Countdown to Data Security

Full-time ESBOCES Teacher Now at Stony Brook Medical Center

We’re Hiring a Diverse Workforce

Regional Certification Office Offers District-Friendly Resources
ESBOCES and the Family Education Outreach Programs coordinated the distribution of school supplies, made possible by a donation from Feed the Children, a national non-profit organization.

ESBOCES now provides FREE breakfast and lunch to all of its special education students. Each day, more than 2,000 meals are served across the agency, free of charge, through the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Community Eligibility Provision. Parents are not required to fill out applications and any stigmas surrounding free meals are removed since all students receive breakfast and lunch together, regardless of their economic status, guaranteeing everyone nutritious meals every day.

The adoption of this program has decreased the administrative burden of the meal program resulting in increased efficiencies for the agency.

Restorative Justice Professional Development

Creating a Culture of Care in Schools

In response to the issues surrounding zero-tolerance discipline policies in schools, Restorative Justice principles and practices can help students to understand conflict and respond to it differently.

Hosted by ESBOCES, Creating a Culture of Care in Schools will be led by Dr. Tom Cavanaugh, Adjunct Professor at Colorado State University and expert on implementing restorative justice in schools.

Dates: January 8, 9, 15, and 16, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Must attend all four sessions)
Cost: $899 per person for subscribers/$999 for non-subscribers

To learn more, contact Bernadette Gentile at 631-218-4152 or bgentile@esboces.org.

School districts that benefitted:
- Bay Shore UFSD
- Bayport-Blue Point UFSD
- Brentwood UFSD
- Central Islip UFSD
- East Islip UFSD
- Eastern Suffolk BOCES
- Hampton Bays UFSD
- Lindenhurst UFSD
- Middle Country CSD
- Patchogue-Medford UFSD
- Riverhead CSD
- Sachem CSD
- Tuckahoe Common SD
- William Floyd UFSD

School Supply Donation

6,000 lbs of backpacks, books and binders

$0 cost to assist up to 1,000 LI students

$50,000 Value

14 school districts benefited, as well as homeless shelters throughout the county

Meal Time News

ESBOCES now provides FREE breakfast and lunch to all of its special education students. Each day, more than 2,000 meals are served across the agency, free of charge, through the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Community Eligibility Provision. Parents are not required to fill out applications and any stigmas surrounding free meals are removed since all students receive breakfast and lunch together, regardless of their economic status, guaranteeing everyone nutritious meals every day. The adoption of this program has decreased the administrative burden of the meal program resulting in increased efficiencies for the agency.
Cyberattacks on public school districts now turn up with increased frequency. Once unheard of, these electronic assaults include payroll hacking, stealing PII (personally identifiable information), and ransomware strikes, among others.

School districts are not only responsible for protecting PII, but for increasing cyber awareness and security measures, which is critical because every staff member with a password is a potential inroad to your district for an electronic adversary. An important portion of the proposed regulations require education agencies to adhere to the NIST Cyber Framework. NIST, the National Institute for Standards and Technology, is a U.S. Department of Commerce initiative that sets benchmarks for technology around policy and governance. The state has adopted NIST framework to guide districts in their regulatory processes for safeguarding infrastructure and data.

RIC One, the statewide collaboration of the 12 state Regional Information Centers, offers tools, training, and resources for all district stakeholders. A presentation deck, a training video, flyers with integral checklists, and information about other comprehensive materials, such as newsletters and email blasts, are all available at www.esboces.org/RIC.

The Suffolk RIC has also launched step-by-step, guided implementation trainings with security experts to take district teams through every stage of alignment with the NIST Framework so they are ready to meet the July 1 deadline. “This is a new reality,” said Darlene Roces, director of the Suffolk Regional Information Center. “The idea of cyberattacks targeting schools is new. The enormity of the policies, the governance and the details surrounding these procedures, are new. Realizing that we have to form incident response teams and train all employees is new.”

As you review your school district security protocols, don’t hesitate to tap into the resources and assistance that the RIC provides.

**Question? Concerns? Just want to have a conversation? Contact Darlene Roces at the RIC:**
droces@esboces.org or 631-244-4210.

---

The NYS Board of Regents reviewed the recommended adoption of Part 121 regulations associated with Education Law 2-D, 2014. The decision was made to offer a third public comment period.

October 7, 2019

A Notice of Revised Rule Making was published in the state register. It is anticipated that the proposed amendment will be presented to the Board of Regents at the January 2020 meeting.

October 25, 2019

If adopted at the January 2020 Board of Regents meeting, the suggested regulations will become effective on this date.

January 29, 2020

The expected deadline requiring all NYS public school districts to adopt and publish a data security and privacy policy.

