

Educational Support Services

Working Together for Excellence



APRIL, MAY & JUNE, 2025

VOLUME 9: CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE EDUCATION

THE ESSENTIALS

Enhancing Education with Educational Support Services

Dear Educators,

As we continue to create inclusive and equitable learning environments, it is essential that we embrace the principles of Culturally Sustaining Education (CSE). CSE goes beyond acknowledging cultural diversity; it is about actively honoring and sustaining the cultural identities, languages, and lived experiences of all students. In this issue, we will explore how CSE can be embedded into your teaching practices, fostering a classroom environment where every student feels valued, respected, and empowered to bring their full selves to learning. Join us as we dive into strategies, resources, and stories that highlight the transformative power of culturally sustaining approaches in education.

Warm regards,

Kate Davern, Director of Educational Support Services at Eastern Suffolk BOCES



5TH ANNUAL DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSIVITY CONFERENCE EMPOWERING EVERY CHILD: INNOVATING FOR AN INCLUSIVE FUTURE

May 15, 2025 • 8:30 am – 2:30 pm

Instructional Support Center at Sequoya, Holtsville

Featuring Keynote Speaker Cornelius Minor

What it Means to Be a Community Now:

Powerful Teaching and Leading in Uncertain Times

The past five years have brought profound shifts to education, challenging long-held traditions and routines. While many long for a return to "normal," Cornelius Minor urges us to rethink what that means. In this session, he will explore how nostalgia for the past can overlook the students and communities who were left on the margins—and how we can use the lessons of recent years to shape a more inclusive and effective future for teaching and leadership.

Contact pdonlinesupport@esboces.org with questions.



Scan the QR
code or click
[here](#) to register.

THE FOCUS: CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE EDUCATION

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

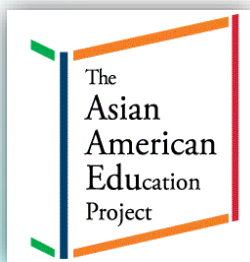
For more information contact Bernadette Gentile, Program Administrator, at bgentile@esboces.org



Cornelius Minor is a Brooklyn-based educator and education consultant. He works with teachers, school leaders, and leaders of community-based organizations to support equitable literacy reform in cities (and sometimes villages) across the globe. His latest book, *We Got This*, explores how the work of creating more equitable school spaces is embedded in our everyday choices—specifically in the choice to really listen to kids.



With over 18 years in education, **Natalie McGee** of Progression Partners is a seasoned coach and national presenter specializing in areas such as Cultural Proficiency, Common Core State Standards (CCSS) implementation, Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS), Caring Teachers Connect, as well as Building Vocabulary Skills, and Reading Comprehension. She translates research into practical strategies that improve instruction and boost student success.



The history of Asian Americans is deeply intertwined with America's own history, yet often forgotten or ignored within today's classrooms and public discourse. **The Asian American Education Project** provides workshops and lesson plans for K–12 educators to teach this rich history to students. By showcasing the struggles and triumphs of Asian Americans over the course of two centuries, their workshops and lesson plans amplify the importance and voices of this growing, integral segment of the U.S. population in building the country into what it is today and can become tomorrow, together as Americans.



The LGBT Network has been a pioneer in advocacy and creating inclusive spaces for LGBTQ individuals since 1993. They specialize in supporting transgender and gender-nonconforming students and helping schools implement the NYS Guidance Document. The Network offers training and resources to help schools and

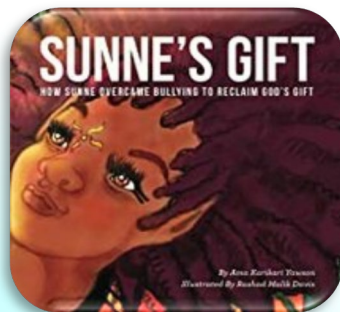
communities create welcoming, supportive environments for all. Available through ESBOCES, they are here to assist in fostering a culture of inclusion and respect.

