

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

This week, let's focus on shifting our monologues to dialogues. In connection to this week's quote, let's really push ourselves to ask the kinds of questions and create the kinds of spaces that will allow us to "listen to students thinking out loud." For those of us who work mostly with adults, let's work on asking the questions and creating the spaces necessary to allow us to listen to colleagues thinking out loud.

NEWS & NOTES

The beginning of the new school year is a good reminder about hazards in science classrooms, such as methanol and other flammable liquids, and safety procedures during educational demonstrations. The Chemical Safety Board (CSB), an independent federal agency that investigates chemical accidents, has developed a safety bulletin with key lessons for preventing accidents when using flammable chemicals in classrooms. The CSB developed this information in response to three separate incidents that injured children and adults over an eight-week period in 2014. We encourage teachers and administrators to visit the [CSB website](#) to view a safety message from CSB board members, as well as the link to the [summary report](#) and the [one page safety bulletin](#).

CBT Fall Presentation Sessions and Statewide Webinar

[There will be a statewide webinar](#) on Wednesday, October 18th that offers the same content as will be presented at the CBT Fall Presentation Sessions. Registration to the webinar will be posted during the week of September 18th: The statewide webinar will be recorded and posted to [CBT Support](#).

A [CBT Transition Checklist](#) has been posted to CBT Support to help schools that are considering the transition to computer-based testing (CBT). This checklist is a high-level list of considerations or decisions that can help a school answer the question, "can our school transition to CBT this year?" You can find the CBT Transition Checklist in "Resources" on CBT Support.

[This Field Memo](#) provides important information about recent changes to Education Law §3209 and Commissioner's regulation §100.2(x) impacting how New York State school districts and charter schools provide services to students experiencing homelessness. The federal McKinney-Vento Act requires that local educational agencies (LEAs) ensure that children and youth experiencing homelessness have access to the same free, appropriate public education, including public preschool education, as other children and youth; have access to educational and other services needed so that these children and youth can be successful in school; and are not separated from the mainstream school environment (42 U.S.C. §11431; see also Education Law §3209). For additional information regarding this Field Memo please see the following [link](#).

Next Generation Learning Standards and Assessment

As of last week, the Next Generation Learning Standards for [Mathematics](#) and [ELA](#) were approved, as well as the New York State P-12 Learning Standards for [the Arts](#). In addition, the new [Social Studies Framework](#) and the [New York State P12 Science Learning Standards](#) were approved within the last few years. The Next Generation ELA and Mathematics standards were revised as a result of over two years of collaborative work with over 130 educators, families, and community members. You can read the introduction to the Revised ELA Standards [here](#), and the introduction to the Early Learning Standards, [here](#).

We at TST BOCES are working closely with NYSED through the Staff/Curriculum Development Network (S/CDN) to ensure that all educators in the TST BOCES Region learn about/deepen their understanding of why these standards have been revised and/or developed, what is new about these standards, the implications for our practices in the areas of curriculum, instruction, and assessment, and most importantly how we can integrate these into our practices in ways that are best for students. There is consensus among our network that we need to approach this work intentionally and responsively. We want to do this work slow enough to ensure that teachers and administrators gain deep understanding of the implications of these standards for what learning looks like, sounds like, and feels like in the classroom, and that they have the support they need to shift their practices accordingly.

In our region, we will work collectively and collaboratively to build educator leadership and expertise across all levels: early elementary, elementary, middle level, and high school.

Additional information about the timeline for ELA and Mathematics implementation in schools is available from [Standards and Assessment Implementation Timeline](#). Additional information about the Social Studies Framework, including the timeline for shifting assessments, can be found [here](#).

Quote of the Week

"[In the dialogic classroom,] dialogue is seen an essential tool for learning, student involvement is what happens during and not 'at the end of' an exchange, and teachers can learn so much about their effect on student learning by listening to students thinking out loud" (John Hattie, 2012).

LINKS, ARTICLES & BOOKS

[Teaching for Change](#)

[Strength to Love](#), (Martin Luther King, Jr. 1963)

[Unlocking Opportunity for African American Girls - A Call to Action for Educational Equity](#) (NWLC & LDF, 2014).

Contact Barry to borrow a book or article

THERE'S MORE!

tstboces.org

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

Offered through our folks here at TST BOCES

Looking for more PD opportunities?