July 1, 2020
Bedside Educator’s Program

This Recent Project Provides an onsite Teacher for Hospitalized Students, Two New Classrooms, and Technology

Last year, ESBOCES piloted its Bedside Educator’s Program for pediatric and adolescent patients suffering from chronic illness or experiencing long-term admission at Stony Brook University Medical Center. This program provides a full-time, onsite teacher at the hospital to collaborate with school district educators of pediatric and adolescent patients and give them the support they need to complete lessons and assignments, prepare for exams, and ultimately make for an easier transition back into their school districts. As it enters its second year, this program recently debuted two new hospital-based classrooms along with the technology required for student success.

Prior to the program launch, patients would either use a tutor or teacher sent from their home districts, or utilize the tutoring service that contracted with the hospital. While helpful, these services had their downsides. Chiefly, district teachers and tutoring services operate within a smaller window of time on a set schedule, which doesn’t allow for the flexibility needed in a hospital setting to accommodate medical interventions, outside visitors, or the patients’ overall status. Additionally, these services are not available to patients in all units, resulting in a gap in educational services for most children.

A full-time, onsite teacher has the ability to get to know all of her students and work around their individual requirements and schedules. After she receives authorization from the district, Cara Giannillo, the ESBOCES teacher at Stony Brook, provides students with one-on-one, bedside tutoring or small-group instruction in the hospital classroom, whatever their needs dictate. Students may access this service during any admission. (A long-term stay is considered five days or more and patients suffering from chronic illness may have multiple admissions and continue to access this service throughout a given school year.) “The ultimate priority is to keep students connected to school. To create a sense of normalcy in a place where normal is not really happening,” said Giannillo.

Giannillo collaborates with district classroom teachers to maximize instruction, providing materials and instruction in a variety of areas, and even proctors Regents exams from the hospital. She is also certified in special education. Two new classrooms, approximately 10’x12’, in the pediatric and adolescent units, were constructed specifically for this purpose and are larger than the single small classroom used during the pilot year. In addition to traditional materials, the classrooms will be equipped with instructional technology to meet a variety of educational needs.

“This program is about more than education. It is also psychosocial because it keeps students connected to school and a part of that classroom community,” said Giannillo. “I tell them the work is from their teachers or that I created a particular lesson for them so they don’t worry about being behind when they return to school.”

To learn more about the program, contact Laura Papaleo-Schwartz at lschwart@esboces.org or 631-567-4901.
Join us for our Youtube Livestream:
https://www.youtube.com/easternsuffolkboces

Community Legislative Committee

The committee is for those individuals who are interested in learning about the issues impacting school districts and BOCES, and how to advocate for positive change. With an extensive resume of successful legislative activities, William K. Miller, ESBOCES Board Vice President, chairs this committee of adults and students interested in working together to benefit our community by learning about, and becoming involved in, the legislative process.

If you would like to attend, all meetings will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the LGI Room at the Gary D. Bixhorn Technical Center.

Thursday, January 9, 2020
Tuesday, February 4, 2020
Thursday, March 12, 2020
Thursday, April 16, 2020
Thursday, May 7, 2020

Who Represents YOUR District?

The School District Delegate Facemap is a comprehensive and easy-to-view list of lawmakers for every school district, town, and county on Long Island.

You can download or print the map from the ESBOCES website at www.esboces.org/DelegateFacemap.
Eastern Suffolk BOCES is a leader in making Long Island’s educators more diverse. Through Board-driven initiatives, ESBOCES has made it a priority to diversify its workforce to better serve its students. The organization has established goals to “recruit and retain a culturally and ethnically diverse workforce that represents the demographic diversity of the region’s students and community.” On a yearly basis, a census is taken to quantify the steps taken to achieve those goals.

However, the need to diversify doesn’t end at ESBOCES doors. A recent study by Hofstra University* found that Long Island’s teachers are not representative of the students they teach. While over 45 percent of students are people of color, only eight percent of teachers are from similar backgrounds. The lack of diversity creates a cultural divide, where educators are left ignorant of their student’s culture and are unable to connect with them on a personal level, and where students are not prepared to go out and face the world we live in, which is much more diverse than within the walls of our schools.

For ESBOCES, like Long Island as a whole, hiring a teaching staff that resembles the community means quadrupling the pool of diverse teachers and administrators it has to hire from.

“This is absolutely not about hiring people from diverse backgrounds instead of hiring high-quality candidates,” said Dr. Julie Davis Lutz, ESBOCES Chief Operating Officer. “But, if you have a diverse pool, you can do both. And more often than not, you have a much higher percentage of finding somebody who checks both of those boxes; high quality, and diverse. It takes intentional work and it takes a commitment to doing that work.”

To start hiring the best candidates from diverse backgrounds, ESBOCES has updated how it recruits new educators. Now, vacancy announcements are sent to organizations such as the Black Educators Association or the New York State Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents. There is also a statement on all vacancy announcements encouraging diverse candidates to apply.

