

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

Options

This week, let's consider ways to broaden one of our upcoming assessments to include at least one or more options for how students or educators will show us what they know and can do in relation to a particular assignment, project or professional learning session. If you want help thinking about how to do this, ask a colleague or two for their input.

FOR PRINCIPALS

Message from NYSED about Computer Based Testing

Beginning Dec. 6, the first "Welcome to Nextera" emails were sent to principals and district test coordinators for schools that have ordered at least one grade of ELA or math operational CBT. The email should have come from the following address: NY.3-8.help@questarai.com.

We will be providing Questar/Nextera with biweekly CBT orders. Principals and district test coordinators who have not submitted their CBT order through the NYSED online examination request system will be contacted within a few days of submitting a CBT order online.

Principals and district test coordinators will first receive their Nextera Admin login via email, then another email will follow with additional instructions for completing the Tech Readiness Checklist, including a quick reference guide.

If you believe your school has submitted a CBT order through NYSED but you have not yet received a "Welcome to Nextera" email with your login credentials, please first check your spam filter and then contact cbtsupport@nysed.gov with "CBT Order and Nextera Admin Login" in the subject line. We will research the issue for you.

Blueprint for Improved Results for Students with Disabilities

"The New York State Education Department (NYSED) has released its [Blueprint for Improved Results for Students with Disabilities](#). This Blueprint was developed in consultation with stakeholders and is consistent with the mission of NYSED, Office of Special Education - supported by all offices within NYSED - to ensure that students with disabilities have the opportunities to benefit from high quality instruction, to reach the same standards as all students and to leave school prepared to successfully transition to post-school learning, living and employment. As rigor and expectations for all students in New York State have increased, policy and practices must be adjusted to support students with disabilities to meet these challenges."

Orchestrating Mathematical Discourse to Enhance Student Learning ([click to access](#))

THERE'S MORE ↓

Quote of the Week

"Assessments become responsive when students are given appropriate options for demonstrating knowledge, skill and understanding. In other words, allow some choices – but always with the intent of collecting needed evidence based on goals."
-- Tomlinson & McTighe

FOR TEACHERS

Computer Based Test Samplers for 3-8 teachers to use with their students

The updated Question Sampler can be accessed [here](#) (you will need to use Chrome as your web browser). “The Question Sampler is not intended to reproduce the exact environment or questions on the student test. The Question Sampler is a preview of the test format and question types to help students prepare for testing day. The questions in the sampler are previously released test questions from the New York State Grades 3-8 Tests available [here](#).”



We do not retain any results, names or other information for the Question Sampler. If you experience connection issues while using the Question Sampler we are unable to recover your progress. You are welcome to access the Question Sampler and practice as often as you would like. Be assured that, unlike with these simulations, when students take the actual tests on computers there will be safeguards in place to prevent loss of responses and progress due to connection issues.

The Question Sampler offers a preview of the full selection of online accommodations intended to improve access for individual students with disabilities. Please note that on test day students will not be able to select their own accommodations. Any accommodations needed for test day are arranged for in advance by a teacher or administrator in accordance with the student’s individualized education program, Section 504 accommodation plan, or ELL status.”

Math for America Teaching Fellowships

“[MfA fellowships](#) are different from any other across the nation. To accomplish our goal of making teaching a viable, rewarding and respected career choice for the best minds in science and mathematics, we offer two four-year fellowships for exceptional K-12 public school STEM teachers. Through our fellowships we bring together the best teachers – those with superb content knowledge and pedagogical skills – so they can share knowledge, advance teaching skills and define excellence. Becoming an MfA Early Career Teacher or MfA Master Teacher means joining our community of excellence, being given new chances to grow, and demonstrating – both locally and nationally – that teachers matter.”

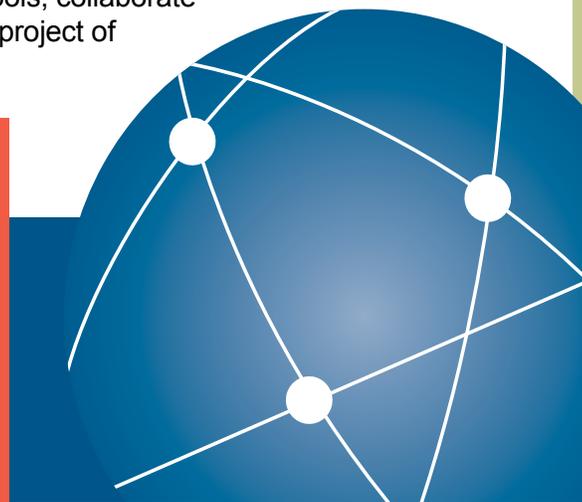
Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Program

The [Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Program](#) is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and is administered by the Institute of International Education (IIE). It seeks to promote mutual understanding among teachers, their schools and communities in the U.S. and abroad by building teachers’ and students’ global competence and sharing of best educational practices internationally.