To book these consultants for in-district Professional Development, email pdteam@esboces.org. Scan the QR code to view the entire Consultant Catalog.



ARTS-IN-EDUCATION

For more information contact Loretta Corbisiero-Drakos, Administrative Coordinator, at lcorbisi@esboces.org



SCAN TO ACCESS THE
ARTS-IN-EDUCATION
CATALOG

Arts in Education:

Bringing Culturally Responsive Sustaining Education to Life

The **Arts in Education** program provides dynamic, culturally rich experiences that align with **Culturally Responsive Sustaining Education (CRSE)** by amplifying diverse voices, fostering inclusivity, and creating meaningful connections to students' identities and lived experiences. These programs help educators engage students through the arts while promoting equity, cultural appreciation, and global awareness.

NYSED Cultural Connections Framework and Resource Kit for P-3 Classrooms

Cultural Connections is a framework and digital resource kit intended to enhance the ability of New York State classrooms to deeply engage students in STEAM and history through cultural experiences, including the arts, science, and social studies. This resource recommends ways schools and collaborating partners can connect with cultural institutions for class trips and/or learning experiences that can be brought right into classrooms. Cultural Connections is organized by content area and features a variety of vetted resources. We encourage you to make rich connections with New York State by bringing cultural experiences into the lives of students.

Storytelling and Drumming: A Character Education Assembly

Harvard-trained attorney and storyteller **Ama Karikari-Yawson, Esq.** brings **Sunne's Gift**, her best-selling bullying prevention fable, to life through interactive storytelling and the vibrant rhythms of the West African djembe drum. This powerful experience encourages students to reflect on identity, self-acceptance, and empathy. The program is customizable to address **racial, economic, and LGBTQ+ bullying** and can be tailored for **Black History Month, Women's History Month, and other commemorative events**. In alignment with CRSE, the discussion prompts students to share their own "gifts," fostering a classroom culture that values **diverse perspectives and voices**.

[Learn more about this program here](#)

"Treasure Hunt: Caccia al Tesoro" – A Multilingual Edu-Musical

Presented by **Incanto Productions**, this immersive **multilingual edu-musical** introduces students to the richness of **Italian, French, Spanish, and English** through a captivating blend of history, art, poetry, and music. Featuring an award-winning cast, dazzling costumes, and interactive storytelling, the production **celebrates linguistic and cultural diversity** while integrating with **world languages, STEM, music, and the performing arts**. The program helps students **connect their cultural identities with global perspectives**, reinforcing the principles of CRSE. Educators can use the accompanying **digital study guide and music** to extend learning beyond the performance.

PERFORMANCE DATES & LOCATIONS:

- 📍 Bayway Arts, East Islip – April 1 & 2, 2025 • 10:30 AM
- 📍 The Suffolk Theatre, Riverhead – April 3, 2025 • 10:30 AM

[Learn more about this program here](#)



SCHOOL LIBRARY SYSTEM

For more information contact Carl Vitevitch, Administrative Coordinator, at cvitevitch@esboces.org



This March, the School Library System launched their first ever asynchronous course for CTLE credit, entitled *Using ProQuest CultureGrams*, to equip educators with innovative teaching strategies and resources to engage and support students using the CultureGrams database within the Virtual Reference Collection. CultureGrams offers detailed insights into the rich tapestry of cultures from every continent, providing users with a unique opportunity to learn about global traditions, languages, histories, and societies.

*Diverse communities, well-traveled patrons, and major global events have expanded each of our personal world views and increased our need for understanding a wide array of cultures. No matter the user or their need, **CultureGrams from ProQuest** goes beyond basic facts and figures with local perspectives on more than 200 countries, detailing daily life and culture, including history, customs, and lifestyles.*

Available on the Virtual Reference Collection (VRC)

<https://auth.orc.scoolaid.net/bin/listdb?sysCode=xaaa>



MODEL SCHOOLS

For more information, contact Heather Ciccone, Program Administrator, at hciccone@esboces.org

Model Schools: Supporting Culturally Responsive Sustaining Education

Educational Technology Coaches in the Model Schools program provide professional development to help educators integrate technology in ways that support Culturally Responsive Sustaining Education. Through training sessions, coaches guide educators in using Newsela, which offers differentiated nonfiction texts featuring diverse voices and perspectives on current events and historical topics.

