

# 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

Research shows that people have very different ideas about what the term/concept *understanding* actually means. By increasing our collective clarity about what we mean by understanding, we will be better able to assess the degree to which our students or staff understand what they've been trying to learn. This week, let's dialogue with our students, staff and/or colleagues about what we each mean by *understanding*.

## NEWS & NOTES

### TST BOCES Regional Priorities for 2017 – 2018

1. Supporting students' mental, social and emotional health
2. Student-driven learning
3. Questioning and discussion techniques
4. Engaging students in learning
5. Using assessment in instruction

More information about our regional priorities is available on our [webpage](#).

## SUPPORTING ALL STUDENTS

### Navigating the 'Fierce Urgency of Now': Where Equity, Theory, and Practice Meet

Click [here](#), then view the second video on the page.

### Advocacy Resources

[The Broadreach Centre](#)

### Information and Technical Assistance on the Americans with Disabilities Act

"Publications and videos that answer these questions and more: What is the ADA? Who is a person with a disability? Who must comply with the ADA? Where can you call to ask questions about the ADA?"

Click [here](#) for more info.

### National Mental Health Month

Did you know that May is National Mental Health Month? [Learn more here](#). Go to the bottom of the page to find resources and opportunities to get involved.

### Quote of the Week

"Knowing is binary... understanding is more a matter of degree. Thus, when we ask, 'To what extent does she understand?' the answer is revealed along a continuum of shades of grey..."  
-- Tomlinson & McTighe

**THERE'S MORE ↓**

## FOR TEACHERS

### Preschool Curriculum Creator Extends Reach to Kindergarten

“Teaching Strategies, the Bethesda, Md.-based creator of a project-based preschool curriculum called ‘The Creative Curriculum,’ has created a kindergarten course of study that it says will bring back the play, hands-on activities and center-based work that has started to disappear from some classrooms.”

Click [here](#) for more info.

### Latest updates about the NYS P-12 Science Learning Standards

Visit [this page](#) for ongoing updates regarding Science Education in New York State.

### African American Intellectual History Society (AAIHS)

“The African American Intellectual History Society (AAIHS) is a scholarly organization founded in January 2014 to foster dialogue about researching, writing and teaching black thought and culture.”

Click [here](#) for more info.

## FOR PRINCIPALS

### NYSITELL Update

A newly designed NYSITELL will take the place of the current 2014 edition of the NYSITELL, the statewide identification assessment of English Language Learners. The 2018 edition of the NYSITELL will be aligned to the current New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT), but abbreviated in length. Further guidance regarding the identification of English Language Learners can be found online [here](#).

### The Principal of Change [Stories of learning and leading](#)

## LINKS, ARTICLES & BOOKS

- [Community and Regional Development Institute](#)
- National Women’s Law Center - [Let Her Learn](#)
- [Hollowing out the Middle – The Rural Brain Drain and What it Means for America](#), (Carr & Kefalas, 2009).
- *Re-examining Beliefs about Students in Poverty*, Paul Gorski 2016.

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

## UPCOMING WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

*Offered through our folks here at TST BOCES*

### Regional Demonstration Classroom Professional Learning Experience

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Do you want to see colleagues throughout the TST BOCES region teach? This professional learning opportunity includes a pre-observation meeting followed by a post observation meeting with a Demonstration Classroom Teacher. Visitors will observe and discuss how Learning Targets, Criteria for Success and Formative Assessment Practices are used throughout the lesson.

Find additional information, including details about how to sign up, [here](#).

*Offered by other organizations and/or our consultants*

### Teaching from Within, Adirondack Teachers’ Retreat

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August 13-15

“During the program, participants will be invited to renew heart, mind and spirit through the exploration of the inner landscape of a teacher’s life: to identify and honor gifts and strengths and acknowledge limits.”

For more information take a look at [this flier](#).

### A Complete Mindfulness Curriculum to Use in the Elementary Classroom

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July 14, August 21 | TST BOCES

This one day workshop will provide you with a twelve week, step-by-step curriculum to introduce effective mindfulness practices to your elementary class next year. This workshop will be offered twice over the summer.

More information and registration can be accessed by clicking the following links: [July 14](#) and [August 21](#).

**Looking for more PD opportunities?**

Click [here](#) to access the PD catalog online.

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School Improvement Services

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

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