Internal hiring committees now watch a short video that was created in-house that explains how implicit bias can impact hiring decisions. ESBOCES has made this video available to its component districts on the ESBOCES website under “District Resources” and distributed it during the August superintendents’ meeting. From October to November, ESBOCES partnered with Adelphi University to present a Diversity Certificate Program. The professional development course was designed to promote a climate of intercultural awareness and respect across all members of the school community.

These tools were developed through the work of ESBOCES Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity Task Force. The task force, which was established during the 2018-2019 school year, meets on a monthly basis to discuss topics about diversity and inclusivity, such as uncovering implicit bias, celebrating diversity in all of its forms, and the local challenges equity faces on Long Island. Component school districts are invited to join the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity Task Force that is facilitated by Dr. Lutz and ESBOCES District Superintendent David Wicks. Currently, the task force has approximately 80 members, which include ESBOCES staff, administrators, and five representatives from local school districts. All resources used by the task force are available for public use on the ESBOCES website under “For Staff.”

“Research says that organizations, committees, and groups that are made up of diverse members have better outcomes,” Dr. Lutz said. “They’re more creative, and more productive. More than those benefits, the overwhelming positive is that a diverse workforce for us, means the best possible environment we can create for our students. So, why wouldn’t we want to do that?”

For more information contact Dr. Julie Lutz at jlutz@esboces.org or David Wicks at dwicks@esboces.org or 631-687-3001.

Looking to Expand your Hiring Pool?
ESBOCES is holding a Career Fair for Culturally and Ethnically Diverse Educators

Where: Ralph G. Reed Middle School in Central Islip, NY
When: March 28, 2020, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Will Your District be Represented at the Fair?

To get involved, contact:
R. Terri McSweeney
631-687-3029
or email at
tmcsween@esboces.org
by February 28, 2020

For more information, reach out to Nicole Cowan, ESBOCES Regional Certification Officer, at 631-687-3020 or ncowan@esboces.org.

ESBOCES Regional Certification Office

10 Key Facts

This service is an extension of NYSED’s Office of Teaching Initiatives. The certification officers receive extensive training from the state on certification requirements and regulations in order to support the teachers and school districts in our region.

Is a resource for those who live or work in one of our 51 component school districts. Anyone can contact our office with questions regarding NYS certification.

Is authorized to evaluate applications for most teaching certificate titles, as well as teaching assistants and coaches.

Assists districts to ensure that new hires and current staff are appropriately certified for their position.

Provides in-district presentations on a variety of certification topics. These presentations are designed to answer common certification questions and help teachers understand how to maintain their certification.

Participates in monthly teleconferences with NYSED and an annual training in Albany to stay current with certification regulations. New information is shared with component districts at the Personnel Administrators Council meetings.

Guides applicants through the certification process from beginning to end, whether it is a recent graduate pursuing their first certificate or a current teacher who wants to obtain an additional certificate.

Quickly processes applications. Most evaluations are completed within 3-6 weeks.

Provides guidance that is tailored to each individual applicant’s situation.

Attended the Diversity Career Fair (info below) to provide support for all participating teachers.

Fast Facts

The Regional Certification Office processes up to 1,200 certificate applications each year

AND

handled nearly 800 phone calls in August 2019 alone.

The certification officers receive extensive training from the state on certification requirements and regulations in order to support the teachers and school districts in our region.
Eastern Suffolk BOCES does not discriminate against any employee, student, applicant for employment, or candidate for enrollment on the basis of sex, gender, race, color, religion or creed, age, weight, national origin, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, transgender status, military or veteran status, domestic violence victim status, genetic predisposition or carrier status, or any other classification protected by Federal, State, or local law. ESBOCES also provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Inquiries regarding the implementation of the applicable laws should be directed to either of the ESBOCES Civil Rights Compliance Officers at ComplianceOfficers@esboces.org; the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, 631-687-3029, or the Associate Superintendent for Educational Services, 631-687-3056, 201 Sunrise Highway, Patchogue, NY 11772. Inquiries may also be addressed to the Office for Civil Rights at the US Department of Education, 32 Old Slip, 26th Floor, New York, NY 10005, 646-428-3800, OCR.NewYork@ed.gov.

President
Lisa Israel

Vice President
William K. Miller

Member and Clerk
Fred Langstaff

District Superintendent
David Wicks

Chief Operating Officer
Julie Davis Lutz, Ph.D.

Members
Arlene Barresi
Walter Wm. Denzler, Jr.
Stephen L. Gessner, Ph.D.
Linda S. Goldsmith
William Hsiang
Susan Lipman
Joseph LoSchiavo
Anne Mackesey
James F. McKenna
Brian O. Mealy
Catherine M. Romano
John Wyche

Eastern Suffolk BOCES Board

SUBSCRIBE NOW TO THE NewsFeed
News for our Community

…the fastest way to get ESBOCES information. Sent directly to your email inbox, this short, regular bulletin will highlight agency initiatives, school programs, upcoming events, and more. Go to www.esboces.org/newsfeed or use the QR code to subscribe today.