

# 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 Students

This week, think about 3 to 5 students that you feel you don't know very well. Write their names down in your daily planner or on a sheet of paper in your work space. Each day, make sure to have a brief conversation with each of the young people on your list.

## MESSAGE FROM COMMISSIONER ELIA

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) is pleased to announce the release of the [New EngageNY](#), featuring a more robust search, responsive design for better viewing on mobile devices, and streamlined navigation. The site continues to serve educators and citizens by providing information and resources to help improve teaching and learning in New York. In response to feedback from educators and the public, and

guided by state-of-the-art data analytics, NYSED has redesigned the site to make resources - including the free, standards-based curriculum materials and hundreds of new videos - easier to locate, navigate and share via social media. We hope you will continue to visit the site often to find the latest videos, curriculum and professional development materials. Please subscribe to our newsletters and follow us on Twitter and Facebook for important news and updates.

## NEW TECHNOLOGY EMPLOYEE WELCOMED

Introducing Justin DiMatteo, who recently joined TST BOCES as a technology integration instructional specialist.

"As a former technology integration teacher and technology mentor at the Dryden Central Schools, I work to leverage instructional technology in pursuit of strengthening student learning outcomes. I am excited to participate in the work of the School Improvement Services team in support of all learners. Effective technology integration requires quality instruction based in meaningful curricula, and I look forward to collaborating with

districts, teachers, and students to make this happen," DiMatteo said.

DiMatteo can be contacted via email at [jdimatteo@tstboces.org](mailto:jdimatteo@tstboces.org) or by phone: 607-257-1551, ext. 1018.

### Quote of the Week

"Teachers in effectively differentiated classrooms are hunters and gatherers of information about what best propels learning for each student. Such teachers believe that each new piece of information contributes to accruing insight about how to work more effectively with a given learner."

-- Tomlinson & McTighe

THERE'S MORE ↓

[tstboces.org](http://tstboces.org)

# UPCOMING WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

## STEM Program Offered

Middle School Teachers – Don't miss this! STEM: Explore, Discover, Apply (STEM EDA) engages middle school students through a series of hands-on projects that help improve their problem-solving and critical thinking skills. All projects seamlessly integrate the Engineering Design Process and "cyber" concepts which allow students to creatively explore STEM through design. This multigrade level curricula utilizes liberal arts disciplines to provide meaning and depth to the content. Through this program, students develop invaluable skills focusing on leadership, team building, creativity and communication. STEM EDA's modular nature provides ultimate flexibility to schools. Teachers can implement the curricula as a standalone elective course, insert specific modules into an existing class, or provide the modules as an after-school program.

During the professional development, teachers will go through and experience a variety of projects as if they were the student. This dynamic and interactive professional development model will empower teachers to begin teaching in a new and engaging manner! TST BOCES will provide ongoing, individualized coaching support after the training, to help ensure that teachers are successful in implementing what they have learned. (Click [here](#) for more details)

## Social Studies Series

Bringing the "Social Studies Practices" to Life - Update, revise, or create a unit plan by explicitly building students' ability to use and apply key social studies skills. This four-part series will run from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Feb. 3, Feb. 24, March 7 and March 21. The cost is \$15 per session. Facilitated by Anne Rhodes and Barry Derfel. (Click [here](#) for more details)

## Cognitive Coaching

The mission of Cognitive Coaching is to produce self-directed persons with the cognitive capacity for excellence both independently and as members of a community. Research indicates that teaching is a complex intellectual activity and that teachers who think at higher levels produce students who are higher achieving, more cooperative and better problem solvers. It is the

invisible skills of teaching, the thinking processes that underlie instructional decisions, which produce superior instruction. Cognitive Coaching is a research-based model that capitalizes upon and enhances teachers' cognitive processes. More information can be found in [My Learning Plan](#).

## Kagan Structures Course

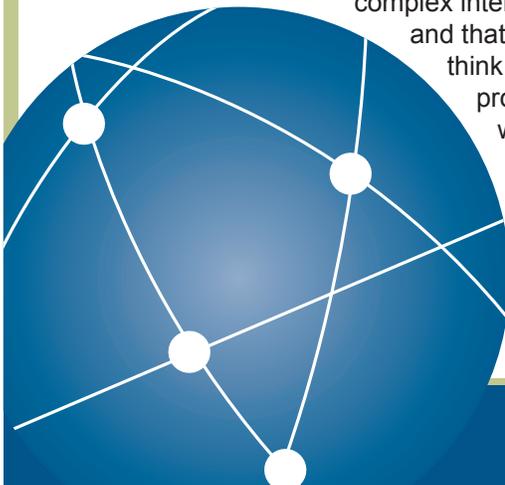
Experience the power of Kagan Structures - simple instructional strategies for cooperative learning that are supported by a large body of scientific research, and proven effective in countless classrooms. This workshop takes place from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 31 in Corey Union, Function Room at SUNY Cortland. It is designed for all teachers and school professionals grades K-12. Classroom and special education teacher pairs are encouraged to attend together. This offering typically costs more than \$200 and we are offering it for a cost of \$15 for teachers in our region. Registration includes lunch and all materials. Seats are limited and registration is required. Register using [My Learning Plan](#).