Participants in this three- to six-month program are based at university-level schools of education. They take courses, lead master classes and seminars, visit local schools, collaborate with one another online and in person, and complete an inquiry project of their own design. Click [here](#) for specific details.

LINKS, ARTICLES & BOOKS

- [Leadership for Equity and Excellence](#), Scheurich & Skrla, 2003
 - [CS4All](#) – Resources such as Computer Science Standards, curriculum, hour of code, etc.
 - [NGSS Resources for teachers](#)
 - [National Women’s Law Center](#)
 - *Innovation and Creativity in Education and Training in the EU Member States: Fostering Creative Learning and Supporting Innovative Teaching*, Ferrari, Cachia, and Punie 2009
- Contact Barry if you would like to borrow a book



UPCOMING WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

Offered through our folks here at TST BOCES

Youth Mental Health First Aid

8 a.m. to noon | Jan. 10-11 | TST BOCES

This is an eight-hour training course that reviews the unique risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems in adolescents ages 12-18. It emphasizes the importance of early intervention and covers how to help an adolescent in crisis or experiencing a mental health challenge. Click [here](#) for more information.

Assessment in Instruction – Independent Study

Try something different! Educators will earn six professional development hours for successfully completing this independent study, which focuses on formative assessment. Use online articles and videos to learn more about formative assessment. Then apply what you learn in the classroom and gather and reflect on evidence to show how your application of this learning has impacted your students. Enroll [here](#). Once you've enrolled, you will be able to go to the "team room" to access the directions and other materials. When all of your work is completed, you will email the documentation form and any other appropriate artifacts to me at bderfel@tstboces.org.

Unpacking the NCCAS for Arts Educators

4-5 p.m. | Jan. 5

This one-hour workshop will introduce arts educators to the NCCAS and lead them through an investigation of the National Coalition for Core Arts Standards. New York State has reviewed these standards aided by an expansive team of educators, administrators, and researchers and the standards are expected to be adopted in spring 2017. The workshop will also provide a cross walk with New York State standards for ELA and Math, Social Studies, and the Next Generation Science Standards and how these relate to the Arts Standards.

As the state develops a comprehensive approach to the revitalization of arts education in New York, teachers are encouraged to visit the DRAFT of the Statewide Strategic Plan for the Arts. This Statewide Strategic Plan for the Arts will serve as a planning and implementation guide to support the advancement and adoption of the revised New York State P-12 Dance, Music, Theatre, Visual and Media Arts Learning Standards. The mission of the Statewide Strategic Plan for the Arts can be

realized only if all arts educators and other stakeholders are involved in supporting its implementation. Sign up in [mlp](#).

Tech Voyagers

If you have a vision or idea for meaningful technology integration, but need assistance in making it happen, then consider joining the Tech Voyagers!

This facilitated, collaborative and ongoing professional development allows participants to focus on instructional strategies that can be supported by technology. Through in-person workshops, online work and in-classroom support, participants will create, implement and evaluate a long-term technology-enhanced learning opportunity for students.

Participants start with a question, problem or idea. Together, we create a plan to address student learning needs and select technology that will support learning. During planning and implementation, teachers will learn and collaborate with one another and technology integration specialists. Participants will then reflect upon their experiences, make necessary adjustments, and share their work.

Co-teachers, members of the same department or groups of teachers are encouraged to collaborate on a project together! An in-person meeting will be held from 12:30-3:30 p.m. Jan. 19. In addition to the two in-person dates, approximately three hours of online work are required. Sign up in [mlp](#).

Google Apps for Education Online PD

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 five professional development hours for successfully completing all five challenges (Google Drive, Docs, Slides, Forms, and Classroom). The educator will: Immerse themselves in the GAFE (Google Apps For Education) environment as they learn how to use the tools covered in the GAFE Academy; apply their knowledge as they create artifacts using GAFE; reflect on evidence to show how the application of these tools can impact students.