

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.



Barry Derfel

Assistant Superintendent
for Instruction

607-257-1551, ext. 1004
bderfel@tstboces.org
T: @barry_derfel

TST BOCES
555 Warren Road
Ithaca, NY 14850

FOCUS OF THE WEEK

Deep reflection and candid conversation - This week, let's honestly ask ourselves - Do the habits of mind and behavior that ground my practice reinforce traditional roles for teachers and students, or do they liberate us in ways that promote student agency and student-centered learning? Along with personal reflection, let's share our thinking with colleagues so we can learn from each other.

TST BOCES TECH CREW UPDATES

This week, we welcome your perspectives to a conversation centered around our beliefs and values as educators. Please take just a few minutes to visit bit.ly/AssessWhatYouValue. Join the ongoing discussion by sharing your thoughts, ideas, and/or questions. You will find everything you need right on this one page. We appreciate your ideas!



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](#)

[Priced Out In the United States](#) - "The Priced Out report, co-authored by TAC and the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Housing Task Force, documents the nationwide affordability crisis experienced by people with disabilities."

[Understanding by Design](#)

[UbD & DI: An Essential Partnership](#)

[CAST UDL Exchange](#)

[Sue Rubin - Autism is a World](#)

LINKS, ARTICLES & BOOKS

[Learning Personalized](#)

[Students at the Center](#), Kallick and Zumda, 2017

[See Our Truth - The State of Teacher and Leader Diversity in New York, and Why It Matters](#) (The Education Trust, 2017)

[Out in the Country: Youth, Media, and Queer Visibility in Rural America](#)

Contact Barry to borrow a book or article

Quote of the Week

"[Student driven] learning equips students to pursue their interests and passions and removes compliance-focused strictures on both students and teacher creativity. It's about empowerment, about discovery and liberation, about recasting traditional roles, and about shifting our educational assumptions" (Students at the Center: Personalized Learning with Habits of Mind, by Kallick and Zumda 2017).

NEWS & NOTES

The New York State Next Generation Learning Standards: Supporting All Students Conference was held in Albany. [Keynote materials and additional resources can be accessed here.](#)

The [Introduction to the NYS Early Learning Standards](#) highlights the important role of play in the learning process: "Children's natural inclination to play represents an efficacious approach to learning in early childhood. Self directed play activities that allow children to examine, experiment, practice, and advance their skills, offer an ideal opportunity to observe competencies associated with the Standards" (p. 4). What might play-based learning that supports the NYS Next Generation Learning Standards for Mathematics look like? [In this video excerpt from the Teaching Channel](#), consider how a Kindergarten teacher in Oklahoma uses multiple methods to engage students in counting and ordering numbers.

In an effort to raise awareness of geography, the Varna Community Association will hold a geography quiz event called GeoWhiz on January 27, 1-3pm at the Varna Community Center. GeoWhiz will run much like a spelling bee where teams compete to answer questions about the geography of New York State, the US, and US territories. [More details can be found here.](#) Although wording in the brochure references Tompkins County, teams from anywhere in the TST BOCES region are welcome. The event is a fundraiser. However, if a team is not able to provide the \$30 registration fee, they may contact MorganJ@tompkinscortland.edu and ask to be matched up with a sponsor (business or individual).

Messages from Commissioner Elia:

This week, the Board of Regents adopted regulations to [expand the criteria under which students with disabilities may be eligible to graduate high school with a local diploma](#). Some students with disabilities are unable to demonstrate proficiency on standard State assessments, even with testing accommodations. State regulations therefore provide several "safety net" options for these students to graduate with a local diploma, including the superintendent determination option. To be eligible for the superintendent determination option, a student with a disability must meet certain conditions that are defined in State regulations. The amendments to the superintendent determination option will be in effect for students seeking to graduate in January 2018 and thereafter.

