

## School Improvement Services

***Leading and supporting school communities in their efforts to provide the best possible learning environment for all students.***

[Link](#) to the TST BOCES School Improvement Services Catalog.

[Link to prior bulletins.](#)

**Quote of the Week:** “Could it be that these cues - often innocent appearing cues that seem to be natural, unavoidable ingredients of a situation- regulate how much identity threat a person feels?” (Claude M. Steele, 2010).

**Focus of the Week:** This week, let’s spend some time reflecting on the subtle, and not so subtle messages that our school, classroom, or office sends to the full range of our diverse students and families. Will every student and family see people and families like them affirmed in the images on our walls, in the music that we play, in the books and materials we ask them to use for learning, or in the nicknacks on our desks, bookshelves, etc? If not, consider adding items to make your learning space more explicitly affirming.

### News & Notes:

Francis J. Cheney Educational Leadership Conference: Friday, July 13, 2018. This summer’s collaboration between TST BOCES, OCM BOCES, and SUNY Cortland Education Leadership Program features *A Day with George Couros*, author of *The Innovator's Mindset*.

### Outcomes:

- Learn how to distribute and share leadership
- Harness the creativity and skill set of teacher leaders
- Create a collaborative environment with stakeholders
- Build a regional network to support inclusive and excellent schools
- Cost: \$15.00 BOCES Aidable

Register now, [via Frontline/MLP.](#)

### Blueprint for Improved Results for Students with Disabilities:

- NYSED [Blueprint for Improved Results for Students with Disabilities](#)
- [National Youth Leadership Network](#)

Our 2017 - 2018 Regional Priorities help us support every student.

Research & Resources connected to each priority (a work in progress):

1. Supporting students' mental health and their social & emotional well-being
  - a. ["A Meta-Analysis"](#)
  - b. Jennifer Astles and her Youth Development team have created a [Social and Emotional Learning Benchmark Rubric](#) that provides clear and specific look-fors connected to each of the five Social and Emotional Learning Competencies identified by CASEL as the core elements to supporting student's social and emotional well-being. We hope this tool will be useful to teachers and administrators in your efforts to do this work.
  - c. [Social and Emotional Learning under ESSA - Evidence Review](#)
2. Student-driven learning
  - a. [Learning Personalized](#)
3. Questioning and discussion techniques
  - a. [Danielson Rubric – Teacher Uses a Variety of Questions \(8-video set\)](#)
4. Engaging students in learning
  - a. [The Case of Brain Science and Guided Play – A Developing Story \(NAEYC\)](#)
5. Using assessment in instruction
  - a. [Formative Assessment and Self-Regulated Learning: A Model and 7 Principles of Good Feedback Practice](#)

Links, Articles, & Books: (Contact Barry if you would like to borrow a book or article)

- [Whistling Vivaldi - how stereotypes affect us and what we can do](#) (Claude M. Steele 2010).
- [Over the Fence: Engaging Preschoolers and Families in a Yearlong STEAM Investigation](#)
- [Reading Your Way to a Culturally Responsive Classroom](#)

Teachers:

- [Mapping the African American Past](#)
- [Stanford's 100 Year Study on Artificial Intelligence](#)
- [Moving Beyond Anti-Bias Activities: Supporting the Development of Anti-Bias Practices](#)
- [Rocking and Rolling. Reflection: The First Step for Addressing Bias in Infant and Toddler Programs](#)
- ["NAEYC's online learning modules](#) are created with early childhood educators in mind. Our catalogue of modules includes a variety of topics, each designed to provide practical tips and strategies you can bring to the classroom."

## Principals:

- JMT (BOCES Joint Management Team) Principal Academy two day summer kick-off event on July 16 & 17, 2018. This year-long JMT Principal Academy is a collaboration of CiTi, OCM, TST, and Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES and will be hosted by OCM BOCES. The Academy is designed to support both new and veteran school principals from all four BOCES regions. Additional information including registration information, agendas, break-out sessions, and follow-up programming will be forthcoming. [See this flier](#) and mark your calendars now to hold these summer dates. This will be a fantastic opportunity to network with professional colleagues from around our region, grow professionally, and have a little fun, too!
- [Creating a Human Rights Friendly School](#)

## Workshops and Conferences:

*Offered through our folks here at TST BOCES:*

- Connect, Create, Innovate - March 16th, 2018. *Connect:* Connect participants to resources, research, programs and artists, and each other as well as connect students to best practices and cutting edge pedagogy. *Create:* Many of the workshops are based in experiential learning. Participants will be actively doing while they learn. Many are hands-on and integrated with project and problem based learning that investigate the intersection of creativity and experience. *Innovate:* Innovation is sparked by collaborative creative thought and engagement. Participants will have opportunities to network with teachers in their content areas as well as integrate and connect with new educational partners. There will be tabling by artists and vendors from throughout the region.  
  
More information regarding presenters, sessions, and an agenda for the day can be found on our webpage [connectcreateinnovate.wordpress.com](http://connectcreateinnovate.wordpress.com). Please complete the session registration [here](#).
- Next Generation ELA Awareness Session - March 21st at TST BOCES. Learning Targets: 1. I can clarify the changes between the NYS CCLS in ELA and the NYS Next Generation Learning Standards in ELA; 2. I can make informed decisions regarding future curricular adjustments. Hard copies of session resources will not be distributed. Participants can download/print resources by title [by clicking here](#). Morning session from 8:30 - 11:00. [Sign up here](#). Afternoon session, from 12:30 - 3:00. [Sign up here](#). [See this flier](#) for more information.