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

Math Teachers Network, grades K - 8

Learning Targets for this year's Math Coaches Network for grades K - 8 include the following: Discover how to build successful relationships with students, critical to long-term student gains; understand learning intentions and success criteria and why they are critical to student growth; explore the three phases of learning -- surface, deep, and transfer; examine key approaches that work best at each phase of learning and apply these to lesson planning; implement strategies that support the development of a growth mindset. More information, including dates and registration details, can be found [here](#).

High School Math Teachers Network

Come develop professional connections with other mathematics teachers in your region, as we reflect and build upon promising practices for teaching high school mathematics. The use of our mentor text Visible Learning for Mathematics (Hattie, Fisher, and Frey, 2010) will guide us as we: investigate high impact teaching strategies; reflect on surface, deep, and transfer learning opportunities; build student capacity to engage in higher-level mathematics; and make connections to NCTM's Mathematics Teaching Practices. Additionally, participants in this network will begin to consider New York's recently approved Next Generation Math Standards. Various documents provided by NYSED will guide this work. More information, including registration details, can be found [here](#).

America and the Middle East (Six after school sessions, beginning September 26)

America and the Middle East - The Department of Near Eastern Studies at Cornell University in conjunction with TST BOCES will host a six-session professional learning network led by various Cornell professors specializing in the Middle East. The six discussion sessions will focus on the relationship between America and the Middle East through the lenses of politics, migration, religion, and literature. Session participants are required to complete a short reading from a book (around 20 pages) or watch a one-hour documentary sometime before attending each session. The six sessions will be held on the Cornell University campus in 410 White Hall on Tuesday afternoons. Sessions will begin at 5:15 pm and conclude at 6:15 pm. First Session is September 26th, from 5:15-6:15 pm. Ziad Fahmy: Arab Americans. More details can be found [here](#), register [here](#) and check us out on [Facebook](#).

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

Offered by other organizations and/or our consultants

SUNY Cortland Educational Leadership Program Information Session (September 28, 6-7pm)

This session will be held on Thursday, September 28th, from 6:00 - 7:00. This session is intended for people who may be interested in pursuing a Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) for School Building Leader, School District Leader, and School Business Official. More information can be found [here](#).

Upcoming RSE-TASC Trainings

[The Mid-State RSE TASC](#) is one of 10 Technical Assistance Support Centers across New York State funded by the New York State Education Department Office of Special Education. Each Center provides varying levels of professional development to schools that are in need of support to close the achievement gap for students with disabilities. The Mid-State RSE TASC serves OCM, TST, Cayuga and Oswego BOCES regions and the Syracuse City School District. Regional trainers specializing in the areas of transition, behavior, non-district programs, special education regulation and specially designed instruction conduct regional workshops and provide technical assistance to schools within these regions free of charge.

Our 2017-2018 Regional Priorities will help us support every student:

[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](#)

TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION

The TST BOCES Tech Team is again offering the G Suite Online Learning Academy! Learn all you need to know about Google's G Suite in an asynchronous environment, on your own schedule and in the learning environment that fits your needs! Sign up today!

To watch the video, click [here](#).

FOR TEACHERS

Mary Beth Tinker made history in the case *Tinker v. Des Moines school district*. Mary Beth, along with her brothers and sisters wore black armbands to her public school protesting the war in Vietnam. The students were suspended for exercising their first amendment rights. The case went to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1969 when Justice Abe Fortas made the now famous statement that students and teachers do not “shed their constitutional rights...at the schoolhouse gate.” Rarely does anyone have the opportunity to meet a person who has made such an important contribution to American law. Tuesday, September 19th, 2017 7:00 pm Textor Hall 102. FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. More details can be found on [this flier](#).

Social Studies teachers, including elementary school teachers - The New York State Social Studies Framework, at its core, calls upon us to facilitate student-driven inquiry that leads students to take informed action. To learn more about what this looks like and how to develop an inquiry-based classroom, check out these [C3 teacher resources](#).

FOR PRINCIPALS

To support your elementary teachers and your secondary Social Studies teachers, it is essential to understand that the New York State Social Studies Framework, at its core, calls upon educators to facilitate student-driven inquiry that leads students to take informed action. To learn more about what this looks like and how to support your teachers in developing inquiry-based classrooms, check out these [C3 teacher resources](#).

Observation and Evaluation resources that can help you inspire great teaching:

Lucy West:

[Descriptive Feedback Principal to Teachers](#)

[Leadership Coaching and Teaching](#)

[Moving the Learning Forward](#)

[Accountable talking and listening is fractal](#)

[Talk into action](#)

[The role of the principal](#)

[Types of talk](#)

TST
SIS Weekly Bulletin

Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga BOCES

School Improvement Services

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

tstboces.org