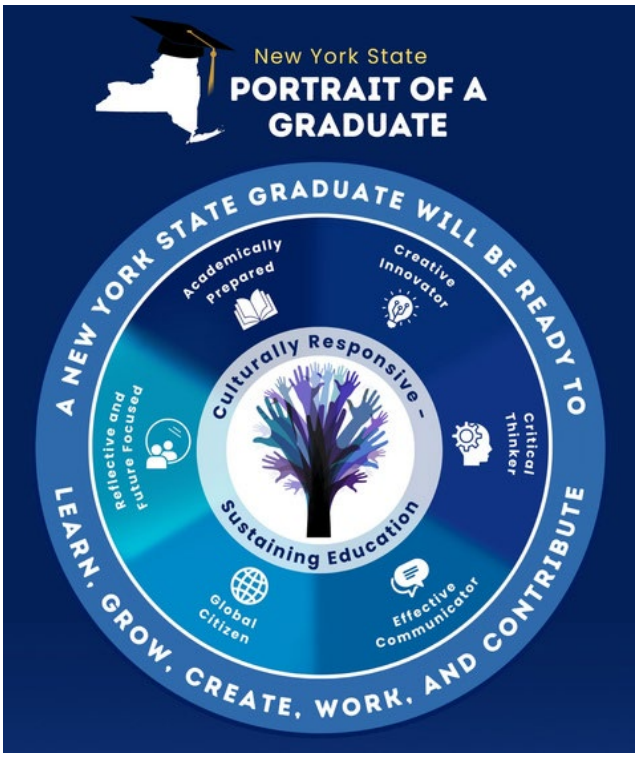
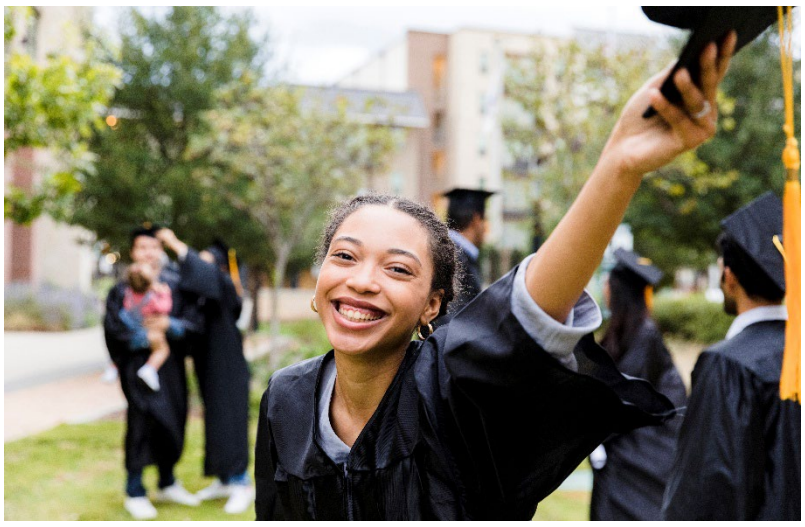
Empowering Every Child: Unlocking Potential with the Portrait of a Graduate

2nd Annual Long Island BOCES Conference

May 7, 2026

Eastern Suffolk BOCES Instructional Support Center
Sequoya High School
750 Waverly Avenue, Holtsville, NY 11742





Scan the QR Code for the conference website!
https://tinyurl.com/EEC2026Website

Presented by

Eastern Suffolk BOCES
Educational Services That Transform Lives

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Agenda

Empowering Every Child: Unlocking Potential with the Portrait of a Graduate

TIME	EVENT
8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Registration and Breakfast (Rooms 1 & 2)
8:30 a.m. – 8:40 a.m.	**Welcome and Opening Remarks** (Auditorium)
8:40 a.m. – 9:25 a.m.	**Keynote Co-Presenters:** **Dr. Diane M. Wynne, *NYSED*** **Jachan Watkis, *ESBOCES*** (Auditorium)
9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	Vendor Showcase
9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	**Breakout Session 1** (See breakout session details for room assignments)
10:50 a.m. – 11:35 a.m.	**Student Roundtable** (Auditorium)
11:35 a.m. – 12:35 p.m.	Lunch/Networking/Vendor Visit
12:35 p.m. – 1:20 p.m.	**Blue Ribbon Commission Panel Discussion** (Auditorium)
1:20 p.m. – 1:35 p.m.	Vendor Showcase
1:35 p.m. – 2:35 p.m.	**Breakout Session 2** (See breakout session details for room assignments)
2:40 p.m. – 2:55 p.m.	**Call to Action and Book Giveaways**

Keynote Co-Presenters



Dr. Diane M. Wynne
Executive Director
Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
New York State Education Department



Jachan Watkis
Director
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Eastern Suffolk BOCES

Student Roundtable

ERASE Racism Student Task Force Representatives
Nassau County & Suffolk County School Districts

