

# 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

This week, let's dialogue with colleagues and students about race. Is our school/organization a place where we routinely interact with and among Black folks, Brown folks, and other people of color, along with White folks, or are most of our interactions limited to White folks? If we find ourselves interacting with people of many different races, how does this add value to our lives? If we don't routinely interact with folks of all different races, why don't we? How does this limit the quality of our lives?

## MESSAGE FROM BARRY

Foundational to supporting students' mental health and their social & emotional well being is the need shift discipline approaches away from simply a matter of rules and consequences, towards the notion of discipline as self-control, where all members of the school community (students, educators, families, community) share responsibility for creating a safe, healthy and effective learning environment. Within this paradigm, we all learn to balance our rights to life, liberty, and happiness with the school-based needs to teach, learn, and be safe (socially, emotionally, physically, and academically). We do this by learning to advocate for our needs (to teach, to learn in ways that work for us, to be listened to and respected, etc.) in an appropriate time, place, and manner. As we each get better at doing this, we become more disciplined, both as individuals and as a school community.

Grounding this approach is the notion that as human beings, we make mistakes all of the time when it comes to advocating for our needs. This is especially true when we are tired, frustrated, confused, or angry. For this reason, discipline is not about avoiding or eliminating conflict, it is about recognizing conflict as a gift, as a learnable moment. Together we learn to first recognize that the scale of rights and needs is out of balance. We teach ourselves to then figure out, together, how we will (or could have) advocate(d) for our needs in an appropriate time, place, and manner.

If you find this approach to discipline intriguing, and would like to explore how to develop such a disciplined school community, let me know and we can talk about how we can collaborate to make it happen.

## TST BOCES TECH CREW UPDATES

What is the hubbub around CSforAll and what can it do to making our students' learning experiences more powerful? Read [the article](#) and find out about the CSforAll movement in the TST BOCES region.



### Quote of the Week

"The way the [educator] teaches can be traced back directly to the way that the [educator] has been taught. The time will always come when [educators] must ask themselves if they will follow the mold or blaze a new trail. There are serious risks that come with this decision. It essentially boils down to whether one chooses to do damage to the system or the student" (Christopher Emdin, 2016).



## UPCOMING WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

Looking for more PD opportunities?

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

*Offered through our folks here at TST BOCES*

### Regional Demonstration Classrooms

Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to visit local classrooms to observe promising practices as they unfold in a live teaching environment with students engaged in learning. Regional Demonstration Classrooms in the areas of Math, ELA, and Science are now open and ready to accept visitors! Visitors will observe and discuss how Learning Targets, Criteria for Success, and Formative Assessment Practices are used throughout the lesson. Check out [this flier](#) for details, including information about how to sign up to participate.

### G Suite Online Learning Academy (Enroll & Begin Course Anytime)

Enroll [here](#) and begin the course at any time. This Individualized Professional Development Opportunity directly supports our Regional Priorities. Some of the learning targets come directly from Charlotte Danielson's Framework for Teaching Rubric. Specifically, they represent critical attributes in the proficient column of item: *1d. Demonstrating Knowledge of Resources*. Educators will earn 5 Professional Development Hours for successfully completing all 5 Challenges. The educator will: Immerse themselves in the G Suite environment as they learn how to use the tools covered in the G Suite Academy; apply their knowledge as they create artifacts using G Suite; reflect on evidence to show how the application of these tools can impact students. Learning Targets: I will be able to use the G Suite platform to integrate technology as a tool to improve student learning; create a collaborative environment with colleagues and students that streamlines workflows; envision using these tools with students within and outside of the classroom to enhance student learning.

*Offered by other organizations and/or our consultants*

Change.School is a powerful 8-week online experience for educational leaders who are serious about changing school." Sign up [here](#).

### Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain - (Rescheduled from today for January 4, 2018, from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m)

Facilitator: Mandi Sanchez, Mid-State RBE-RN. Participants will explore the basic tenet of cultural awareness and culturally responsive instruction through discussion, case studies, and activities. Special emphasis will be placed on research into how instruction, culture, and the brain interact. This workshop is based on the text [Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain](#), by Zaretta Hammond. [Sign up in frontline](#). For more information click [HERE](#).

## NEWS & NOTES

State Archives Annual Student Research Awards Contest - The New York State Archives invites students statewide to enter the [28th Annual Student Research Awards Contest](#). The contest is open to all New York State students in grades 4 – 12 who use historical records in their research projects. The deadline for entries is July 1, 2018. Three awards will be presented in the Fall of 2018.

Students Encouraged to Apply for 2018 Summer School of the Arts - Applications are currently being accepted for the 2018 New York State Summer School of the Arts (NYSSSA). Students in grades 8-12 throughout New York State are encouraged to apply. NYSSSA is comprised of seven schools: Theatre, Ballet, Modern Dance, Orchestral Studies, Choral Studies, Visual Arts, and Media Arts. Auditions begin in January and will be held across the state. [A schedule of audition sites and application materials are available at the NYSSSA website](#).

Have you seen the "[We Are Ithaca](#)" Project? Whether you live in Ithaca or not, you will likely find the project intriguing and it may spark some ideas for how you might get a similar project going in your own community.

## LINKS, ARTICLES & BOOKS

*Refusing Relevance: School Administrator Resistance to Offering Professional Development Addressing LGBTQ Issues in Schools*, Payne & Smith 2017

[100Kin10](#)

[For White Folks Who Teach in the Hood... and the rest of Y'all Too](#), by Christopher Emdin, 2017.

**Contact Barry to borrow a book or article**

Our [2017 - 2018 Regional Priorities](#) will help us support every student:

- [1. Supporting students' mental health, and their social & emotional well-being](#)
- [2. Student-driven learning](#)
- [3. Questioning and discussion techniques](#)
- [4. Engaging students in learning](#)
- [5. Using assessment in instruction](#)

**Blueprint for Improved Results for Students with Disabilities:**

[NYSED Blueprint for Improved Results for Students with Disabilities](#)  
[Understanding by Design](#)  
[UbD & DI: An Essential Partnership](#)  
[CAST UDL Exchange](#)

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## FOR TEACHERS

[Hair Nah!](#)

[Students as Creators - How To Drive Your Students To Be More Than Just Consumers](#)

[In the Middle of Learning](#)

[Science Genius](#)

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## FOR PRINCIPALS

[Professional learning, insights from the field](#)

[#HipHopEd](#)

[Achieving Equitable Access to Strong Teachers](#)



**TST**  
**SIS Weekly Bulletin**

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School Improvement Services

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