

TST Weekly Bulletin

Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga BOCES

TST BOCES
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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

This week, let's take some time to learn about the [New York State Learning Standards for the Arts](#) and talk with our colleagues about how these standards can bolster our efforts to support student driven learning and our efforts to support our students' social and emotional well-being.

NEWS & NOTES

Supporting Puerto Rico: If you are looking for ways that your school and/or classroom can support relief efforts connected to Puerto Rico, check out these resources:

- [PBS article by Jennifer Hijazi](#)
- [United for Puerto Rico](#)
- [NYSUT relief effort](#)

Discovery Education has created a free curriculum for schools at www.operationprevention.com to help educate students about impacts of prescription opioid misuse and heroin use.

Tompkins Teens Today - 10 Things Parents and Community Leaders Should Know: This is a free presentation sharing highlights from the [fall 2016 countywide student survey](#) with information on adolescent brain development; use of alcohol, marijuana, and opioids by local youth; involvement in community and school activities; mental health of local youth; family life. This event will be held on October 30th, from 5:00-6:00 PM at the Tompkins Public Library, Borg Warner Room East.

Details at www.healthyouth.org.

2018 Scholarships for Academic Excellence (SAE). Pending the appropriation of State funds during the 2018 session of the New York State Legislature, approximately 8,000 Scholarships for Academic Excellence will be awarded to the top high school students graduating from New York State high schools in June 2018. We anticipate having 2,000 scholarships available, valued at \$1,500, and 6,000 scholarships available, valued at \$500.

Information regarding the Scholarships for Academic Excellence was forwarded to all registered New York State high schools (over 1,800) on September 15, 2017. This information included the numbers and types of scholarships each school is eligible to receive. [The deadline date is Thursday, February 15, 2018.](#)

Quote of the Week

"Indeed, an arts literate individual recognizes the value of the arts as a place of free expression; and the importance of observing and participating in the social, political, spiritual, financial, and aesthetic aspects of their communities [both local and global, in person and virtually]; and works to introduce the arts into those settings" (New York State Statewide Strategic Plan for the Arts (rvsd), April 2017, p. 20).

THERE'S MORE ↓

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NEWS AND NOTES CONT.

Updated Question Sampler for Computer-Based Testing, Grades 3-8 English Language Arts and Mathematics, 2017-18 School Year can be found [here](#).

Resources for New York State Growth Measures “As part of the release of State-provided growth scores for the 2016-17 school year, NYSED is undertaking a thorough review of resources available to the field for interpreting growth scores. We need your input about how these materials can be more intuitive in the coming year. Our goal is to create resources that enable you and other district leaders to provide meaningful feedback to educators about their practice, and that help teachers and principals better understand how to leverage the information provided by student growth measures. Only with input from you, your colleagues, and the educators in your district can we ensure that the guidance materials about the State’s growth model are aligned to this purpose and meet the needs of all stakeholders. Follow [this link](#) to a short anonymous survey that closes on Friday, October 27, 2017. We appreciate your participation, and we look forward to sharing the feedback we receive with the field in the near future. After the survey there is also an opportunity to participate in a design process for a system to replace the online Growth Reporting System. NYSED is looking for feedback from practitioners to help inform the design and content of a new system that would allow for a more in-depth exploration of the growth results at the end of the year.”

Requirements Related to Special Education Impartial Hearings. The Office of Special Education has issued a [memorandum](#) titled, Requirements Related to Special Education Impartial Hearings, to remind parties of the current procedures required to ensure that due process hearing decisions are issued within the timelines required by federal and State law and regulation. This memorandum includes requirements specific to filing a due process complaint; the appointment of impartial hearing officers; due process hearing timelines, including expedited hearings; extensions to impartial hearings; and timelines for closing a record and issuing a decision.

FOR TEACHERS

[Connect](#) → [Grow](#) → [Collaborate](#) → [Inspire](#): [October 9, 2017](#). “As a new school year begins, The State University of New York - in partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and our campuses across the state — is convening a statewide summit to connect our best and brightest teachers with a vast network of their peers. Thousands of teachers from across New York State will come together at local SUNY campuses to connect passion with purpose, grow beyond boundaries, honor collective experiences, and move forward in uplifting the teaching profession. More details, including registration information, can be found [here](#).”

[The Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies at Cornell University is a Title VI Resource Center](#). The folks at the [Center](#) are very interested in supporting local teachers. Their resources are culture-generated and/or created alongside folks of the culture about whom the resource relates. The South Asia Program offers professional development workshops for educators, sharing of classroom and curriculum resources, and after-school programming related to South Asia. SAP works closely with the Syracuse University South Asia Center and the Einaudi Center for International Studies to share South Asia-related expertise with institutions of higher education and K-12 schools.

[Reading Your Way to a Culturally Responsive Classroom](#). Check out [this article](#) from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) in which the authors explain how they address race with children ages 3 - 4. The information and resources they share can easily be adapted to meet the needs of every student, from Pre-K through high school senior. At the same time, there is much in this article that helps us support every student’s social and emotional well-being, which is one of our [Regional Priorities](#).

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

Offered through our folks here at TST BOCES

Looking for more PD opportunities?

