

# 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

**Pick Five to Thrive** - Pick five students in your class(es) who are not consistently successful and spend the week making a list of at least 8 assets/abilities that each brings with them into the world. If you can't think of 8, spend some time getting to know them and see if you can add to your list. Research shows ([see page 6](#)) that "asset-based approaches have been used across the world to reverse some of the negativity produced through the use of a deficit model."

## NEWS & NOTES

TST BOCES Office of Cooperative Enrichment has expanded the Creative Writing Contest! This year our Creativity Contest will have monthly themes that students can submit entries for...and the contest will run from November through April! We recognize that being creative in a few month window is difficult and also want to extend the opportunity for our students' creative work to be cross published in Kids Standard magazine. Our monthly themes for the Creativity Contest connect to our regional priority: [Supporting students' mental health, and their social & emotional well-being](#). Themes centered on how our different cultures help us understand ourselves and others, being your best self, growing friendships, everyday heroes and where we belong are meant to offer students a unique opportunity to share their creativity through poetry, writing, photographs, and works of art that share their introspection and brilliance. The themes also coincide with Kids Standard magazine themes. Students can choose to enter one contest, or both, and will be notified if their entry has been selected for publication in Kids Standard. We also recognize that our adult partners in education are creative and have insight, expertise, and passions that they can share! For this reason, Parents and Educators are also invited to submit articles or essays to Kids Standard that coincide with the monthly themes. To find out more about the contest please see our [Creativity Contest Guide Book](#). Click [here](#) for Student Submissions and [here](#) for Parent/Educator Submissions. Submission links and a link to our Guide Book for the contest can also be found on our [Cooperative Enrichment](#) web page.

Check out the [TST BOCES CS4All Kickoff Video](#)

The goal of our Youth Development Program is to enhance the social-emotional well-being of every student by encouraging connectedness through relationships and skill building resulting in healthy school climates and academic success. Find out more on [their webpage](#).

### Quote of the Week

"Students need to be engaged in dialogue and learning experiences that allow complex topics and ideas to be explored from many angles and perspectives. They also need to learn how to think and solve problems for which there is no one solution - and learn mathematical skills along the way" (NYS Next Generation Math Standards Introduction).



## UPCOMING WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

Looking for more PD opportunities?

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

*Offered through our folks here at TST BOCES*

### Modeling In Science

Join us on November 14th for an exploration of the science and engineering practice of developing and using models to explain phenomena. Learning targets include: I can explore ways to uncover and assess student preconceptions of science phenomena; I can explore ways to facilitate learning experiences and challenge student preconceptions; I will identify instructional strategies to reinforce and extend scientifically accurate ideas. Sign up for the morning, the afternoon, or both. More information and registration [in mlp](#).

### G Suite Online Learning Academy

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.

### NICERC Computer Science Workshop

Nicerc's two-day Computer Science workshop on November 8th & 9th is a hands-on, projects-based day that utilizes a unique computing platform to engage participants in an immersive exploration of the breadth of computer science. The workshop will utilize Raspberry Pi's (a tiny and affordable computer that you can use to learn programming through fun, practical projects) as an instructional tool. The TST Media Library will also have these devices that can be borrowed by our regional schools. Participants will have access to free computer science curriculum. More details and registration [in mlp](#).

### Reimagining Schools - Continuing the Conversation

SUNY Cortland, TST BOCES, and OCM BOCES are thrilled to continue our conversation on moving from OLD School to BOLD School. This conversation, started on August 14th with guest presenter Will Richardson, is intended to encourage districts within the region to embrace innovation in the school and the classroom. We welcome both new and returning participants to join us Tuesday, November 14th at 4:30 p.m. to continue our discussion! Learning Targets: I can explain the 10 Principles of Modern Learning that lead a Bold School; I can articulate priorities for Bold thinking through discussion with regional colleagues; I can analyze Bold principles to refine my plans for school improvement. Sign up now [in mlp](#).

*Offered by other organizations and/or our consultants*

The History Center of Tompkins County (open to all members of the TST Community) is offering a number of programs related to the November 6, 2017 centennial of women's suffrage in New York State. The programs are happening in the next couple of weeks, but the online, archival, and book resources will be useful beyond this November. You can find details about the offerings in [this letter](#), and information about the resources [here](#).

