

County of Chautauqua in the State of New York Announces:

SCHOOL SECRETARY / OPERATIONS ASSISTANT

Examination Number #1397

Salary: County of Chautauqua: \$20.34 - \$25.94/Hour
Salary: Towns, Schools and Villages - Varies by Agency



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Examinations To Be Held Frequently

Applications Accepted Continuously

Updated on 1/8/2025 by Chautauqua County Department of Human Resources, Gerace Office Building, Mayville, NY 14757 (716) 753-4237

Exam announcements and application forms are available on the Internet at chqgov.com - Click on "Employment"

APPLICATION AND EXAMINATION PROCESS: Applications may now be completed online at: <https://chautauqua-portal.mycivilservice.com/>. Your application is part of the examination process. **TO APPLY**, you must create an online account and answer all questions with complete information. Vagueness or ambiguity will not be interpreted in your favor. We do not refer to other applications or resumes on file for additional information. Applications that do not show training and/or experience to meet minimum qualifications may be disapproved.

A non-refundable examination processing fee of \$15.00 will be required at the time of application, for each separately numbered examination for which you apply. Fee **may be paid by credit/debit card. We cannot accept cash.** All fees for examinations are **Non-Refundable** Examination Processing Fees, regardless of the eligibility determination on your application. As no refund will be made, you are urged to review the examination announcement carefully, to compare your qualifications with the requirements for admission, and to file only for those examinations for which you are clearly qualified.

EXAMINATION PROCESSING FEE WAIVER: A waiver of examination processing fee will be allowed if you are unemployed and primarily responsible for the support of a household. In addition, a waiver of examination processing fee will be allowed if you are determined eligible for Medicaid, or receiving Supplemental Security Income payments, or Public Assistance (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families/Family Assistance or Safety Net Assistance) or are certified Job Training Partnership Act/Workforce Investment Act eligible through a State or local social service agency. **All claims for examination processing fee waiver are subject to verification. If you can verify eligibility for an examination processing fee waiver, complete the appropriate section of the Application and submit it by the Application Deadline as listed on the Examination Announcement.**

VACANCIES: The eligible list resulting from this continuous recruitment examination program will be used to fill senior-level clerical positions, including but not limited to Schools Secretary and Operations Assistant, which occur or which exist in Chautauqua County Departments and Agencies, Towns, Villages, Cities, School Districts, and Board of Cooperative Educational Services (B.O.C.E.S.), Second Supervisory District, Erie-Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Counties. Successful examination candidates will have a maximum of 1 year of eligibility when placed on the eligible list. Candidate's names will be inter-filed on the continuing eligible list in rank order regardless of the date on which they took the test. Chautauqua County reserves the right to terminate the continuous recruitment program at any time.

DUTIES: This is para-professional and advanced clerical work performed in support of the operations of a department or work unit within the County, local municipal agency or school. Tasks are designed to facilitate operations by freeing higher level employees from routine administrative and clerical detail. Employees in this class perform a wide variety of routine administrative, advanced clerical and data entry duties while working with staff, customers, clients and the community. This position differs from lower-level clerical titles by being a lead assistant in coordinating tasks of lower-level workers and/or performing complex operations independently involving office-wide operations. Work performed is under the general supervision of an administrator of higher rank with some leeway provided for the exercise of independent judgment. Supervision may be exercised over a small number of clerical assistants. Does related work as required.

NO RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT: Preference in appointment may be given to successful candidates who are legal residents of Chautauqua County, or to legal residents of the town, village, city, school district or special district in which an appointment is to be made.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Graduation from high school or possession of a high school equivalency diploma and:

- A. Two (2) years of clerical experience involving customer service; OR
- B. Completion of an Associate's degree or a two-year business college program in a secretarial science or business administration; OR
- C. Completion of 60 semester credit hours with a concentration in business administration or secretarial science; OR
- D. An equivalent combination of training and experience as defined by the limits of A, B & C above.

EDUCATION/AGE REQUIREMENT: Candidates who will meet education/age requirements within 12 months of the exam date, will be permitted to take the examination but will not be eligible for canvassing or permanent appointment until proof of fulfilling the education/age requirements have been furnished to this office. It is the sole responsibility of the candidate to provide all necessary transcripts for required education and a copy of the required license or professional certificate upon completion.

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 direct contact with students, a clearance for employment from the State Education Department is required.

IDENTIFICATION (ID) REQUIREMENT: Examination candidates will need to present a valid photo ID upon arrival at the examination site for purposes of examination security and candidate identification.

SUBJECTS OF EXAMINATION: The written test will cover knowledge, skills and/or abilities in such areas as:

- 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, word division, word and figure style for numbers, and common proofreading marks. In addition, candidates 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 percents.
- 5. **Office Practices** - These questions test for a knowledge of generally agreed upon practices governing the handling of situations which office support staff, 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.

NOTICE TO CANDIDATES: Unless otherwise notified, candidates are **allowed** 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.

CELL PHONES OR ELECTRONIC/COMMUNICATION DEVICES AT THE TEST SITE: Do **not** bring cell phones, beepers, headphones, or any electronic or other communication devices to the test room. The presence of such devices in the test room, hallways, restrooms, may result in your disqualification.

CANDIDATES PLEASE NOTE: A Guide for the Written Test for **Senior Stenographer/Senior Typist Series** is available at the New York State website www.cs.ny.gov/testing/testguides.cfm. To obtain a hard copy of the guide, please call or write to the Chautauqua County Department of Human Resources, Gerace Office Building, Mayville, New York 14757. Phone 753-4237.

