



# Spotlight

**Zero-emission school buses for LI districts**

**ESBOCES to open new middle school**

**Performance statistics are in**



Cover photo: Food Prep students hone career skills

\*See inside for additional images

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# Masera Middle School Set to Open

When the 2024-2025 school year begins, ESBOCES is opening a new location in West Islip to serve middle school-aged special education students. Masera Middle School will serve students in fifth through eighth grade. More than 100 students have been identified to attend Masera in the new school year. Mr. Kai Watkins will be joining ESBOCES as the school's principal. The opening of this new location allows our ESBOCES Special Education Program to serve more students, not only in this new building but also by freeing up space at many other special education locations.

Also in September, Premm Learning Center will serve kindergarten through second-grade students, second through fourth-grade students will attend Sayville Elementary School, and fifth through eighth graders will attend the new Masera Middle School. After attending Masera, students move on to ninth through twelfth grade at Brookhaven Learning Center.



## Chefs of the Year



**Congratulations** to Milliken Tech Chef Spyridon Giannakouloupoulos and culinary student Taylor DiBiase! Chef Spiro took home the gold medal and earned the titles of Northeast Regional Chef of the Year and Long Island Chapter Chef of the Year at the recent American Culinary Federation Regional (ACF) Qualifier in Buffalo.

Taylor, **Bayport-Blue Point UFSD**, placed fourth in the Student Pastry Chef of the Year competition and earned a bronze medal. Taylor is the first high school student to compete at a regional ACF qualifier and received a \$20,000 scholarship to Johnson & Wales University.

## Zero-emission School Buses Coming to LI Districts



Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature set a deadline in the 2022 budget for all districts, statewide, to transition from internal-combustion-engine school buses to their zero-emission counterparts. Currently, the NYS Education Department and Eastern Suffolk BOCES are working to determine the agency's role in the region regarding the electrification of school buses. More information will be forthcoming. **Until then, if districts have questions, they can contact Joe Lesnick, ESBOCES Transportation Administrator, at 631-472-8764.**

According to the state mandate, all newly purchased school buses must be zero emissions by 2027 and the state's entire fleet of school buses must reach zero emissions by 2035. Zero-emission buses are powered by electric or hydrogen fuel cells.

The Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act was passed by voters to support this move and allocates \$500 million to help school districts achieve this objective. To distribute these funds to districts, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) established a voucher program called the New York Bus Incentive Program (NYSBIP). It provides grants to districts to offset the purchase of electric buses and required charging infrastructure. Voucher applications are now being accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The program aspires to increase the use of zero-emission vehicles, reduce greenhouse emissions and air pollution, lower upfront purchasing costs for schools, and provide environmental and health benefits to all New Yorkers, with a focus on improved outcomes for residents in disadvantaged communities.

Certain existing buses may be eligible for scrappage bonuses to ensure that they will not be sold or used elsewhere. Two voucher add-ons are available for districts that require specialized equipment to be installed on their newly purchased electric buses, such as wheelchair accessibility assemblies. Additional bonuses exist for priority districts that serve high-needs communities.

NYSERDA has compiled an extensive implementation manual and other pertinent documents with information regarding eligibility and approval, voucher rules and guidelines, fleet electrification plan requirements, school bus dealer eligibility, and much more. All information is available on the NYSERDA website at <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Electric-School-Buses/NY-School-Bus-Incentive-Program-Overview>



# Classroom Happenings

Here's a quick look inside our many educational programs, which consist of Career and Technical Education, Adult Education, Special Education, and Special Career Education.

## St. Baldrick's Fundraising Efforts Expand

For approximately 18 years, ESBOCES Barbering Program has participated in raising funds for St. Baldrick's Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research, and well over \$100,000 has been raised. This year, our Adult Education Barbering Program participated for the first-time, offering services to customers in the evening to support the cause.



**Learning about Pediatric Care**  
Medical Assisting students collaborated with classmates in the Early Childhood Education Program at Milliken Tech to gain firsthand experience working with three-year-olds. Med Assist students took the height and weight of the youngsters and had them read an eye chart. To make them feel less intimidated, they helped the preschoolers bandage their stuffed animals, color, and play the classic board game, Operation.

## Motor Maintenance

The HVAC students at Ward Tech learned how to test and replace the blower motors within oil and gas-fired furnaces and air handlers for air conditioning systems. Here they are pulling original motors out, testing them, and installing new ones.



## STEAM Power

To study buoyancy, volume, and mass during STEAM Day at Bellport Academic Center, students created boats from 12"x12" squares of aluminum foil and filled them with pennies to determine their maximum holding capacity. The class whose boat held the most pennies without sinking won the exercise. The winning boat held 98 coins!