Coaches also provide hands-on support with MagicSchool.ai, an AI-driven platform that helps educators create inclusive and culturally relevant learning experiences. This includes personalized lesson planning, culturally reflective word problems, and tools to support multilingual learners through instant translations and scaffolded language activities.

In addition, Educational Technology Coaches help educators critically examine AI-generated content for bias and leverage technology to highlight historically underrepresented figures and perspectives. By working with the Model Schools team, educators can ensure their instructional practices foster inclusivity and equity in the classroom.



THIRD PARTY ASSESSMENTS

For more information, contact Jonathan Marron, Asst. Administrative Coordinator, at jmarron@esboces.org



Utilizing the [Bilingual Common Core Progressions](#) for English Language Learners, **LAS Links® Online** can be used to monitor student progress in acquiring English language skills throughout the school year in Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing. Using student performance data, the platform enables educators to understand the progress of students as they move through the stages of language acquisition, from grades PreK–12. This research-based assessment allows teachers to pinpoint areas of student strengths and weaknesses well before NYSESLAT testing, allowing for targeted and meaningful instruction for each student.

LAS Links Español is a research-based, Spanish language proficiency assessment that measures the speaking, listening, reading, writing, and comprehension skills of K–12 students. It helps teachers identify language difficulties a student may have in Spanish and track and monitor progress in attaining Spanish language proficiency. When combined with LAS Links English, it provides a complete linguistic profile. Stakeholders can use comprehensive language proficiency data to target instruction to meet each student's needs during the year to help speed progress toward Spanish language proficiency. **LAS Links Español** may also be used to monitor the language progress of students in your Dual Language program.

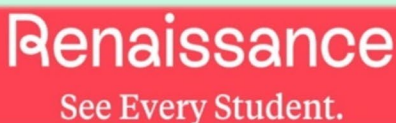


When you start with what English Learners can do, they go further.

English Learners come from a broad spectrum of learning backgrounds, experiences, and communities. By providing English Learners with rigorous grade-level content and scaffolded support, we ensure they are on track to achieve academic success.

English Learners using i-Ready Personalized Instruction show remarkable growth.

English Learners who received recommended levels of i-Ready Personalized Instruction experienced greater learning gains in reading and mathematics than English Learners who did not receive the instruction.



Renaissance is dedicated to ensuring that students have access to engaging content that is inclusive and representative of the diverse communities it serves. The organization's content developers strive to provide students with both a "mirror," reflecting their own identities in the material, and a "window," offering insights into different cultures, customs, and perspectives. In developing assessments, Renaissance remains focused on creating opportunities for students to experience both windows and mirrors while ensuring that the content remains relevant and free from factors that could create disparities in student performance.

SCHOOL DATA BANK SERVICES

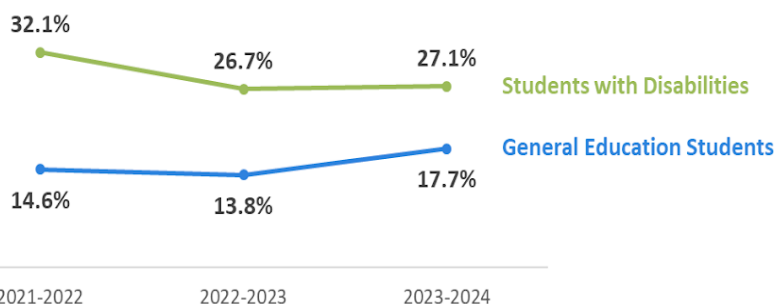
Contact Vanessa Biagioli-Dittrich, Program Administrator, for more information: SDBS@esboces.org

