

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

This week, let's push our students to show us that they understand what they are learning rather than just showing us that they have the right answers. Talk to a colleague about how this goes and what you learn along the way.

NEWS AND NOTES

Welcome Alissa Elghazi, Administrative Assistant

Welcome to Alissa Elghazi! Alissa has joined the School Improvement Services team as Barry's administrative assistant. Alissa's email address is aelghazi@tstboces.org, and her phone number is (607) 257-1551, ext. 1048.

Important Update from NYSED on Testing Accommodations

Important Update from New York State Education Department (NYSED) regarding procedures on the permissibility of the testing accommodation "tests read" for students with disabilities on the Grades 3-8 New York State English Language Arts Assessments (Grades 3-8 ELA Assessments). This memorandum replaces guidance previously issued by NYSED on testing accommodations for students with disabilities. Beginning with the 2017 administration of the Grades 3-8 English Language Arts (ELA) Assessments, students with disabilities whose Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) or Section 504 Accommodations Plans (504 Plans) document that tests be read aloud (by way of human reader or technology) must be provided this testing accommodation in accordance with the specifications in the IEP/504 Plan. In previous years, only directions were to be read to students on the Grades 3-8 ELA Assessments; no other portion of the test was to be read aloud regardless of the circumstances. Additionally, this testing accommodation will be provided to students upon declassification with documentation indicating the accommodation will continue. This information is posted [here](#).

NYSED Early Learning Task Force: Call for Applicants

NYSED is currently accepting applications for membership in the [NYSED Early Learning Task Force](#).

The main goal of the Task Force will be to discuss concerns about how learning standards affect our earliest learners, specifically students in pre-kindergarten to second grade. To address ongoing concerns with New York State's youngest students, the Task Force's discussions will focus on, but not be limited to, developmentally appropriate practice, standards, instructional guidance for the early grades and how to focus on the "whole child." Information from the Task Force will be used to inform Departmental policy and the revision of the learning standards.

The Early Learning Task Force will be selected through an open application process and will be comprised of around 30 early learning educators, including P-2 classroom teachers, parents, special education teachers, ESOL teachers, program administrators, curriculum specialists, **THERE'S MORE!**

Quote of the Week

"Knowing is binary - you either know something or you don't... Understanding is more a matter of degree, as our language suggests."
-- Tomlinson & McTighe

CONT. FROM PAGE 1 ↓ college professors, developmental specialists and school administrators. Additionally, a child developmental specialist will participate in the Task Force to provide research in this area.

The application is open to the public from November 8, 2016 to November 30, 2016. After the Department receives the applications, the selection process will begin. You will be contacted by email if you are selected to the task force. You may apply [here](#).

FOR TEACHERS

National Art Education Association

“Mission: The [National Art Education Association](#) (NAEA) advances visual arts education to fulfill human potential and promote global understanding.”

Arts Education Partnership

“The [Arts Education Partnership](#), a national network of organizations, is a center within Education Commission of the States dedicated to advancing the arts in education through research, policy and practice.”

Voices of Practitioners

“[Voices of Practitioners](#) is a vehicle for dissemination of early childhood teachers’ systematic study of an aspect of their own classroom practice. Deeply involved in the daily lives of children and their families, teachers provide a critical insider perspective on life in their classrooms through communication of their investigations, the results, and their reflections.”

[Learning to Talk About Race in the Classroom](#)

Exploring Human Origins: What Does It Mean To Be Human?

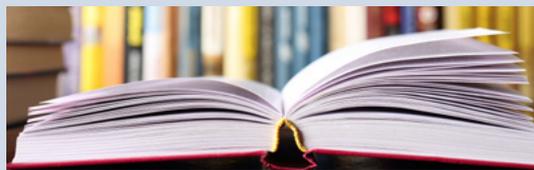
TST BOCES is partnering with the Tompkins County Library to provide curricular connections for students and Professional Development opportunities to for teachers in conjunction with the traveling Smithsonian exhibit Exploring Human Origins: What Does It Mean To Be Human. The exhibit will open at TCPL on November 23. and will be available for public viewing through December 23.

- To find out more about TST BOCES school programs, [click here](#).
- To find out more about library programming for the exhibit, [click here](#).

FOR PRINCIPALS

[Horace](#)

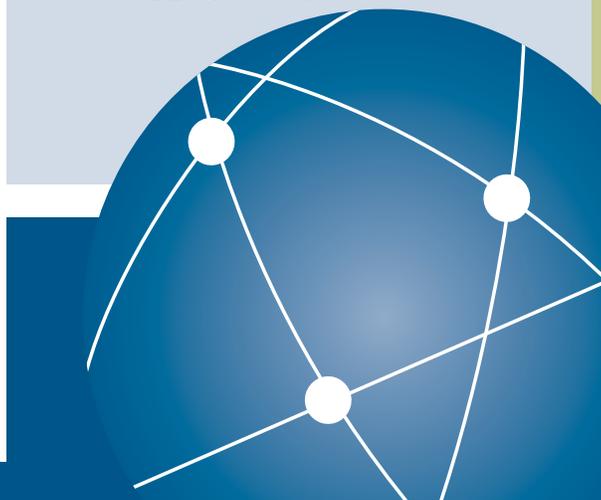
“[This] journal of the Coalition of Essential Schools, was published from 1989 – 2009 to demonstrate the strength and expertise of the CES network, explore challenges that Essential schools faced, and served as evidence of the effectiveness of the CES movement to transform the lives of young people and adults, schools, communities, school systems, and the larger environment in which schools operate.



