemployed and primarily responsible for support of a household. In addition, a waiver of application fee will be allowed if you are determined eligible for Medicaid, or receiving Supplemental Security Income payments (SSI); or Public Assistance (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families/Family Assistance of Safety Net Assistance); or are receiving Foster Care or are certified Workforce Investment Act eligible through a State or local service agency. A waiver of application fee will also be allowed if you are an Onondaga County resident and have honorably served or are now honorably serving in the Armed Forces, National Guard or Reserves (attach DD-214, NGB-22, or current DD2-Military ID card or a Statement of Honorable Service from Unit to completed "Application Fee Waiver Request and Certification" form). All claims for application **fee waiver** are **subject to verification**. If you can verify eligibility for application fee waiver, **complete** an "Application Fee Waiver Request and Certification" **form** and **submit it with your application**. Application Fee Waiver Request and Certification forms are available in person from the Onondaga County Department of Personnel or downloaded at www.ongov.net/employment/document_center.

EVALUATION OF FOREIGN POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION:

If your degree and/or college credit was awarded by an educational institution outside of the United States or its territories, you must provide independent verification of equivalency. A list of acceptable companies providing this service may be obtained in person from the Onondaga County Department of Personnel or downloaded at www.ongov.net/employment/document_center. You will be responsible for the required evaluation fee.

ADDITIONAL CREDIT TO CHILDREN OF FIREFIGHTERS AND POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY:

If you are qualified to participate in this examination and are a child of a firefighter or police officer killed in the line of duty, please inform this office of this matter when you submit your application for examination.

VETERAN CREDITS: War veterans applying for additional credit must submit a copy of their DD-214 Member-4 (discharge papers) with their application for examination or by one month following the date of examination. Veteran's Credit Instructions and Application Forms are available in person from the Onondaga County Department of Personnel or downloaded at www.ongov.net/employment/document_center.

APPLICATION DEADLINE POLICY: All **applications** along **with** application **fees** or proofs of **waiver** **must be submitted** to the Onondaga County Department of Personnel **before** the close of business at **4:30 p.m. on the application deadline date** as listed on the Examination announcement. Applications received via U.S. Mail will be accepted only if postmarked on or before the Application Deadline. Applications that are received through inter-office mail after the Application Deadline or that are submitted to any other department, office or agency and are not received in the Department of Personnel by the Application Deadline will not be accepted.

MILITARY APPLICANTS: In accordance with Section 243 of Military Law, military personnel serving on active duty in the armed forces of the United States during the filing period may be permitted to file an application for the examination after the application deadline date, but prior to the scheduled date of the examination. Contact the Onondaga County Personnel Department at (315)435-3537 for further information.

EXAM INFORMATION:

EXAM NOTICE: Candidates found eligible will be notified when and where to appear for examination. If you have not received notice of the examination location three (3) days prior to the examination, contact the Examination Unit at 435-3537. If an application is disapproved, due notice will be sent. Reasons for disapproval may be discussed with the reviewer.

FOR EMERGENCY CANCELLATION OF EXAMINATIONS TUNE TO: WIXT NEWS CHANNEL 9, WTVH NEWS CHANNEL 5, NEWS 10 NOW or **any Clear Channel Radio Station.**

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS: If you desire accommodation at the exam site due to disability, please **indicate** the disability and desired conditions necessary to accommodate your disability **on the application or on a separate paper** attached firmly to your application. Candidates requesting an accommodation are required to furnish documentation of the disabling condition prior to the examination date. The accommodation required must be stated on the application for examination and the documentation must be forwarded at least 2 weeks prior to the exam date.

RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATION: Applicants whose religious beliefs prevent them from taking examinations on the scheduled date should indicate the need for special arrangements on their application.

EXAM RATING: When the written examination is prepared and rated by the New York State Department of Civil Service in accordance with Section 23-2 of the Civil Service Law, the provision of the New York State Civil Service Rules and Regulations will apply.

ELIGIBLE LIST: Eligible lists are established, on average, within three months after the examination date. In accordance with the New York State Civil Service Law, an eligible list must remain in existence for one year from the date of its establishment. When the eligible list is established you will be able to view the current eligible list and your status on-line by going to our website at **Civil Service Exam Test Results** www.ongov.net/employment/ranking.

CANDIDATE FITNESS: Inquires may be made as to character and ability of all candidates. All statements made by candidates are subject to verification. Falsification of any part of the "Application for Employment" may result in disqualification and possible legal action.

MULTIPLE EXAMINATIONS SCHEDULED FOR THE SAME DAY: If you have applied to take a written test announced by either one or several local jurisdictions (county, town, city) scheduled to be held on the same test date as this written test, you must notify each of the local jurisdictions no later than two weeks before the test date, so they can make arrangements for taking all tests at one test site. All examinations for positions in State government will be held at a State examination center.

Onondaga County Cross Filer Notification Forms are available in our office or online at www.ongov.net/Employment/document_center. Send completed form to Onondaga County Dept. of Personnel, 421 Montgomery St 13th Fl, Syracuse NY 13202 OR FAX 315-435-8272 OR call 315-435-3537.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: It is the responsibility of the candidate to notify the Onondaga County Personnel Department in writing of any change in address. Address change forms are available in the Personnel Department during normal office hours or online at www.ongov.net/employment/document_center

MILITARY MAKE-UP EXAMINATION: Any member of the armed forces of the United States who has filed an application to compete in a scheduled competitive examination but is deprived of the opportunity to compete in the examination due to ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY can be provided with a special military make-up examination upon written request to the Onondaga County Personnel Department. The applicant must submit a copy of military orders, DD-214, or other official military document that substantiates active military service at the time of the examination. Request must be no later than sixty (60) days after release from active duty.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT FOR APPOINTMENT IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND BOCES: Per Chapter 180 of the Laws of 2000, and by Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, to be employed in a position designated by a school district or BOCES as involving contact with students, a clearance for employment from the State Education Department is required.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION ACT OF 1985, candidates for appointment to Onondaga County government positions which involve regular and substantial contact with children will be required to complete a State Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment clearance form. Failure to complete this form may result in decertification of your name from this eligible list for appointments in Onondaga County.

PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG TESTING / BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION: **May be required** for appointment or promotion.

SENIORITY RATING: Seniority points will be added on promotional exam scores to all passing candidates. Seniority rating is based on the length of continuous classified service in the jurisdiction in which you are employed as follows:

Less than 1 year = 0 points

1 year, up to 6 years = 1 point

Over 6 years, up to 11 years = 2 points

Over 11 years, up to 16 years = 3 points

Over 16 years, up to 21 years = 4 points

Over 21 years = 5 points

Seniority points will be calculated at the time of examination.

The promotional examination will be BAND SCORED. When a promotion examination is band scored, seniority credits are added to the raw score and not to the final score. Using this formula, the applicable seniority credits are added to the number of questions answered correctly (raw score) of passing candidates. This will result in a "total raw score," from which the final band score is determined.

Onondaga County is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer