

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

Transitions

As we finish the school year, some of our students can't wait for their summertime work and play, while others get tense and nervous about losing the routine and predictability that the school year brings. Investigate how your different students are feeling. Help those who are anxious think about how they will navigate their time away, and join in the excitement with those who can't wait.

NYSED ASSESSMENT, STANDARDS & CURRICULUM UPDATES

ELA and Mathematics Standards Revisions Work Continues

This summer, educators from throughout the state with different areas of expertise will come to Albany to work on revising our P-12 learning standards for English language arts and mathematics. The work of these educators will be available for public comment beginning late-summer and through the beginning of the school year. An update on the workgroups that will be convening in Albany is available [here](#).

Revised Regents Exam Calendar for June 2017

Although this year's Regents exams are right around the corner, we're already preparing for next year's June exams. After extensive discussion with educators from throughout the state, we have released a revised calendar for June 2017. This calendar has far fewer instances in which students will need to take two exams on the same day, and in many districts allows for more time for educators to score the exams. The new calendar is posted [here](#).

Scale Maintenance for Algebra 1 Exam Beginning June 2016

Based on recommendations by the Regents Exam Workgroup, a panel of educators from throughout the state, NYSED will conduct a "scale maintenance" process on the Algebra 1 exams beginning with this June's administration to ensure the cut scores are more consistent with their original intended meaning. This scale maintenance process, which is a common industry-standard process, is detailed in the memo found [here](#).

Computer-Based Testing Comes to a Close for 2015-16

The administration window for the computer-based NYSAA for ELA and mathematics (also known as "Dynamic Learning Maps") came to a close June 3, and the window for the third through eighth grades ELA and mathematics field test came to a close June 10. As we begin our planning for next year's computer-based test offerings, please make sure to provide feedback to CBTsupport@nysed.gov. Any suggestions on how to improve our CBT systems are greatly appreciated!

Quote of the Week

"Treat children as if they were what they should be, and you help them become what they are capable of becoming."

-- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

THERE'S MORE ↓

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FOR PRINCIPALS

UDL Implementation

UDL Implementation: A Tale of Four Districts is the story of four school districts taking the journey into the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) implementation process. Baltimore County Public Schools in Maryland, Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation in Indiana, Cecil County Public Schools in Maryland and Chelmsford Public Schools in Massachusetts participated in the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation funded project to explore and pilot processes and tools developed to support UDL Implementation within their own unique districts. The story is told primarily through the voices of the dedicated educator leaders from these districts and the UDL facilitators who supported them. During the one-year grant, the districts worked with CAST Inc. to develop and implement an effective and sustainable district plan to support the integration of Universal Design for Learning." The full story can be read [here](#).

How Should Backwards Design Apply to School Reform?

Read the chapter [here](#).

[Leadership for Social Justice: Envisioning an End to the Racial Achievement Gap, by Ed Taylor](#)

[The transformational leader: who is \(s\)he? A feminist perspective, by Ronit Kark](#)



TEACHERS

9 Things You Need to Know this Month about NGSS

Read about it [here](#).

Teacher Research Fellows

A TST BOCES/Ithaca College Collaboration. The Teacher Research Fellows Inquiry Group is a small community of teachers from across the TST BOCES region engaged in systematic study about their own teaching. This teacher research community grounds our work in the perspective that teachers are uniquely situated to investigate and analyze their own practice.

Teachers who serve as 2016-2017 Teacher Research Fellows will find the opportunity to conduct inquiries in response to pressing questions they develop about their classrooms, curriculum and students' learning. Teachers are engaged in inquiry on a daily basis in their classrooms, but they rarely are afforded the time to systematically document and consider what they are learning or to do so with the explicit and regular support of others. The Teacher Research Fellows Inquiry Group offers time, space, community and methodological support for teachers to conduct their own teacher research projects that aim to enrich students' learning experiences and to help our colleagues think in new ways about our practices. Fellows will share their projects with others in the inquiry community and with a broader audience of teaching professionals. The ultimate purpose of the inquiry projects teachers carry out is to enrich their students' learning and life chances. For more information about this program, and to apply to serve as a Teacher Research Fellow for 2016-17 click [here](#).

The Greater Southern Tier BOCES Science/STEM Resource Center

This is a one-stop shop that provides comprehensive, packaged STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) kits to elementary, middle and high school classrooms in participating school districts. For details and contact information click [here](#).

LINKS, ARTICLES & BOOKS

— <https://ruralgeneration.org/>

— [University at Albany Digital Resources - NY KIDS](#)

— *Learning about Teacher Effectiveness: SDP Human Capital Diagnostics*, Gwinnett County Public Schools, Georgia. May 2012

Contact Barry if you would like to borrow a book or article.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

General and Special Education: Creating a Unified System through a Mindful Culture of Collaboration.

This workshop takes place Aug. 17-18 at the Oncenter. Information can be found [here](#).

Universal Design for Learning Free Webinar Series

For more information and to register, visit this [link](#).

Physical Education - Introduction to the NYS Curriculum & Assessment Guidance Document for Physical Education

This session will introduce teachers to the NYS Curriculum & Assessment Guidance Document for Physical Education, which was released in November 2015, and describe how it can be used to effectively plan for standards-based instruction. This document outlines curricular focal points for all grade levels that will help students develop physical literacy. In addition to the focal points, the guidance document includes benchmark assessments, key vocabulary, information about assessments and more. More information and registration is available in [mlp](#).

The Anatomy of Trust

"In the The Anatomy of Trust class we'll dig into what trust is, how it works and how we can inventory and talk about each of the seven elements of trust in a meaningful and productive way." The free course will be facilitated by Brene Brown. Register [here](#).

Mindfulness Fundamentals

"Mindfulness means maintaining a moment-by-moment awareness of our thoughts, emotions, bodily sensations and surrounding environment. It is also a set of techniques and methods for systematically developing this awareness. The practice of mindful awareness has a variety of well-documented impacts, including a reduction in toxic stress, an increase in emotion regulation and an improvement in sustained attention, focus and executive functioning. The central objective of the course is for participants to have the tools necessary to continue their mindfulness practice after the course completes." More information and registration can be found [here](#).

NEWS & NOTES

School Improvement Services Forms and Procedures

We have updated our forms and processes for the new fiscal year and have posted this information to our website [here](#). If you have any questions, please contact Patti Oates (poates@tstboces.org) or Carolyn Tschanz (ctschanz@tstboces.org).

Check out SAGE Open for Great Resources

Submit your manuscript to [SAGE Open](#) — the open access journal for the social sciences and humanities. [SAGE Open](#) is a groundbreaking, open access publication of peer-reviewed, original research and review articles from SAGE. Articles span the full spectrum of the social and behavioral sciences and the humanities. For more information, view the [SAGE Open Manuscript Submission Guidelines](#).



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