LINKS, ARTICLES & BOOKS

Contact Barry if you would like to borrow a book

- [Crusade for Justice – The Autobiography of Ida B. Wells, 1970.](#)
- *Can Principals Promote Teacher Development as Evaluators? A Case Study of Principals’ Views and Experiences*, Kraft & Gilmour, 2016.
- [The Root](#) - Daily online news site that provides commentary on today’s news from a variety of African America perspectives.
- [Indian Country News](#) – “Indian Country Communications, Inc. is an independent, Native-owned, reservation-based business that produces IndianCountryTV.com and published News From Indian Country. They are located on the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe Reservation in Northern Wisconsin and have eight stock holders and are one of the few tribally oriented publications that is not owned, or politically controlled by a tribal government.”
- Check out these [Top 5 UDL Tips for Reducing Stereotype Threat](#). “Stereotype threat is the feeling that you might confirm a negative stereotype about a group to which you belong. That feeling can have a negative impact on performance. These tips are based on solid, replicated research that has shown significant promise in improving the social and emotional climate in learning environments. Use the “Ask Yourself” questions to think about these tips using the UDL framework.”



UPCOMING WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

Offered through our folks here at TST BOCES

Unit Planning for All Learners Follow Up Sessions

These follow-up support/work sessions are only open to educators who already participated in one of the summer Unit Planning for All Learners series. Participants may sign up for a half day or a full day and may choose to sign up for one, two or three sessions. (Participation hours will be appropriately adjusted in MLP at the conclusion of each day.) As we did this summer, the TST School Improvement Services Team will co-facilitate differentiated instruction and support to all participants. This is an opportunity for participants to finish planning a unit that is not yet complete, to start planning a new unit or to deepen their understanding of the following major understandings: UDL - Universal Design for Learning, UbD - Understanding by Design, DI - Differentiated Instruction, Inclusion and 21st Century Learning. More information is available on [this flier](#).

Educator Expertise Needed!

Justin DiMatteo and Jennifer Gondek are looking to bring together educators from our region to create an [Rtl Repository](#). The repository will serve as a resource for all districts in the TST Region and will provide educators with specific intervention strategies, the research behind the strategies, demonstrations/directions of how to implement the strategies, supporting materials needed to effectively implement the strategies, etc. Justin and Jennifer need to get a few teachers from each district to participate in the Rtl Repository Design Workshop, so the repository can be populated with research-based strategies that educators in our region are already using and finding effective. For more information, see the [attached flier](#).

Supporting Teens in Making Healthy Choices

Youth Development and Cooperative Enrichment will host Matt Bellace on December 5, 2016 at the Southside Community Center in Ithaca. Matt will discuss how to support teens in making healthy choices beginning at 5 p.m. Recent research suggests that the most well-adjusted teenagers have stronger non-cognitive skills,

such as self-control, grit and resilience. This program will focus on how parents can help foster those skills in a supporting environment without arguing. Specifically, it will present techniques such as mindfulness meditation, effective communication and using natural highs as healthy coping mechanisms against stress, alcohol and other drug use and bullying behavior. The goal is to help improve the quality of life for both parents and their teens. The current research on adolescent brain development will be presented and time will be given for questions and answers. As a clinical psychologist and stand-up comedian, Dr. Bellace uses humor to convey his very powerful message – we need to support young people in both words and actions if we want them to make healthy choices for themselves. [Find out more about Matt!](#) Sign up on [My Learning Plan](#). See [attached flier](#) for more information.

Connect. Create. Innovate.

A professional development day hosted by SUNY Cortland and TST BOCES. For teachers of Art, Music, PE, Teacher Librarians, FACS, Technology, Theater, Dance, Foreign Language, and OT/PT, Speech Language Pathology, Early Childhood and more. See [this flier](#) and save the date: 3/17/17.

Additional workshops, conferences, and webinars

Creating a Standards-Based IEP: An Overview

Regional Training at TST BOCES Tuesday, December 6 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Have you been hearing the term standards-based IEPs? Are you confused what this means? This full-day training will explain the meaning of standards-based IEPs and will walk participants through a process on how to align IEPs to the Common Core Learning Standards. The training will discuss the memos from that were released in June 2014. There will also be a special focus on present levels of performance and measurable annual goals. [Register here](#).

Sign up to Receive Info on Free UDL Webinars

[Sign up!](#) CAST Professional Learning offers free webinars to the public that focus on a variety of topics related to UDL and learning such as learner variability, lesson design, UDL implementation and more! Check out their website to see what webinars are coming up.

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SIS Weekly Bulletin

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