Click [here](#) to access the PD catalog online.

Co-Teaching PLC

This professional learning community will bring together educators that are co-teaching in classrooms from across the region. Teams of teachers will explore and apply collaborative planning strategies, the principles of Universal Design for Learning, specially-designed instruction, and data-based differentiation. Two anchor texts, The Blueprint for Students with Disabilities and The Blueprint for English Language Learners, will guide the work of the series. Each session will be a blend of facilitated activities, reading, discussion, application, and dedicated co-planning time with your partner. This PLC will take a flexible approach to professional development design. A choice of breakout sessions is offered each date based on participant feedback. Session one is on October 17th, from 8:30 - 2:30. More information is [available here](#), and registration is open in [mlp](#).

Autism Collaborative Community

The Autism Collaborative Community is an opportunity for educators working with students with Autism Spectrum Disorder in the classroom to collaborate and share promising practices across our region. Participants will explore evidence-based practices and interventions with opportunities to plan for implementation and reflect together on data collected. The team of facilitators will provide follow-up support between sessions. All participating members will also have the opportunity to interact digitally in between sessions. The first session will be on October 20th, from 8:30 - 2:30. More information can be found [here](#), and registration in [mlp](#) is now open. Focus areas for this year include: Increasing Independence, Engaging All students in Instruction, Social-Emotional Skill Building, and other topics of interest or need determined by the participants during our first session. *NOTE: Each team must include a general education teacher to register* Questions? Contact Jennifer Gondek at jgondek@tstboces.org or 257-1551 (x1045)

Digital Learning Series: The Paraprofessional's Handbook for Effective Support in Inclusive Classrooms

This online series will use the handbook as a guide for participants as they explore how to provide support that is more effective for students with disabilities in the classroom environment. Each week participants will read the assigned chapter and post a response in Google Classroom. There will be a task assigned each week and feedback will be given by the facilitator. Participants will need access (paper or digital) to an IEP of a student he or she supports. Learning Targets: 1. I can explain the various roles of paraprofessionals and reflect on my current position in terms of roles and responsibilities. 2. I can work collaboratively with team members to maximize efficiency and effectiveness in the classroom. 3. I can examine an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and find information about my student's abilities, needs, goals, and accommodations. 4. I can support students with a strength-based approach and presume competence. 5. I can apply appropriate academic and behavioral supports within the classroom environment. More information can be found [here](#). Register in [mlp](#).

Regional CSforALL Kick Off will begin on October 6, 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

The TST BOCES CSforAll Kick Off will include a wide variety of ways for educators to engage with computer science in a classroom-like setting. Participants will have the opportunity to explore products in the School Library Systems Media Library, chat with instructional technology specialists about how they can incorporate computer science in their curriculum, and learn about ways to integrate computer science using digital tools and unplugged exercises (no computer necessary). See [this flier](#) for more information, and sign up now in [mlp](#).

Supporting All Students:

[Supporting students' mental health, and their social & emotional well-being](#)

[Student-driven learning](#)

[Questioning and discussion techniques](#)

[Engaging students in learning](#)

[Using assessment in instruction](#)

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

Offered by other organizations and/or our consultants

Scaffolding and Differentiation for English Language Learners (ELLs) on October 23, 2017 from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Facilitator: Mikian Royer, Teacher Trainer/Resource Specialist, Mid-State RBE-RN. Teachers will explore ways to scaffold and differentiate instruction for ELLs. Focus will be on making content comprehensible for ELLs and strategies for structuring coursework so that ELLs can be successful in the content area classroom. Participants will: define and distinguish between scaffolding and differentiation; learn strategies to scaffold text for comprehensibility; acquire a toolkit of scaffolding strategies to make instruction more comprehensible for ELLs; experiment with differentiating texts and assessment to better meet the needs of ELLs. Sign up now in [mlp](#).

TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION

The TST Tech Team has put together [this video](#) about themselves and some of their work. Please contact Paul (pwiech@tstboces.org) and Justin (jdimatteo@tstboces.org) with questions, suggestions, and ideas!

Thanks for watching!

LINKS, ARTICLES & BOOKS

[Global Voices in Education Fall Speaker Series](#)

[Culturally Sustaining Pedagogies](#) (Paris & Alim, 2017)

[For White Folks Who Teach in the Hood and the Rest of Y'all Too](#) (Christopher Emdin, 2016)

[Social and Emotional Learning and Equity in School Discipline](#) (Gregory & Edward Fergus, 2017).

Contact Barry to borrow a book or article

FOR PRINCIPALS

If you are interested in building a school culture that affirms every student, consider [Reading Your Way to a Culturally Responsive Classroom](#) as a resource to help you get there.

Relief from Requirements for Multiple Reporting of Reportable Incidents - The Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs (Justice Center) issued guidance clarifying the legal responsibility of mandated reporters under the New York State Protection of People with Special Needs Act to report Abuse, Neglect and Significant Incidents involving vulnerable persons to the Vulnerable Persons' Central Register, a 24/7 hotline operated by the Justice Center. Please refer to the following documents: [Relief from Requirements for Multiple Reporting of Reportable Incidents September 2017](#) and [Justice Center Memorandum May 19, 2017](#).

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