

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

Multiple & Various Assessments

This week, take a look at the next few smaller assessments you have planned for your students. See if you can make them more varied than they currently are, so that taken together, students end up having a few different ways to show what they know and can do.

FOR PRINCIPALS

Updates from NYSED

- The Department is working with educators from throughout the state on the creation of new arts standards, the State's Arts Strategic Plan, new science standards and new Regents exams in social studies based on the new Social Studies Frameworks. Click [here](#) for an update regarding the revisions and implementation of the new standards.
- There is a new appeal policy for Regents exam scores, which was approved by the Board and allows students to appeal scores of 60-64 (expanded from 62-64) on up to two Regents examinations and eliminates the requirement that students meet a minimum attendance requirement of 95 percent, exclusive of excused absences, in the year they last took the examination under appeal. The repeal of the attendance requirement also applies to all appeals including appeals of scores of 52-54 for students with disabilities seeking the local diploma, or scores of 55-61 on the English Language Arts Regents exam for English language learners. Additional guidance is in development. More details can be found [here](#).
- New CDOS Pathway to Graduation regulations have been approved and will be implemented in June 2016 moving forward. Under the revised regulations, a student may graduate with a high school diploma if the student completes the credit requirements; meets the requirements to earn the Career Development and Occupational Studies Commencement Credential; and passes four Regents assessments, one in each of the four discipline areas of math, English, science and social studies. In addition, the regulations were revised to expand the opportunity to all students to earn the CDOS commencement credential. Additional guidance is in development. Click [here](#) for more information.
- New multiple pathways assessments have been approved by the Commissioner. These new assessments can be used for students who wish to pursue an arts or a Career and Technical Education pathway to graduation under the 4+1 multiple pathways graduation option. Click [here](#) to view these new assessments.

Quote of the Week

"What should count as evidence of learning? How might we differentiate our assessments without sacrificing validity and reliability? How can we maintain standards without standardization? How can assessment promote learning, not simply measure it?"

-- Tomlinson & McTighe

THERE'S MORE ↓

tstboces.org

FOR TEACHERS

Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program

The application is now available for this program. For more information, visit the program [website](#).

Geometry Tools for the Common Core Standards in New York State

Check out this great resource to guide you through [Geometry Progressions \(Grades 7 to High School\)](#). This explores the learning that takes place in the early grades through the secondary level, from basic understanding of shapes and their properties to analysis and application.

Summer Math Institute at RIT

RIT's School of Mathematical Sciences is happy to invite you to participate in the Summer Math Institute (SMI) teachers' workshop during the summer of 2016. The goal of the workshop is to address how high school math is applied in professions and how it forms the basis for college courses. Don't miss your opportunity to interact with industry professionals, collaborate with RIT faculty, speak with RIT undergraduate and graduate students, and network with other high school mathematics teachers! The SMI workshop runs from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 27-30 the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester. You will earn professional development hours by completing this FREE workshop! Certificates of attendance will be made available. Daily breakfast, lunch and refreshments will be provided. More information can be found [here](#).

NYS Master Teacher Program

What is the New York State Master Teacher Program? Responding to the call to strengthen our nation's K-12 STEM education, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo launched the New York State Master Teacher Program (NYSMTP) in partnership with the State University of New York and Math for America in 2013. The program creates a statewide network of the highest-performing STEM teachers dedicated to sharing their expertise with peers and attracting high school graduates to careers in STEM. Participating teachers receive \$15,000 stipends annually over four years.

What do Master Teachers do? As program participants, Master Teachers make a commitment to engage in professional development work in addition to their regular school responsibilities. Master Teachers meet regularly (evenings and weekends) to participate in activities that lead to individual and collective professional growth. PD programming opportunities include mini-courses addressing a variety of STEM subjects such as nanoscience and hydro-fracturing. Master Teachers form Professional Learning Teams around topics such as student research projects, expeditionary learning and the Common Core Learning Standards. Master Teachers participate in leadership workshops and also participate in the Empire State STEM Learning Network, partnering with local businesses and agencies to better prepare students for STEM careers.

For more information, click [here](#).

NEWS AND NOTES

Testing Accommodations

Testing accommodations provide equal opportunity for all students to participate and demonstrate knowledge and ability. Check out [this presentation](#), compiled by Jennifer Gondek, for more information about specific guidelines, checklists and requirements for various test takers.

2016 Doris Lecture

"Adolescent-Parent Relationships: Developmental Processes and Cultural Variations," will be presented by Judi Smetana, from the University of Rochester. This talk is open to all, and it will be held at noon April 20 in the Nevin Welcome Center at the Cornell Plantations. Lunch will be served. Click [here](#) for more information.



WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

Library Tech and Art Literacy

Teacher librarians and art teachers are welcomed to TST BOCES for an interactive, interdisciplinary, fast-paced day of workshops, webinars, guest presenters and technology-rich professional development activities. The daylong program includes demonstration of apps for content integration, digital resources, SNAP Media Catalog at the next level, Gale Resources and Google, EBOOK ordering for region's EBOOK catalog, AXIS 360, collaborative lesson planning between the teacher librarian and art teacher, and more. Please bring your own device; lunch provided. Sign up in [mlp](#).

Building & Communicating a Collective Vision for Science Education

Please join us May 5 at TST BOCES as we work to bring positive change to science curriculum, instruction and assessment. Learning Targets: I can build, communicate and clarify my vision for P-12 science education; I can effectively use the terminology of the NGSS and draft P-12 NYS Science Learning Standards (NYSSLS) when communicating my vision for science education to multiple stakeholders (e.g., students, parents, colleagues); I can use text details from the NGSS and the draft NYSSLS to discuss/diagram the progression of learning that leads to specific grade-level performance expectations P-12; I can begin planning for the transition to the new P-12 NYSSLS in my own classroom. Facilitated by Beth Dryer, Regional Coordinator of Curriculum & Professional Development, TST BOCES; Wendy Wright, Teacher Instructional Support, R.C. Buckley Elementary School; David Syracuse, Career and Technical Education, TST BOCES. Sign up in [mlp](#).

Unit Planning for all Learners

Unit Planning for All Learners Summer Series. Think and collaborate outside of the box. Plan innovative teaching to generate creative learning. The TST BOCES School Improvement Services team will be collaborating to help general educators, special educators and other educators work together to create unit plans that are inclusive, affirming and relevant for all students. This will NOT look like what you are used to - we will NOT be delivering instruction while you sit and get it. Teachers will be doing the work and the thinking - we'll be listening, observing, facilitating, coaching and supporting. There will be three series offered this summer, and each will be three days long. For more information, click [here](#). Sign up now in [MyLearningPlan](#).



LINKS, ARTICLES & BOOKS

- [Ideology, Culture, and the Process of Schooling](#), by Henry Giroux, 1981
- [Video - Moving the Learning Forward – Lucy West](#)
- Blog Post - [What to do for kids with no Internet at home. How about parking a wifi-enabled school bus near their trailer park?](#)
- [The Biology of Positive Habits](#)

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

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