

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

Connecting with Families

This week, let's push ourselves to invite families to share their insights with us. This week, let's try hard to listen to families as much as we talk to families. Let's actively work to interact with our students' families in terms of their strengths and resources.

FOR PRINCIPALS

Teaching Excellence Network

"The goal of TEN is to connect districts, schools and teachers committed to improving teacher practice, while providing a clearinghouse of excellence that teachers, families and school leaders can access at any time to improve classroom teaching." More information can be found [here](#).

Blueprint for Improved Results for Students with Disabilities

"The New York State Education Department (NYSED) has released its [Blueprint for Improved Results for Students with Disabilities](#). This blueprint was developed in consultation with stakeholders and is consistent with the mission of NYSED, Office of Special Education -- supported by all offices within NYSED -- to ensure that students with disabilities have the opportunities to benefit from high-quality instruction, to reach the same standards as all students, and to leave school prepared to successfully transition to post-school learning, living and employment. As rigor and expectations for all students in New York state have increased, policy and practices must be adjusted to support students with disabilities to meet these challenges."

QUICK LINKS

Check out the blue section on the bottom of the [NYSED webpage](#) to help you find answers and access information.

FOR TEACHERS

Universal Design for Learning Theory & Practice

Click [here](#) to register and gain full access to the book as well as all of the images, tips and videos that accompany it.

Free Webinar from ASCD

In this webinar, presented by Jonathan Cassie, author of the ASCD book, "Level Up Your Classroom: The Quest to Gamify Your Lessons and Engage Your Students," you will have an opportunity to explore the basics of the gamified classroom. Sign up [here](#).

Quote of the Week

"The concept of family funds of knowledge has influenced (her) thinking about connecting schools and homes more than perhaps any other educational effort... The goal of this way of learning from families has been, for nearly two decades, to alter perceptions of working-class or poor communities and to view these households primarily in terms of their strengths and resources (funds of knowledge)."

-- Allen, JoBeth, 2007

THERE'S MORE ↓

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FOR TEACHERS (continued)

ASCD Teacher Impact Grants (TIGs)

These grants provide funding and support directly to teachers for promising teacher-led, administrator-supported ideas, programs or initiatives to improve education. These grants allow teachers to develop and execute projects that can serve as models to be replicated and scaled. Deadline to apply is June 16. Click [here](#) for more information.

LINKS, ARTICLES & BOOKS

- [Gloria Ladson-Billings Re-frames the Racial Achievement Gap](#)
- [The Broad Reach Centre: Training, Counseling, and Mediation on Disability Issues](#)
- [UDL Connect](#)
- *Social Justice Educational Leaders and Resistance: Toward a Theory of Social Justice Leadership*, George Theoharis, Educational Administration Quarterly April 2007 43: 221-258.
- [Integrating Differentiated Instruction and Understanding by Design](#), Tomlinson & McTigh (2006)
- [Creating Welcoming Schools](#), by JoBeth Allen, 2007.

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

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

PLATO

Anyone who is using PLATO as an instructor on a regular basis has seen the notice about the major changes to the user interface. These changes happened May 21. Check out [this link](#) to view a 3-minute video overview of the changes.

On June 7, Edmentum trainer Stephen Kimner will be here at TST for two training sessions geared specifically to the upgrade of the educator interface. There are many new features that simplify the educator's work in the program. There will be one session in the morning from 8:30-11:30 a.m. and an afternoon session from 12:30-3:30 p.m. Each session will be limited to 15 participants and will take place in the Tioga Training Room on the TST BOCES campus. The training is open to all instructors and administrators. Registration is open in [My Learning Plan](#).

Facing History – Choosing to Participate

This conference will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. July 12, 13 and 14 at SUNY Cortland. It focuses on civic choices -- the decisions people make about themselves and others in their community, nation and world. The choices people make, both large and small, may not seem important at the time, but little by little they shape us as individuals and responsible global citizens. This series will directly connected to the NYS Social Studies Framework and C3 Framework. For more information, click [here](#).

Unit Planning for All Learners Summer Series

Think and collaborate outside 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](#) or sign up now in [mlp](#).

Save
the
Date!

Mark your calendar for July 13! A teacher workshop will be held in preparation for a fall traveling exhibit presented by The Smithsonian Institution's Human Origins Program. The exhibit is titled "[Exploring Human Origins: What Does It Mean To Be Human?](#)" and will offer the content of the Smithsonian's Hall of Human Origins to communities around the country from Nov. 23 to Dec. 23, making a stop at the Tompkins County Public Library.

The exhibit was developed in partnership with the American Library Association and made possible by a grant from the John Templeton Foundation as well as support from the Peter Buck Human Origins Fund (Smithsonian).

Teacher workshop details will be provided soon. Register [here](#) to ensure you receive all the upcoming details and a seat at the workshop.

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SIS Weekly Bulletin

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Barry Derfel, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

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