GENERAL INFORMATION/INSTRUCTIONS

Continuous Recruitment Examination: Applications for examination are continuously accepted and are held two or more times throughout the year. When the next exam date has been determined, approved applications received by a deadline date will be included in the next scheduled exam date.

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER: It is the policy of Chautauqua County to provide for and promote equal opportunity in employment, compensation and other terms and conditions of employment without discrimination on the basis of age, race, (including traits historically associated with race, including but not limited to, hair texture and protective hair styles) creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation, military status, sex, disability, genetic predisposition or carrier status, marital status, arrest record or status as a victim of domestic violence, familial status, gender/gender expression, reproductive health decisions, citizenship or immigration status, or any other factor prohibited by law. Employment decisions are based on qualifications, merit and business needs. The policy can be obtained at chqgov.com.

THE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THE LAST FILING DATE FOR THIS EXAMINATION: Applications must be either:

- A. Received at the Chautauqua County Department of Human Resources, Room 144, Gerace Office Building, Mayville, New York 14757 prior to the close of business on or before the last filing date for this examination, or:
- B. Postmarked on or before the last filing date for this examination. Please note that mail deposited in a mail box on the last filing date but after the post office's last pick up for that day will receive a post mark for the following day and, therefore, will not be considered a timely submission by this office.

NOTE: Applications submitted through the County interoffice mail system are not postmarked and are date stamped upon receipt by our office. We urge candidates to pay particular attention to the filing deadline and to use a filing method that will ensure a timely submission.

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. **Cross-file application forms are available on the Internet at chqgov.com** or by contacting the Chautauqua County Department of Human Resources, Gerace Office Building, Mayville, New York 14757. Phone (716) 753-4237.

LEGAL AUTHORIZATION TO WORK IN THE UNITED STATES: Federal Immigration Law requires employers to verify that all persons hired are legally authorized to work in the United States. If you are hired, you will be asked to swear, under penalty of perjury, that you are legally authorized to work in the U.S., and you will be required to submit proof of that authorization.

CURRENT/PROSPECTIVE MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS: New York State Law provides for Military Make-up Tests in cases where candidates cannot attend the scheduled test on the published test date due to active military duty. You must file an application for this examination in accordance with this examination announcement and you must request the special test arrangements, which are available. If you expect to enter military service, you may still compete in this examination and be appointed or reinstated after you return from active duty. Contact our office for details.

THIS EXAMINATION IS BEING RATED: by the New York State Department of Civil Service in accordance with Section 23-2 of the Civil Service Law. The provisions of the New York State Civil Service Rules and Regulations dealing with the rating and review of examinations will apply to this test.

ALTERNATE TEST DATES: State and local examination policy does permit alternate test dates for certain compelling reasons. For details or to request an alternate test date, contact the Department of Human Resources.

LOCATION OF EXAM SITE: Examinations are held in Mayville unless for reasons beyond our control, we must change the test site.

VETERAN CANDIDATES: Veterans or disabled veterans who are eligible for additional credit must submit an application for veteran's credit with their application for examination or at any time between the dates of their application for examination and the date of the establishment of the resulting eligible list. Applications for veteran's credit are available from this office. Veteran's credits can only be added to a passing score on the examination.

Effective January 1, 1998, the State Constitution was amended to permit a candidate currently in the armed forces to apply for and be conditionally granted veteran's credit in examinations. Any candidate who applies for such credit must provide proof of military status to receive the conditional credit. No credit may be granted after the establishment of the list. It is the responsibility of the candidate to provide appropriate documentary proof indicating that the candidate received an honorable discharge or was released under honorable conditions in order to be certified at a score including veteran's credits.

SECTION 85-a OF THE CIVIL SERVICE LAW: Effective 9/17/02, children of firefighters and police officers killed in the line of duty shall be entitled to receive an additional ten points in a competitive examination for original appointment in the same municipality in which his or her parent has served. 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 in this municipality, please inform this office of this matter when you submit your application for examination. A candidate claiming such credit has a minimum of two months from the application deadline to provide the necessary documentation to verify additional credit eligibility. However, no credit may be added after the eligible list has been established.

ADMISSION TO EXAMINATION: Notice to appear for the examination will be conditional, as review of applications for minimum requirements may not be made until after the written test. Call the Chautauqua County Human Resources Office if you have not received your notice 3 days before the date of the examination. You may not be admitted to the examination room without official notice.

RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATIONS AND OTHER SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS: Most written tests are held on Saturdays. If you cannot take the test on the announced test date due to a conflict with a religious observance or practice, please contact our office so that we can make arrangements for you to take the test on a different date.

Applicants with disabilities who require special arrangements should contact our office by the close of the filing period for the examination.

You may contact us by calling or writing the Chautauqua County Department of Human Resources, Room 144, Gerace office Building, Mayville, New York 14757. Ph. (716) 753-4237.

RATINGS REQUIRED: Tests are rated on a scale of 100 with the passing mark at 70. Unless the announcement states otherwise you must pass the written test and the oral test, if any. Test instructions may further divide the tests into parts and set minimum standards for each part.

VERIFICATION OF QUALIFICATIONS: Candidates may be investigated or called for an interview to determine whether they are qualified for appointment. In addition to meeting specific requirements, candidates must be of good moral character and habits.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION/BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION: Applicants may be required to take a medical examination to determine if you are medically and physically capable of performing the duties of the position. You may also be required to undergo a State and national criminal history background investigation, which will include a fingerprint check, to determine suitability for appointment. Failure to meet the standards for the background investigation may result in disqualification.

ELIGIBLE LIST: The eligible list resulting from an examination may also be used for appointment to the same title or to any other title deemed to be similar and appropriate.