

# TST Weekly Bulletin

## Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga BOCES

**TST BOCES**  
TOMPKINS • SENECA • TIOGA

### School Improvement Services

*Leading and supporting school communities in their efforts to provide the best possible learning environment for all students.*



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### FOCUS OF THE WEEK

#### Understanding

This week, let's push our students to show us that they understand what they are learning, rather than just showing us that they have the right answers.

### VISITING YOUR SCHOOLS AND CLASSROOMS

This fall, our team of professional developers began going together to visit your schools and classrooms; we call this practice Contextual Rounds. The purpose of these rounds is to help us deepen our understanding of what your classrooms and schools are actually like in real life.

Our team's learning target this fall was the following: We will be able to plan, implement and revise our work in ways that will make it more relevant, timely and effective. As a result, we have begun developing new ways to deliver professional development support. By early January we will begin sharing some of these new supports with you.

Our second set of contextual rounds will run from Dec. 17 through Dec. 23. In preparing for this set of rounds, we have come to recognize that we need a clear and specific focus to guide us during these visits. Thus, we will be focusing on three of our regional priorities: Establishing a Culture for Learning, Using Questioning and Discussion Techniques, and Using Assessment in Instruction. Building on what we learned through the first set of rounds, our team's learning target for this set of rounds is as follows: We will be able to plan, implement, and/or revise our work in ways that more effectively lead and support each of our school districts' efforts to establish a culture for learning, use questioning and discussion techniques, and use assessment in instruction.

If you want to know more about the regional priorities and how they were established, please visit this [link](#). We look forward to visiting you soon.

### LINKS, ARTICLES & BOOKS

- *Principles Governing Progressive Schools Can Be Useful For All Educators* (Dave Lehman, 2015)
- *DataWise* (Boudett, City & Murnane, 2005)
- [Computer Science Education Week](#)

Contact Barry if you would like to borrow a book or article.

THERE'S MORE! ▼▼

#### Quote of the Week

"Knowing is binary – you either know something or you don't... Understanding is more a matter of degree, as our language suggests."

— Tomlinson & McTighe

## UPCOMING WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

### Instructional Technologies Workshop

This one-hour workshop will feature amazing apps that will help educators utilize technology in their classrooms. Many apps will have supporting



lesson plans and materials that will help educators incorporate technology in artistic ways. More than 50 apps will be discussed and many will be demonstrated. Apps from all three platforms (Google, Apple and Microsoft -- universal apps) will be discussed. Web-based applications will also be investigated. Training will be held from 4-5 p.m. Dec. 10 in Building A: Dexheimer Building on the TST BOCES campus in the Tioga Training Room. Sign up through My Learning Plan.

### Response to Intervention Webinar

The New York State Response to Intervention Technical Assistance Center 2015-16 [webinar](#) strands on topics related to Response to Intervention strategies.

## FOR PRINCIPALS

### New York State Response to Intervention Technical Assistance



The state RTI assistance program has many resources to support you and your teachers for implementing RTI in ways that are good for students. Visit their [website](#) for more information and helpful tips.

### All Things PLC

All Things PLC provides many tools and resources to support your efforts to create and nurture effective Professional Learning Communities. Check out their [website](#) for more information.

## FOR TEACHERS

### Social Studies

Check out the C3 [December update](#). There are many tools and resources that you may find useful.

### Science

Check out the December NGSS [Newsletter](#).



# TST

## SIS Weekly Bulletin

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School Improvement Services

*Dr. Jeffrey Matteson, District Superintendent*  
*Barry Derfel, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction*

[tstboces.org](http://tstboces.org)