

# 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

### High Expectations

Working backwards, identify a learning outcome that pushes your own expectations of what your students or staff can accomplish. Then, build a lesson or meeting plan that includes the supports necessary to make success possible. Share what happens with a colleague.

## FOR PRINCIPALS

### STEM Exploration

Middle-level principals are highly encouraged to join some of their teachers in attending STEM: Explore, Discover, Apply (STEM EDA). This process engages middle school students through a series of hands-on projects that help improve their problem-solving and critical thinking skills. All projects seamlessly integrate the engineering design process and cyber concepts, which allows students to creatively explore STEM through design. The multigrade-level curricula utilizes liberal arts disciplines to provide meaning and depth to the content. Through STEM EDA, students develop invaluable skills focusing on leadership, team building, creativity and communication. STEM EDA's modular nature provides ultimate flexibility to schools. Teachers can implement the curricula as a standalone elective course, insert specific modules into an existing class, or provide the modules as an after-school program. During the professional development, teachers will go through and experience a variety of projects as if they were the student. This dynamic and interactive professional development model will empower teachers to begin teaching in a new and engaging manner!

### QUICK-CLICK RESOURCES

[A Matter of Principals, by Geoffrey H. Fletcher:](#)

[Progressive Principals Association](#)

[Principles for Principals \(Annenberg Learner\)](#)

## LINKS, ARTICLES & BOOKS

- [Unstoppable Learning](#) (Fisher and Frey, 2015)
- [Examining Administrators' Instructional Feedback to High School Math and Science Teachers](#) (Chad R. Lochmiller, 2016)
- [National Youth Leadership Network](#)
- [Free Learning Tools from CAST](#)
- [Next Generation Science Standard February Newsletter](#)

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

THERE'S MORE ↓

### Quote of the Week

"The best differentiation inevitably begins with what we might assume are 'too high expectations' for many students and continues with building supports to enable more and more of those students to succeed at high levels."

-- Tomlinson & McTighe

## FOR TEACHERS

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### National Youth Science Camp

High school teachers and counselors, please share this 2016 National Youth Science Camp information with your students. Two graduating high school students will be selected to represent New York at the all-expenses paid honors program, which will be held June 15 through July 10. Please click [here](#) to apply and be sure to follow the instructions for submitting the online application. The NYSC is hosted and operated by the [National Youth Science Foundation](#). The online application to attend the 2016 National Youth Science Camp (NYSC) is now available [here](#). All applications and supporting documents/forms must be submitted online no later than 6 p.m. Feb. 17.

### Teaching at Girls Who Code

The applications for teacher and TA positions at our 2016 Summer Immersion Program are now live! Click [here](#) to apply. Successful

applicants will be required to attend a four-day training session in April or May and begin their full-time employment approximately one week prior to the start date of the program and conclude one week after student graduation. Positions begin in June or July and last until August (dates to be determined by location).

### Action Research

“Action research in education seeks to blur the boundary between the researcher and the subject. It is conducted either by or with insiders to the institution or community being studied – teachers, parents, students, administrators, etc.” Learn more [here](#).

### Links for Teachers

[Understanding Science Teaching Resources](#)

[Professional Development through Museum of Fine Arts Boston](#)

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## UPCOMING WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

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### Social Studies Series

Bringing “Social Studies Practices” to Life - Update, revise or create a unit plan by explicitly building students’ ability to use and apply key social studies skills. This four-part series will run from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Feb. 24, March 7 and March 21 (the fourth session date is to be determined). The cost is \$15 per session. Click [here](#) for more details.

### Using Assessment in Instruction

Try something different with this independent study professional development opportunity. Educators will earn six professional development hours for successfully completing this course, which focuses on formative assessment. Use online articles and videos to learn more about formative assessment. Then apply what you learn in the classroom and gather and reflect on evidence to show how your application of this learning has impacted your students. Click [here](#) for details and registration.

### Regional Arts PLC

TST BOCES is offering a regional arts PLC from 8:30-11 a.m. Feb. 16. This is open to all teachers of encore subjects, including art, music, foreign languages, physical education, dance, theater, etc. The PLC’s mission will be to improve collaboration while investigating and sharing best practices. Focal points will include immersive education, integrated curriculum, STEAM, etc. Click [here](#) for details and registration.



## Tompkins County Housing Needs Survey Available

Do you live, work, or go to school in Tompkins County? Tompkins County wants to know your thoughts about housing in Tompkins County and whether local housing meets your needs.

Through the Tompkins County Housing Needs Survey, an online survey that opened Feb. 3, county residents, students and workers who commute here from outside the county will provide important direct input as part of the Tompkins County Housing Needs Assessment. The assessment, currently underway, will examine the current county housing market and unmet community housing needs, and will project housing demand over the next 10 years.

Click [here](#) to take the brief survey through Feb. 22. Paper copies of the survey are also available.

## POINTS OF INTEREST

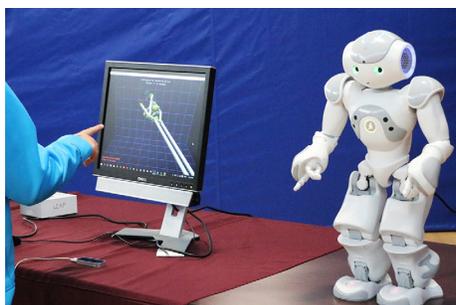
### Collaboration with Cornell University

TST School Improvement Services Department is working closely with Cal Walker (Cornell's outreach liaison) to find ways to collaborate and support teaching and learning throughout the region. Two of our initial ideas include providing opportunities for teachers to deepen their own content-area knowledge and find ways to connect public school classrooms with university faculty expertise and resources. Please send Barry any specific ideas you have about how we might be able to support your teaching efforts, so that we can build a partnership that is relevant and timely.



### Computer Science Offering

The Girls Who Code Summer Immersion Program is a seven-week computer science course that embeds classrooms in technology companies and universities. Students learn the fundamentals of computer science - from robotics to webpage development - while gaining exposure to the tech industry and mentorship from women working in technology. Your students can apply [here](#).



Applications are due March 1 at 11:59 p.m. PST.

### 'Reclaiming Blackness' Social Identity Workshops

Reclaiming Blackness: Showcase - Sunday, Feb. 28 from 6-8 p.m. in the Emerson Suites at Ithaca College. This student-led initiative explores topics pertinent to the social identity of "Blackness" in the 21st century through a series of workshops. These workshops will be followed by a showcase of talent from Ithaca College students. Click [here](#) for more information.

# TST

## SIS Weekly Bulletin

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School Improvement Services

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*Barry Derfel, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction*

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