Integrating Data in Culturally Responsive Education

The School Data Bank Services team helps districts identify patterns and disparities within their data. Through in-depth analysis, Staff Developer/Shared Data Experts disaggregate data by race, ethnicity, language, socioeconomic status, IEP status, and other key measures to highlight areas where student groups may need additional support. The visualizations created by the team help school leaders recognize trends among subgroups and provide valuable evidence to guide strategic planning efforts aimed at addressing disproportionality. Districts looking to deepen their understanding of student data can leverage these services to drive more equitable outcomes.

Here is an example of a data visualization illustrating how students with disabilities continue to be disciplined at disproportionate rates. This analysis highlights the importance of examining disciplinary data to ensure fair and equitable practices for all students.

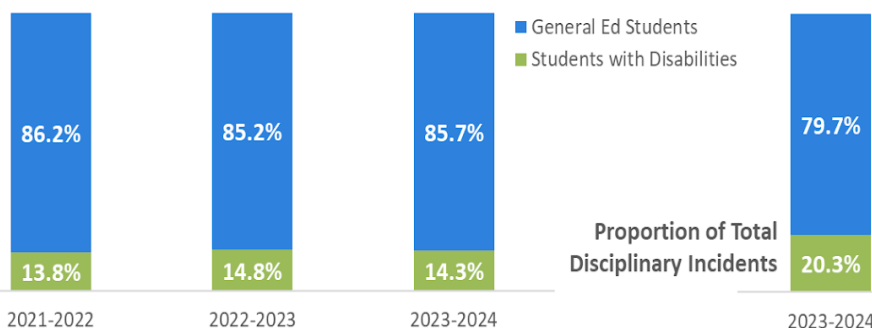
Trend of Behavior Incidents by Disability Status
Percent of Students with Incidents by Group



In this school,
Students with Disabilities
continue to be disciplined at
disproportionate rates.

27.1% of Students with Disabilities were reported for discipline last year, while just 17.7% of all General Education students were reported for discipline.

School Enrollment by Disability Status



Meanwhile, Students with Disabilities made up 14.3% of the overall school population last year, but were reported as receiving 20.3% of the disciplinary incidents.

WORDS OF GRATITUDE: EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES SHINE



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

"Exceeded expectations, you were wonderful!" – Mineola High School Teacher on Creating a Culture of Care: How to Implement Restorative Justice Practices in Your School and/or School District Presented by Adele Bovard

SCHOOL DATA BANK SERVICES

"I love the ability to really dive deeper into the data to see where we can do better supporting our students. I couldn't stop thinking about other ways to use our Shared Data Expert's talent!"

SCHOOL LIBRARY SYSTEM

"I think SLS always does a great job trying to touch on everything." Feedback on the December liaison meeting

"More of this! I so appreciated hearing from talented and expert LMSs. They offered tenable ideas and practical applications. I thought this was an invaluable meeting. Thank you!"

SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOLS EXTENDED DAY ENRICHMENT

If you are interested in bringing the Eastern Suffolk BOCES Extended Day Enrichment Program to your school districts contact Danielle Hudek, Program Administrator, and Nancy Dowdy-Adams, Assistant Administrative Coordinator, at schoolearenrichment@esboces.org for more info.

Comsewogue School Year Enrichment Provided by Eastern Suffolk BOCES

In Comsewogue School District, students at **Boyle Road and Norwood Avenue Elementary Schools** embraced cultural awareness through creative and meaningful hands-on activities. The students crafted vibrant Valentine's flower pots, each adorned with messages of love and friendship, symbolizing the importance of kindness. Additionally, they engaged in the unique experience of using their own hands to create cactus plants, learning about the resilience that they represent. Through these projects, Comsewogue students demonstrated their commitment to the values of empathy and respect.



