

## The River City Project Teacher Training

### **Who**

Interested Science Teachers  
Grades (6-9)

### **When**

January 23, 2009

### **Where**

Eastern Suffolk BOCES  
Raymond A. Defeo Building  
215 Old Riverhead Road  
Westhampton Beach,  
NY 11978

### **Time**

8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
One hour for lunch  
(Lunch is not provided)

### **Cost**

Free to Model Schools Districts

\*A complete list of Model  
Schools districts can be  
obtained at  
[www.esboces.org/ms](http://www.esboces.org/ms)

For more information about  
River City contact:  
Darlene Roces  
Administrative Coordinator  
[drocce@esboces.org](mailto:drocce@esboces.org)

**Please use the attached  
registration form and  
return by:  
December 19, 2008**

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Phone: (631) 288-9568  
Fax: (631) 288-6224  
email: [chodun@esboces.org](mailto:chodun@esboces.org)

### **Project Overview**

Welcome to the River City Project, a National Science foundation-supported simulation environment for learning scientific inquiry and 21st century skills. Drawn from the National Science Standards, River City is designed around topics that are central to biological subject matter.

River City is an interactive computer simulation of a river town, based in the late 1800's, that combines digitalized Smithsonian artifacts with an inquiry centered curriculum to engage middle and high school students.

Since the River City Project is supported by a grant from the National Science foundation, access to the simulation, curricular materials, professional development, and just-in-time assistance are provided free of charge to participating schools.

### **Students in River City**

As visitors to River City, students travel back in time, bringing their 21st century skills, and technology to address 19th century problems. Based on authentic historical, sociological, and geographical conditions, River City is a town besieged with health problems.

Students work together in small research teams to help the town understand why residents are becoming ill. Students use technology to keep track of clues that hint at causes of illnesses, form and test hypotheses, develop controlled experiments to test their hypothesis, and make recommendations based on the data they collect, all in an online environment.

### **Teachers in River City**

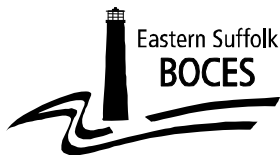
Overall, teachers act as 21st century experts who do not travel back in time with students. They guide students through the scientific inquiry experience and encourage students to problem-solve rather than provide answers.

Day to day, teachers orient students to the day's activities, help students prioritize the day's activities based on class needs, check that students have achieved goals before progressing and assess student progress.

### **Professional Development**

Throughout River City Teacher Professional Development (RCTPD) participating teachers: (a) work through the curriculum as learners and instructors, (b) connect their content and instructional expertise with the River City interface and material, (c) measure their own understanding by reflecting on activities, and (d) build confidence in themselves and the curriculum.

RCTPD focuses not only on skills needed to implement River City, but also on skills of scientific inquiry and inquiry-based pedagogies that teachers can use after River City is completed.



**MODEL SCHOOLS PROGRAM**  
**Professional Development Opportunities 2008-2009**

**USE THIS REGISTRATION FORM FOR ALL REGISTRATIONS**

*This form also serves as a Contract Modification Form for Eastern Suffolk BOCES component districts.*  
Please note: your superintendent's signature is required for all registrants.

The \_\_\_\_\_ School District agrees to be invoiced by Eastern Suffolk BOCES during the 2008-2009 school year at \$\_\_\_\_\_. (Non-public schools must include a check with their registrations.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Note: This program is part of an Eastern Suffolk BOCES aidable service. Costs for teacher substitutes will be aidable for all districts. Cross-contracts are required for non-Eastern Suffolk BOCES districts. Late registration will be accepted on a space-available basis.

**ONE PARTICIPANT PER FORM ONLY**

You may register by mail or fax. No phone registrations will be accepted.

Name of Conference: \_\_\_\_\_ River City Project \_\_\_\_\_

Date(s) of Conference: \_\_\_\_\_ January 23, 2009 \_\_\_\_\_

Cost of Conference: Free for Model Schools Districts

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

School Building: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX to: 631-288-6224  
Cindy Hodun, Sr. Clerk Typist  
or

Mail: Eastern Suffolk BOCES  
DAB Bldg. – Model Schools  
215 Old Riverhead Road  
Westhampton Beach, NY 11978

Questions: 631-288-9568

If paying by personal check, please  
make check payable to:  
ESBOCES Coser 532

**➔ Important Registration and Payment Information:**

Complete each line of this registration form. Fax or mail to Cindy Hodun as indicated above.  
**Please use a separate copy of this form for each participant.**