### Frontline Education Professional Learning Management Certification Course at TST BOCES. Tuesday and Wednesday, December 12th and 13th, from 8:30 - 3:30

Frontline's Professional Learning Management Certification Course is a two-day hands-on training intended to support organization administrators (aka super administrators) in effectively using the Professional Learning Management system. The price for this course is \$695 per registrant. For districts bringing more than one individual, a \$100 discount will be applied for each additional user on the invoice! [Register here](#).

## Looking for more PD opportunities?

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

Are you interested in creating formative assessments to get a more accurate picture of what your ELLs know and can do and adjust your instruction accordingly? The ELL Assessment Series is an interactive, professional, blended learning experience. The series begin with one face to face full-day session facilitated by Dr. Diane Staehr Fenner on December 18, 2017. On that day, participants will focus on assessment issues for ELLs, such as validity and reliability, and adding more practical assessment tools to their toolbox.

Participants will continue their journey with a differentiated interactive online component – one component for educators in elementary schools and one component for educators at the secondary school level. The self-guided, facilitated online component will run from January through March 2018. Each month participants will listen to one recorded webinar, complete an application activity, and take part in an on-line discussion with peers facilitated by Drs. Staehr Fenner and Sydney Snyder. During this on-line portion participants will focus on creating and trying out formative assessments tailored to ELLs at different grade and proficiency levels. Participants will also take a deeper look together at grading ELLs' classwork and assessments. The series will conclude with one full-day session facilitated by Dr. Staehr Fenner on April 9, 2018, which will allow participants to learn about considerations in the computer-based assessment of ELLs, share their assessment strategies with others, and plan for the formative assessment of their ELLs for the remainder of the school year.

Upon successful completion of all portions of the ELL Assessment Series (two face-to-face sessions and the on-line component), participants will receive a certificate for 20 CTLE hours from SupportEd. Register [here](#).

### 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](#)

[Students Matter: 3 Steps for Effective Differentiated Instruction](#)

[KASA - Education Resources for all young people, including students with disabilities](#)

[Disability is Natural](#)

## TST TECH CREW UPDATES

This week we explore the power of play. Whether you read [this interview with Mitch Resnick](#) from MIT, visit the [Lifelong Kindergarten website](#), or check out a [free learning opportunity via the MIT Learning Lab](#), we want to know how you and your students engage in play.

Join [Paul](#) and [Justin](#) on Twitter and post using #TSTplays. Share your stories! See how others in the region experience play in the classroom. We look forward to hearing from you!

As always, you can visit the TST Tech Crew at [bit.ly/TSTTechCrew](http://bit.ly/TSTTechCrew) and view all of our professional development options [here](#).



## PRIOR BULLETINS

Click [here](#) to read prior bulletins.

## LINKS, ARTICLES & BOOKS

*Constructing Normalcy - The Bell Curve, the Novel, and the Invention of the Disabled Body in the Nineteenth Century*, Lennard Davis 1995

[Indian Country Media Network](#)

*Evicted* by Matthew Desmond, 2016

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



## FOR TEACHERS

Have you read the most recent introductions to the New York State Standards in ELA, Math, Social Studies, Science, and the Arts? Check these out [here](#), you just might be pleasantly surprised.

Deepen your understanding of local Native American History (New York/Southern Canada). Check out [this powerful film](#) - it just may shift how you teach. (Sometimes it takes a few clicks before it will load. It's worth the effort.)

[Library of Congress Digital Archives](#)

## FOR PRINCIPALS

Have you read the [most recent introductions](#) to the New York State Standards in ELA, Math, Social Studies, Science, and the Arts? This is an efficient way for you to learn what's at the core of these standards, as you work to support your teachers in their efforts to promote teaching and learning that is student driven and promotes every student's social and emotional well-being.

How might your teachers be able to use [these resources](#) from an "education" search of the Library of Congress Digital Collection?

[Racial Equity Tools](#)

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

Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga BOCES

School Improvement Services

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

tstboces.org