East Islip School Year Enrichment Provided by Eastern Suffolk BOCES



Students from all four East Islip elementary schools—Timber Point, John F. Kennedy, Ruth C. Kinney, and Connetquot—recently participated in the transformative power of dance through Kerboom Kidz. This innovative program is dedicated to enhancing children's self-esteem and promoting youth wellness through culturally responsive practices. By incorporating diverse dance styles and cultural influences, Kerboom Kidz fosters an inclusive environment where every child can express themselves and celebrate their unique identities. This spotlight showcases the program's significant impact on building confidence and resilience in youth, while also nurturing a sense of belonging and empowerment.



Follow us on our Educational Support Services Instagram Page for professional development opportunities and program highlights!



UPCOMING EVENTS: APRIL, MAY & JUNE 2025

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ANY OF THE EVENTS LISTED ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES, PLEASE USE THE COLOR-CODED KEY BELOW TO CONTACT EACH PROGRAM DIRECTLY. CLICK THE EVENT TITLE TO VIEW DETAILS AND REGISTER ON FRONTLINE, OR SCAN THE QR CODE TO ACCESS THE ENTIRE CATALOG.

PROGRAM	CONTACT
Arts-In-Education	artsined@esboces.org
Curriculum Development	kbarnett@esboces.org
Model Schools	mspd@esboces.org
Professional Development	pdonlinesupport@esboces.org
School Data Bank Services	sdbs@esboces.org
School Library System	slshelp@esboces.org
Third Party Assessments	thirdpartyassessments@esboces.org

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APRIL, MAY & JUNE, 2025

VOLUME 9: CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE EDUCATION

APRIL 2025



START DATE	EVENT	PROGRAM
4/1/25	<u>Library Leadership Academy: How to Speak with Compelling Confidence: Blueprint for School Librarians</u>	School Library System
4/1/25	<u>Northwell Health Mental Health Program - Mental Health 101 for Schools</u>	Professional Development
4/2/25	<u>SchoolAI: A Class Act</u>	Model Schools
4/2/25	<u>ESBOCES ARTS INTEGRATION PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT - BOOM! BANG! POW! Creating Cause & Effect Connections Through Comics</u>	Arts-in-Education
4/3/25	<u>FULL-SERVICE SCORING: 2024-25 Packaging & Delivery Workshops for NYS 3-8 ELA, Mathematics, and Science Assessment Booklets</u>	School Data Bank Services
4/3/25	<u>PEACEout: Incanto, CACCIA AL TESORO: TREASURE HUNT</u>	Arts-in-Education
4/4/25	<u>The Blueprint for English Language Learners and Using Scaffolds and Strategies for Student Success Presented by Pamela Solomon</u>	Professional Development
4/5/25	<u>LISEA: AI Course-Leveraging Free AI Tools for Engaging and Inclusive Education (Cohort 4 Saturdays and Mondays)</u>	Model Schools
4/8/25	<u>Book Study: The Anxious Generation Presented by Dr. Kelly Zinn, DSW, LCSW</u>	Professional Development
4/8/25	<u>8th Annual Long Island Model Schools Forum - EASTERN SUFFOLK BOCES DISTRICTS ONLY</u>	Model Schools
4/8/25	<u>Northwell Health Mental Health Program - Fostering Emotional Resilience in the School</u>	Professional Development
4/9/25	<u>All I Need to Know I Learned From a Kindergarten Teacher: A Guide to Multi-Modal Teaching For Secondary Teachers Presented by Amy Benjamin</u>	Professional Development
4/9/25	<u>Unlocking Success with 504 Plans: Navigating Education Equality Presented by Mary Verdone and Nina DiMauro</u>	Professional Development
4/10/25	<u>Curriculum Writing Collaborative - Session 1: Foundations of Project-Based Learning & Curriculum Design – Dr. Krystle Hernandez-Barnett</u>	Curriculum Development
4/10/25	<u>The Science of Reading & Small Group Reading Instruction Presented by Lauren Kolbeck and Deborah Linscott-Feinstein</u>	Professional Development
4/10/25	<u>9 Factors of Student Resilience Your School Can Influence Presented by LI SELF</u>	Professional Development
4/10/25	<u>FULL-SERVICE SCORING: 2024-25 Packaging & Delivery Workshops for NYS 3-8 ELA, Mathematics, and Science Assessment Booklets</u>	School Data Bank Services
4/10/25	<u>Inspiring Educators to Discover the Potential of AI Using Office 365</u>	Model Schools
4/10/25	<u>Accessibility Tools to Support All Learners</u>	Model Schools

