

# 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

### Clarity

This week, talk with a few colleagues about the quote at the bottom of this page. By talking about this quote you will increase your own clarity about the concept of integrating Backwards Design Unit Planning (UbD) and Differentiated Instruction (DI).

## NEW AND NOTES

### Feedback for Barry

If you have not done so yet, it would mean a lot to me if you would please take a few minutes to complete this [anonymous survey](#). Your candid feedback will help me reflect on my practice and make changes so I can better support your efforts to help all students in our region be successful.

### Directions and Forms

Please visit our [updated page](#) to find information about mylearningplan.com, substitute reimbursement, professional development payments and requests for consultants or resources.

### Unit Planning

This summer, the TST School Improvement Services team will begin a long-term effort to support teachers in the creative art of unit planning. Our commitment is to help teachers throughout our region create units that are inclusive, affirming, relevant, aligned with New York State Learning Standards and promote meaningful learning for all students. The following resources may be helpful to you:

#### Principles of Understanding by Design

Jay McTighe's [video page](#) provides multiple presentations about the Understanding by Design Unit Planning process

#### Integrating Differentiated Instruction & Understanding by Design

This text by Carol Ann Tomlinson and Jay McTighe provides a strong foundation for deepening our unit planning practices. View the first chapter [here](#).

#### CAST UDL Exchange

CAST is an educational research & development organization that works to expand learning opportunities for all individuals through Universal Design for Learning. Visit [this site](#) to browse and build resources using the principles of UDL.

### QUICK-CLICK TOOLS

[TST School Improvement Services Weekly Bulletins Now Online](#)

["Lessons from the Field," a collective and collaborative observation process](#)

### Quote of the Week

"A river needs banks to flow. Backward design provides the structure to support flexibility in teaching and assessing in order to honor the integrity of content while respecting the individuality of learners."  
-- Tomlinson & McTighe

THERE'S MORE ↓

## FOR PRINCIPALS

### High School Verification Workshop

During this workshop, participants will have the opportunity to review the 2015-16 High School Accountability preliminary report on Level 2, which was released Feb. 19. Using the CNYRIC High School Accountability tool, participants will be able to verify this cohort data efficiently. In addition, participants will be able to gain a better understanding of 4+1 Pathways options and utilize the Diploma Crosstab “App” to determine the correct diploma types and endorsements for students graduating this June.

To register, please go to [register.cnyric.org](http://register.cnyric.org) and select the March 3 catalog offering titled, “High School Verification Work Session.” Please do not hesitate to contact Lori DeForest ([ldeforest@cnyric.org](mailto:ldeforest@cnyric.org)) if you need additional information.

### New Proposed Timeline for Development and Implementation of Standards

At Monday’s Board of Regents meeting, Commissioner Elia shared the state’s plan for the development of new ELA and mathematics standards, thereby extending the work that was started by the AimHighNY survey. A new proposed timeline, contingent on funding to support the revision and implementation, described the opportunities for involvement

throughout the standards development process, the time frame available to local schools and districts to create curriculum and related instructional resources that are consistent with the new standards, and the state’s tentative plans for when new assessments based on the new standards will be available. The Board of Regents agenda item and presentation are available at the bottom of this [page](#).

### Critical Friends Group for Principals

This session is designed specifically for principals. Do you want to connect with colleagues in a way that is mutually supportive? Come to this session and work through the Critical Friends Group (CFG) process with other principals. We’ll follow-up by scheduling an ongoing CFG series at a time that works for those who are interested in doing this on a regular basis. Sign up [here](#).

### Updates from Albany

-- <http://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2016/2016-02/p-12-education>

-- <http://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2016/2016-02/meeting-board-regents>

-- <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/technology/CBT/questionsampler/home.html>

-- <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/accommodations/testingaccomell-16.pdf>

## UPCOMING WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

### Independent Study PD Opportunity

Try something different! Using Assessment in Instruction – Independent Study PD Opportunity. Educators will earn six professional development hours for successfully completing this independent study, 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. Details and registration can be found [here](#).

### 7 Valleys Writing Project

The 7 Valleys Writing Project has a number of opportunities for K-12 educators, including [Saturday Seminars](#), the [Summer Institute](#) and the [Writing Matters III conference](#). Note that the Summer Institute this year is limited residency and has a digital focus: “A Select Summer Program for You and Your Computer.”

THERE'S MORE ↓



## LINKS, ARTICLES & BOOKS

- [Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?](#) (Beverly Daniel Tatum, 1997)  
(Mangin & Dunsmore , 2016)
- [Disability is Natural](#)
- [Culture-Generated Resources via Twitter](#)
- *Poco a Poco – Leadership Practices Supporting Productive Communities of Practice in Schools Serving the New Mainstream*

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

## FOR TEACHERS

### Learning Forward Academy

“The Learning Forward Academy is an extended and profound learning experience that immerses members in a model of inquiry- and problem-based learning. Academy members work collaboratively to gain knowledge to solve significant student learning problems in their schools, districts, or organizations.”

Although participation in the 2 ½ year academy is expensive, I found it to have a profoundly positive impact on my professional practice. More information can be found [here](#).

workshop

### Free Resources for School

Schools across New York are eligible to receive free seedlings for spring planting through the DEC School Seedling Program which provides 50 tree seedlings or a mixed packet of 30 wildlife shrubs to any public or private school that would like to participate. The seedlings can be planted on school grounds or other community spaces, and offer teachers a great resource to enhance environmental lessons.

Applications to participate are available at the DEC’s School Seedling Program website, or by contacting the Saratoga Tree Nursery at 518-581-1439. Interested schools can also contact the nearest DEC regional forestry office to request a “School Seedlings” brochure, which contains all the information necessary to place an order. Applications must be received at the nursery by March 31.

### Standards Revisions

Information will be out next week to recruit educators for the ELA and math standards review/revisions. Applications will be required that include a resume and letter of recommendation. Work will start in the spring/summer with the hope to put out for public comment from July to October. Barry will included specific details as soon as they come out.

# TST

## SIS Weekly Bulletin

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