## Restaurant Ready

Twice a week, the Food Prep class at Islip Career Center prepares lunch and breakfast for building customers, providing real-world experience. Students prep and cook the food, work the register, and expedite, pack, and deliver orders. New skills and menu items are incorporated weekly. Recently, students made risotto with sautéed chicken; taco bowls with cilantro rice; salad with sweet potatoes; and sausage, egg and cheese sandwiches.

## Safety Town

Learning to carefully cross the street is an important life skill. Jean Warm, the phys-ed teacher at Brookhaven Learning Center, created a safety town exercise to teach students to do it correctly. The school staff fabricated a cardboard village filled with shops and businesses in the gym, where Warm outlined a pedestrian crosswalk and traffic lane for students on scooters who acted as motorists. Carpentry and Trade Electric students at Bixhorn Tech built a crosswalk signal box indicating *walk* and *don't walk*, which Warm and a "crossing guard" used to help participants practice traversing the street.



## Designers in the Making

Academy Fashion students are learning to design their own pieces. Students at Bixhorn Tech developed two looks for an assignment, which was showcased on concept boards. The boards featured a title describing their designs, the inspiration behind the clothing, sketches of the garments on models, and swatches of chosen textiles. Students presented their boards to the class and fielded questions.





# ESBOCES Impact on the Region **ADDS UP**



Career education, student supports, professional development, and cost savings for school districts are just a few of the services provided by ESBOCES. Here are the most recent results:



## Engine for **Economic Growth**

- 1,752** adult students improved their job prospects by enrolling in workforce development courses
- 828** businesses are on our CTE advisory council
- 14%** of CTE graduates entered the workforce directly after graduation
- 50** career education courses for high school students are offered
- 2,206** school staff attended 46 professional development workshops offered
- 6,115** computing devices were purchased for component school districts, including 426 desktop computers, 3,845 laptop computers, 638 tablets, and 1,206 mobile hot spots



## Facilitator of **Collaboration & Efficiency**

- 38** colleges and universities have 149 articulation agreements with ESBOCES
- 11** school districts participate in BOCES coordinated health benefits consortium
- 190** school districts received support from the Regional Information Center
- 60** school districts participate in the ESBOCES Regional Transportation Program
- 171** school districts receive support from ESBOCES Educational Support Services
- 112** school districts receive support from ESBOCES Management Services
- \$8.9** million is estimated to have been saved through 63 cooperative bids in 2023



## Trusted **Leader in Education**

- 96** students earned at least three college credits through dual enrollment agreements
- 2,183** people are employed by ESBOCES
- 83%** of CTE graduates went on to college after graduation
- 59** Cooperative Service Agreements (CoSers) are available to 51 component districts, 18 districts in Western Suffolk, and 139 other districts/BOCES throughout the state
- 1,221** CTE students graduated with a high school diploma or equivalent in 2023
- 4,694** students are enrolled in instructional programs operated by ESBOCES



## Educator for **All Ages and Abilities**

- 2,845** high school students developed college and career-ready skills
- 1,823** students' needs were supported in special education classrooms
- 1,891** adult students improved their language comprehension, speaking, and literacy skills through English as a Second Language (ESL) programs
- 200** CTE students completed a program with a technical endorsement. 95 of them are students with disabilities.
- 26** students' academic, social, and emotional needs were met in alternative education programs
- 335** adult students broadened their employment options by taking High School Equivalency (HSE) courses

The **Educational Support Services** offers innovative and high-quality programs and services designed to assist school districts in enhancing instruction with the goal of improving student outcomes.

The **Regional Information Center** provides school districts with a wide array of technology tools and solutions that provide school districts with the most cost-effective and efficient technologies available.

The **Career, Technical, and Adult Education Program** provides high school and adult students with technical and academic skills for future employment or a path to college or other post-secondary programs.

The **Special Education Program** offers a broad spectrum of services and programs to the region's most severely impaired, disabled, and "at-risk" students.

The **Human Resources Department** provides a range of services that promote staff development, recruitment, communications, and research that capitalize on the diverse backgrounds and experiences of school staff.

**Administrative Services** promotes cost-effectiveness in school district management that allows school districts to utilize their limited resources for instructional purposes.





# PTA Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to 2024 PTA Award Scholarship Winners Derek Placente and Taylor Space from **Bayport-Blue Point UFSD**, who each received an award of \$500. Both students attend the Television, Video, and Digital Film Program at Bixhorn Technical Center and were recognized at our Annual PTA Dinner in March.



Immediate Past Region Director Lori Fontana and Recording Secretary Chrissy Centrone, both with Suffolk Region PTA, flank PTA scholarship winners Derek Jon Placente and Taylor Space.



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