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START DATE	EVENT	PROGRAM
4/11/25	<u>The Science of Learning: Cognitive Strategies For K-12 Success Across All Subjects Presented by Mike Ochs</u>	Professional Development
4/23/25	<u>Northwell Health Mental Health Program - Project ECHO - Supporting LGBTQ+ students in the school</u>	Professional Development
4/23/25	<u>PEACE Critical Community of Practice (CCoP) April</u>	Arts-in-Education
4/24/25	<u>Effective ENL Instructional Strategies Presented by Dr. Wafa Deeb-Westervelt</u>	Professional Development
4/24/25	<u>Northwell Health Mental Health Program - Understanding Family Dynamics: A Guide for School Professionals</u>	Professional Development
4/25/25	<u>Library Leadership Academy ONLINE: Digital Fluency and Computer Science Standards and the Library Asynchronous Course</u>	School Library System
4/25/25	<u>Library Leadership Academy ONLINE: Using CultureGrams in the School Library Asynchronous Course</u>	School Library System
4/28/25	<u>3D Printing</u>	Model Schools
4/29/25	<u>Curriculum Writing Collaborative - Session 2: Designing Engaging Learning Experiences & Scaffolding Student Inquiry – Dr. Krystle Hernandez-Barnett</u>	Curriculum Development
4/29/25	<u>Explore Generative AI's Impact on Middle School Education for Educators Presented by Matt Molloy</u>	Professional Development
4/30/25	<u>But I Don't Speak Spanish: Helping Our Spanish-Speaking Students (even though you don't speak Spanish) Presented by Amy Benjamin</u>	Professional Development
4/30/25	<u>Library Leadership Academy: Demco Book Repair</u>	School Library System
4/30/25	<u>Library Leadership Academy: Turning Pages into Practice: Hands-On Learning for Librarians</u>	School Library System

MAY 2025



START DATE	EVENT	PROGRAM
5/1/25	<u>Math Centers for Geometry Presented by Nicolle Santaromita</u>	Professional Development
5/1/25	<u>Frontline User Meeting</u>	Professional Development
5/1/25	<u>ES BOCES ARTS INTEGRATION PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT - Creatively Moving Through Literacy</u>	Arts-in-Education
5/2/25	<u>Review of the NYSED Regents Chemistry Sample Clusters Presented by Kathleen Dinota</u>	Professional Development