This week, [the Board of Regents took action to improve principal preparation and practice in New York](#) by adopting the 2015 Professional Standards for Educational Leaders (PSELs). The new standards have a greater focus on equity and culturally responsive practices and are more in line with the day-to-day responsibilities of the modern day principal. Adoption of the 2015 PSELs is part of NYSED's larger effort to improve principal development and support as part of the Principal Preparation Project.

FOR TEACHERS

Applications are open for the Intrepid Museum's NEH Summer Institute for Teachers: The Cold War Through the Collections of the Intrepid Museum. It is a 2 week program and teachers get \$2100 to offset some of the costs of travel and housing. This Institute is open to all who fit the NEH criteria but is most appropriate for middle and high school Social Studies, History, Science and Technology teachers. For all the information, including eligibility, faculty and the application process: <https://www.intrepidmuseum.org/neh-institute>

[Martin Luther King's 1963 Letter from Birmingham Jail Document and Audio](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR PREVIOUS BULLETINS](#)

FOR PRINCIPALS

[White Anti-Racism: Living the Legacy](#)

[Youth Lead the Way in Rural Oregon](#)

[The Future of Coding in Schools](#)

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

Offered through our folks here at TST BOCES

Looking for more PD opportunities?

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

Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community? (Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s last book) 5 Session Series.

"We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history there is such a thing as being too late. Procrastination is the thief of time." (MLK, 1967). In this series, we will read and discuss Dr. King's last text, using the core question, "Where Do We Go From Here" to push us to take informed actions that will increase the ways in which our students are affirmed, empowered, and supported as learners in our schools. Sessions will run from 4:00 - 5:15. Participants will need to participate in all five sessions: [2/1/18](#), [2/28/18](#); [3/15/18](#); [4/12/18](#); [5/10/18](#). Participants will be sent a free copy of the text once they have signed up for all five sessions.

Demonstration Classrooms

Don't miss out on this unique opportunity - there are still openings for January and February visits. Here's your chance 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! Check out [this flier](#) for details, including information about how to sign up to participate.

Unit Planning for All Learners: Descriptive Feedback Session, January 18, 8:30am-12:30pm

Session Purpose: To collaboratively analyze each other's unit plans and give, receive, and use descriptive feedback for improvement purposes. Our goal is to help you bring together the principles of Understanding by Design (UBD), Differentiated Instruction (DI), and Universal Design for Learning (UDL), so that you can build/refine unit plans that integrate learning standards and content in ways that are most likely to lead to success for every student. Norms for giving and receiving feedback: ~ be kind, ~ be helpful, ~ be specific. What is descriptive feedback?: The focus is on supporting growth - improving a particular piece of work, performance, skill, or disposition. [Sign up here](#).

The Progress Monitoring Workday is open to all special education teachers, general education teachers and related service providers that want to work on progress monitoring IEP goals in a supported environment. The majority of each session will be dedicated work time for teams or individuals. Come ready to work and bring your questions about well-written IEP goals, new progress monitoring tools, and how to best utilize technology to organize data and track progress. Bring your IEPs or digital access and a device. Chromebooks and laptops will be available for anyone that needs a device. We encourage collaboration and resource sharing through the Inclusive Education Wiki and shared Google Docs. January 31st. You may register for a half-day in the a.m. or p.m. or sign up for both and make it a full day! [Sign up for a.m. session here](#); [sign up for p.m. session here](#).

COGNOS and Cubes Training at TST BOCES - Monday, January 8 from 12:15 - 2:15

This training will familiarize people with COGNOS reports and basic Cube Reports. Participants must have COGNOS Level 1 access. (Access the COGNOS Level 1 application at: <http://www.cnyric.org/tfiles/folder1251/CognosApplication.pdf> and be sure to have your superintendent sign off and fax this in before the session.). [Sign up in MLP](#).

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](#).

Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga BOCES

School Improvement Services

Dr. Jeffrey Matteson, District Superintendent
Barry Derfel, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

SIS Weekly Bulletin

tstboces.org