- Social Studies - What's Up with That? Co-facilitated by Karen Adams and Barry Derfel on April 4th, from 8:30 - 2:30. "The primary purpose of Social Studies is to help young people develop the ability to make informed and reasoned decisions for the public good as citizens of a culturally diverse, democratic society in an interdependent world" (New York State Social Studies Framework). In this series you will have fun collaborating with other teachers from the region. You will learn a new model of curriculum design that will save you time. By planning an inquiry, you will focus teaching and learning in your classroom. All participants will get a copy of Integrating Differentiated Instruction & Understanding by Design (Tomlinson and McTighe).

Learning Targets: I can generate compelling questions, navigate the NYS Social Studies Framework, collaborate, plan and teach an inquiry, and have fun. [Sign up here.](#) Optional after-school coaching sessions will be offered on Thursday, April 19th and Monday, April 30th from 4:00 - 5:30.

*Offered by other organizations and/or our consultants:*

- “Writing Matters” and it’s the fifth in our series. We have found that writing promotes thinking and learning in *all* classes, across the curriculum, and we encourage teachers to join us on March 10 to practice writing in practical ways that will transfer to their own classrooms Monday morning. Experienced teachers of writing lead all the workshops, and we have a very interesting speaker coming from SUNY Albany to speak about how writing creates a community – or can. Breakfast and lunch are included in the \$50 conference fee; parking during spring break here is free and close; it’s a small and intimate conference that everyone can get something out of. [More info on this flier.](#)
- Courage to Teach - Adirondack Teachers’ Retreat. August 12 – 15, 2018 at Camp Huntington, SUNY Cortland’s Outdoor Education Center on Raquette Lake. Teachers and school staff at all levels are invited. For more information [see this flier](#), or email [alexis.abramo@cortland.edu](mailto:alexis.abramo@cortland.edu). [Sign up here.](#)
- Going Global - *Leveraging Resources for International Education*. Saturday, March 10, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Forum, Tompkins Cortland Community College. This conference will explore how area studies programs can serve educators, administrators and libraries as hubs for internationalization at K-12 schools, community colleges, universities, and other local organizations. It will be an opportunity for all community college and education faculty partners who have received Title VI funding for their internationalization projects to present the results of their partnership with the Cornell-Syracuse South Asia Consortium and the Cornell Southeast Asia Program. The aim is to provide a space for connection around and encouragement of curricular internationalization and inspiration for new global initiatives in higher education. Register [here](#).

- Please join us for an important experiential training opportunity! Building Trauma Responsive and Resilient School Environments. May 15<sup>th</sup> and May 16<sup>th</sup> from 8:30am – 2:30 pm at the Racker Learning Center 3226 Wilkins Rd, Ithaca NY 14850. This workshop will be led by the Expanding Possibilities Team: Tamie Pushlar, LCSW-R, Jaydn McCune, LCSW, Nora Rucker, M. Ed., Sally Manning, M.S.

School personal in all positions are invited to join us as we learn ways to work together to create school cultures that are resilient and responsive to students and staff who have experienced trauma or toxic stress. Through interactive discussion, videos, lectures and experiential exercises we will explore: 1) How trauma and toxic stress effect the brain and learning 2) Ways to build staff and student resilience 3) Practical strategies to use within classrooms and schools that are trauma and resilience informed. Schools may want to consider sending a multidisciplinary team to this event. Registrants must attend both days. Coffee, water and light snacks will be available but participants will be asked to bring their own lunch. Please register through TST BOCES in [Frontline](#) (mlp), and [see this flier](#) for more details. Feel free to call Jaydn McCune at 607-351-3436 with questions. Hope to see you there!

Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain at GST BOCES on 3/14/18.. [Sign up here](#). 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. Participants will: Increase awareness of culture and culturally responsive teaching. Explore how brain research can help you become a more culturally responsive teacher. Obtain tools and techniques for promoting more engagement and rigor among culturally and linguistically diverse students. Program: RBE-RN (Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network). Audience: All Educators of ELLs.

Long Term ELL's on 3/15/18. Participants will engage in hands-on practice of research-based strategies which move secondary long-term English Language Learners (LTELLs) 'stuck' at intermediate fluency towards proficiency in academic English. These innovative strategies and amplifications of current practices help students build comprehension and control of linguistic features unique to science, math, social studies and language arts. The session progresses through cycles of 'Learning, Doing, Planning' in which the presenter: shares research and multimedia resources; models strategies and allows for participants' direct practice; and provides time for table discussions on how to implement the strategies according to individual teaching/learning environments.

Assignment due prior to workshop: Must administer writing prompt to at least 1 student and bring writing sample w/you to the workshop. [Use this link](#) to access the assignment. [Sign up here](#).

Program: RBE-RN (Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network). Audience: High School Educators of ELLs. Facilitator: Elizabeth Hartung-Cole (MA Applied Linguistics/TESOL UCLA)