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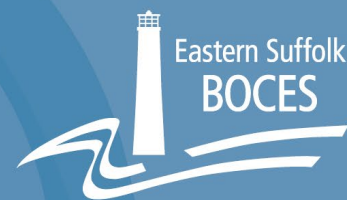
START DATE	EVENT	PROGRAM
5/5/25	<u>Curriculum Writing Collaborative - Designing Meaningful Learning - Session 3: Creating Authentic Project-Based Assessments – Dr. Krystle Hernandez-Barnett</u>	Curriculum Development
5/5/25	<u>Paving the Way: Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports Presented by Mary Verdone and Donna Greenberg</u>	Professional Development
5/7/25	<u>Effective Teacher Collaboration for English Language Learners: Cross-Curricular Insights from K-12 Classrooms Presented by Dr. Carrie McDermott-Goldman</u>	Professional Development
5/8/25	<u>Just Words® Launch Workshop Presented by Wilson Certified Trainer, Building Bridges</u>	Professional Development
5/8/25	<u>FULL-SERVICE SCORING: 2024-25 Packaging & Delivery Workshops for NYSESLAT K-12 Assessment Booklets</u>	School Data Bank Services
5/12/25	<u>Unpacking the New York State Literacy Initiative: Best Practices for P-3 Literacy Instruction Presented by Deborah Linscott-Feinstein and Lauren Kolbeck</u>	Professional Development
5/12/25	<u>Discover What's New in Newsela Spring Session</u>	Model Schools
5/13/25	<u>An Overview of Autism Spectrum Disorders NYS Education Department Approved Training Presented by Dr. Jeanne Villani, Psy.D.</u>	Professional Development
5/13/25	<u>DASA Coordinator Training Presented by Dr. Anne Rullan</u>	Professional Development
5/13/25	<u>Northwell Health Mental Health Program - Cultural Considerations in Working with Families</u>	Professional Development
5/13/25	<u>ESBOCES ARTS INTEGRATION PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT - Animation Challenges: Inspiring Collaboration and Problem-Solving in the Science Classroom</u>	Arts-in-Education
5/15/25	<u>Empowering Every Child: Innovating for an Inclusive Future, 5th Annual Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity Conference</u>	Professional Development
5/19/25	<u>Inquiring Minds Want to Learn: Posing Good Questions to Promote Student Inquiry Presented by Erik Francis</u>	Professional Development
5/19/25	<u>Vocabulary Instruction for Durable Learning: How Words Get Learned and Stay Learned Presented by Amy Benjamin</u>	Professional Development
5/20/25	<u>Writing Revolution Presented by Dr. Maureen Martin</u>	Professional Development
5/21/25	<u>PEACE Critical Community of Practice (CCoP) May</u>	Arts-in-Education
5/28/25	<u>Curriculum Writing Collaborative - Designing Meaningful Learning - Session 4: Implementing, Reflecting, and Refining PBL Units – Dr. Krystle Hernandez-Barnett</u>	Curriculum Development

ESS Frontline Catalog



Educational Support Services

Working Together for Excellence



APRIL, MAY & JUNE, 2025

VOLUME 9: CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE EDUCATION

JUNE 2025



START DATE	EVENT	PROGRAM
6/1/25	Wilson Reading System® Introductory Course Presented by a Wilson Certified Trainer, Aimee Gandee	Professional Development
6/4/25	What's New with the 2025-2026 Every Students Succeeds Act (ESSA) Consolidated Application Presented by Rose Peppe	Professional Development
6/5/25	Northwell Health Mental Health Program - Life after High School-OPWDD, OMH, PRE-ETS, ACCES	Professional Development
6/10/25	Northwell Health Mental Health Program - Neurodevelopmental Disorders: Assessment and Intervention Strategies	Professional Development
6/11/25	Northwell Health Mental Health Program - Project ECHO - Students Impacted by Bullying	Professional Development
6/11/25	Preparing the 2025-2026 ESSA Consolidated Application for Submission to the New York State Education Department Presented by Rose Peppe	Professional Development
6/11/25	Wilson Foundations® Level K & 1* Workshop Presented by Allison McAvoy, Southeast Reading Center, LLC	Professional Development
6/12/25	Wilson Foundations® Level 2 & 3* Workshop Presented by Allison McAvoy, Southeast Reading Center, LLC	Professional Development
6/18/25	PEACE Critical Community of Practice (CCoP) June	Arts-in-Education

Registration is now open for the 21st Annual Leadership Academy [Click here](#) or scan to register today!



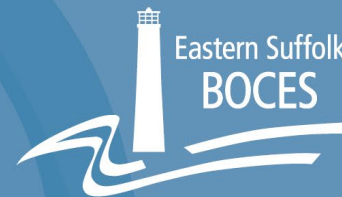
21st Annual Leadership Academy

July 9 & 10, 2025



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www.esboces.org

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