## IEP Workday

Writing a quality IEP can be long and draining! Come to this full-day workshop to ask questions of the Regional Special Education Training Specialist and the transition Specialist. This will be held March 18 and facilitated by the RSE TA & Support Center. It is intended for Directors of Special Education, CSE/CPSE Chairpersons, Special Education Teachers, and related service providers. Participants will review each section of the IEP for a few minutes and then work on those sections of IEPs and ask questions. You may want to bring your laptops and data to help write your IEPs. For more details and/or to register, click [here](#).

## Writing Measurable Goals

Writing Measurable Annual Goals and Progress Monitoring is a two-day workshop (Feb. 23-24) that will be held at TST BOCES. The offering will be facilitated by RSE TASC and is intended for Directors of Special Education, CSE/CPSE Chairpersons, Special Education Teachers, related service providers. Participants are required to attend both days. Day 1 will cover how to write measurable annual goals that are based on student needs identified by data form assessments. Day 2 will cover progress monitoring in the morning. The afternoon session of Day 2 will be a workday for participants to review sample measurable annual goals and develop progress monitoring tools. For more details and/or to register, click [here](#).



## FOR TEACHERS

### Online Pinning Party

Join fellow Pinterest users for one hour to search, share and pin ideas that relate to increasing cognitive engagement in the classroom. Find something amazing to pin, write a short description of how it will increase cognitive engagement in the classroom, and add it to our regional TST Pinterest board. Prior to the session, you will receive an email with the Danielson rubric's description of cognitive engagement and directions for receiving professional development credit. See attached flier for more details. Register [here](#).

### Screening: Most Likely to Succeed

Campus and community members are welcome to a free screening of "Most Likely to Succeed" from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Feb. 24 at 105 Sperry Hall on the SUNY Cortland campus.

The documentary examines the history of education, revealing the growing shortcomings of our school model in today's world. Introduction by Jeff Craig, Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Support Services at OCM BOCES and a leader in bringing project-based learning and the New Tech Network to Central New York. For more information about the film click [here](#).

### SUNY Cortland Writing Matters Conference

The theme of the conference is "What Comes after the Writing Process?" Program proposals from teachers for interactive writing sessions are encouraged, and due by Feb. 15. The conference will be held at SUNY Cortland Corey Union on March 19. Click [here](#) for details.

### Social Studies Webinar Series

Using New-Old Tools: African-American Periodical & Literature in Social Studies. Feb. 2, 9, 16 and 23; 7 p.m. Presenter: Jocelyn A. Chadwick, Vice President of National Council of Teachers of English, educator, consultant, and scholar, Harvard Graduate School of Education, and Twain Scholar.

Anchored in both the Common Core and C3 Framework for cross-curricular approaches in ELA and social studies, this four-part series will be one of explication, modeling and conversation between presenters and participants. It is designed for teachers to develop a new learning pathway into exploring 19th-century America, gain a rich resource stream of primary sources, and takeaway four exemplary units for immediate use in their classrooms. (*Register [here](#)*)

## FOR PRINCIPALS

### Update: Appeal to Graduate with a Lower Score

Following the Board of Regents approval of the expansion of the "Appeal to Graduate with a Lower Score" to include scores of 52-54 for students with disabilities, the resource links on the NYSED Curriculum and Instruction web page have been updated.

- A letter from James P. DeLorenzo, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Special Education, outlining the new provision can be found [here](#).
- [Updated Diploma Requirements Including Multiple Pathways](#)
- [Updated Diploma and Credential Requirements Summary](#)
- [Updated Appeals Information](#)

## CAREER EXPO

"What's Next? Career Expo" for high school juniors and seniors is a job fair for students looking at careers that only require a two-year degree, certificate or on-the-job training. The event runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 17 in Emerson Suites (Ithaca College). Colleges offering two-year degrees and certificates will be in attendance, and on-site interviews will be available. Panel discussions, workshops and presentations will cover skilled trades, entrepreneurship, resume writing, online networking and Civil Service. Transportation reimbursement available. Contact [Heather Cooper](#) for more details.

## LINKS, ARTICLES & BOOKS

- [Integrating Differentiated Instruction and Understanding by Design](#), by Tomlinson and McTighe 2006.
- *Young Children, Social Issues, and Critical Literacy: Stories of Teachers and Researchers*, (Ching, Stuart 2007).
- [Hackschooling Makes Me Happy – TED Talk](#)
- [January Dignity Act Newsletter](#)
- [TCYSD Community Updates for January](#)

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

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Barry Derfel, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

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