

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

A fresh start - Returning from break gives each of us the chance for a fresh start. This week, let's think of a few students or colleagues with whom we'd like to get started on building a better relationship, and take a few steps to help make that happen.

NEWS & NOTES

Revised procedures to temporarily exceed the approved class size by one or two additional preschool students with disabilities in a special class or special class in an integrated setting (SCIS) that is at its maximum approved class size capacity: The revised procedures include a new requirement for committees on preschool special education (CPSE) to provide a written assurance to the New York State Education Department that the CPSE has determined that no other appropriate class placement is available that is not at full capacity or has not already exceeded its approved class size through the notification process. Information and application forms are available at the [Frequently Used Special Education Applications](#) webpage.

The calendars for the January and June 2019 Regents Examinations with the dates within which exams will be held have been announced. The specific schedules for January and June 2019 will be released by the end of this school year. [See attached document titled, "2019 Regents Calendar Memo."](#) The 2018-19 Elementary- and Intermediate-level Testing Schedule is now available. [Please find attached a copy of the Testing Schedule titled, "Elementary Testing Schedule 2018-19"](#).

SRC, INC., King & King Architects, and Marquardt Switches, in partnership with the CNY STEM Hub, are pleased to announce the 2018 CNY STEM Scholars Program. This scholarship program, now in its 6th year, is open to graduating High School Seniors who will be majoring in select STEM fields. Students in the following counties may apply: Onondaga, Cayuga, Madison, Cortland, Oneida, Oswego and Tompkins. This year's scholarship program will provide tuition support and a summer internship at the participating companies, pending business conditions. Five scholarships will be awarded, with a few focused on minority and female applicants. Scholarship applications for the 4-year scholarships are due

February 28, 2018. Selections will be made in April and students will be notified in May 2018.

Please forward this information to all your students who you believe would qualify for any of these scholarships. Students may log directly onto <http://www.cnystem.com/students-parents/scholarship-applications.html> to access the online applications.

Quote of the Week

"To break away from a granular frame of reference, where declarative and procedural knowledge is the driving force for what gets taught and tested, teachers need to ensure that students have a broader vision that clarifies the why and shows how that broader vision can be broken down into more manageable parts" (Students at the Center: Personalized Learning with Habits of Mind, by Kallick and Zumda 2017).

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

Offered through our folks here at TST BOCES

Looking for more PD opportunities?

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

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](#).

Offered by other organizations and/or our consultants

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](#).

Wise Wednesdays Assessment, January 31st from 5:30 - 8:00 at SUNY Cortland

Join PreK and Kindergarten Teachers, Paraprofessionals, and Community and Family Childcare Providers, for a professional development series focused on meeting the needs of children ages birth to Kindergarten. Each session will begin with a light supper and discussion, followed by an interactive learning experience presented by a professional educator. More information, including registration, can be found in [Frontline](#) (MLP).

FOR PRINCIPALS

[White Anti-Racism: Living the Legacy](#) can help you engage staff in conversation and reflection about race, racism, and how to create a more affirming an inclusive classroom and school community.

[The Future of Coding in Schools](#) is an interview with Mitch Resnick about the importance of coding in our school system, his thoughts on the changing roles of teachers, and new ways to engage students—and assess their work. This piece may affirm the hard work you are already doing as the instructional leader of a school, and/or it might give you some new ideas to help support your efforts to create the best learning environment for every student.

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](#)

[CAST UDL Exchange](#) "is a place to browse and build resources, lessons and collections. You can use and share these materials to support instruction guided by the UDL principles."

Sue Rubin "writes and lectures on the subject of autism and her personal journey." [This site](#) has resources to help shift mindsets and increase educators' expectations about what every young person can achieve.

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.](#)

LINKS, ARTICLES & BOOKS

[Using an Assets Approach for Positive Mental Health and Well-Being](#)

Social and Emotional Learning as a Public Health Approach to Education, Greenberg, Domitrovich, Weissberg, and Durlak 2017.

Out in the Country: Youth, Media, and Queer Visibility in Rural America, by Mary Gray 2017.

Contact Barry to borrow a book or article

TST TECH CREW UPDATES

Gift yourself renewed energy and inspiration without a huge time commitment. How? [Watch this short video](#) introducing how Twitter expands your professional learning and connects you with educators both across the globe and across the hall. As always, you can find the TST Tech Crew at bit.ly/TSTTechCrew and (of course) on Twitter.



[CLICK HERE FOR PREVIOUS BULLETINS](#)

SIS Weekly Bulletin

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School Improvement Services

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