BRC Panelists

Dr. Lorna Lewis, *Superintendent of Schools (retired), BRC Steering Committee*
Dr. Fatima Morrell, *Superintendent of Schools (Southampton UFSD)*
Dr. Jordan González, *Administrative Coordinator/Lead Resource Specialist (L. I. RBERN)*
Kelly Whitney-Rivera, *District-Wide Director of Guidance and Chief Information Officer (Valley Stream CHSD), BRC Steering Committee*
Susan Lipman, *Board Trustee* (*Eastern Suffolk BOCES)*

Breakout Session 1

9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

DESCRIPTION & LOCATION

Community Through Connection: Creating Connected School Communities through Restorative Practices
Room 1 (Valley Stream Central High School District)
Dr. Jennifer DiMaio, *Deputy Superintendent*
Nakeshia Smith Farnum, *Director of Restorative Practices and Community Engagement*

Over the past three years, the Valley Stream Central High School District has intentionally developed a district-wide restorative practices framework to strengthen relationships, increase student belonging, and build more connected school communities. This session will highlight how the district established Tier 1 community-building practices, trained staff cohorts annually, embedded circle routines into classrooms, and expanded the work by creating Restorative Counselor positions, developing a common language across buildings, and using data and reflection to guide growth. Participants will explore the foundations of restorative practices, practical strategies for implementation, structures that support long-term sustainability, and how individual staff actions contribute to a districtwide culture of belonging and connection.

Fostering Cohesion and Agency Through Adult Collaboration: Utilizing PLCs to Align Secondary School Practices with the Portrait of a Graduate
Room 2 (Syosset Central School District)
Mr. David Steinberg, *Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment*
Dr. Sarah Wasser, *Library Media Specialist*
Dr. Daniel S. Kim, *Assistant Principal*

This session will explore how school districts can utilize Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) to create collaborative spaces where teachers and administrators from secondary schools work together to unpack the Portrait of a Graduate and take action. Participants will examine the professional framework used to encourage teacher reflection and collaborative learning. These reflections support strategic planning and help districts prepare for the implementation of upcoming graduation requirement changes.

From Portrait to Practice: Cultivating Portrait of a Graduate Competencies through Transformative Project-Based Learning
Room 5 (Uniondale Union Free School District)
Tamesha Webb, *Superintendent Doctoral Resident [Harvard University]*
Mr. Sanjay Singh, *Economics/Participation in Government Teacher*

This session highlights how a district-based teacher Design Team is translating the Portrait of a Graduate framework into high-quality classroom practice through project-based learning. Participants will explore how curriculum redesign deepens engagement, strengthens student agency, and makes key competencies visible in daily instruction. Facilitators will share examples of projects, leadership strategies, and observation look-fors that support instructional coherence and equitable implementation. Attendees will leave with practical strategies and tools that school districts can use to empower every child through meaningful, competency-based learning experiences that support mastery of Portrait of a Graduate competencies.

The Learner We Nurture: A Portrait of Success in Elementary School
Room 8 (New Hyde Park–Garden City Park School District)
Dr. Jennifer Morrison-Raptis, *Superintendent of Schools*
Jennifer Scamell, *Director of Technology & Innovation*

Our presentation outlines our K-6 district's shared vision for the knowledge, skills, and dispositions we aim to develop in every student. The presentation will highlight key learner attributes and explain how they align with instruction, social-emotional learning, and classroom practices across schools. Its goal is to create a common language, understanding, and assessment among educators, families, and community members about what student success looks like in our four elementary schools.

Breakout Session 2

1:35 p.m. – 2:35 p.m.

DESCRIPTION & LOCATION

Empowering Families Through the College Admissions Process
Room 1 (Syosset Central School District)
Dr. John Durante, *Principal*

This session explores how schools can equip students and families with the knowledge, confidence, and mindset needed to navigate the college admissions process as an extension of the Portrait of a Graduate. Drawing from experience as principal of Syosset High School, host of *The College Admissions Process Podcast*, and author of *Straight From the Admissions Office*, the presenter will share strategies that elevate student voice, promote informed decision-making, and strengthen equitable access to postsecondary opportunities. Using insights from interviews with more than 300 admissions leaders, participants will learn about the skills and habits colleges seek and how school districts can intentionally help students develop them. The session will include brief video and audio clips from admissions professionals highlighting how belonging, initiative, reflection, and resilience appear in real application reviews.

Beyond the Test Score: Authentic Evidence of Student Growth
Room 2 (Comsewogue School District)
Dr. Jennifer Polychronakos, *Assistant Superintendent for Instruction*
Mrs. Tracie DeRosa, *Director of Curriculum*

This session explores how school districts can move beyond standardized testing to capture a more comprehensive picture of student growth aligned with a Portrait of a Graduate. Participants will examine how Project-Based Learning (PBL) serves as both an instructional model and an assessment framework for measuring academic learning, transferable skills, and learner dispositions. Grounded in research and district practice, the presentation highlights authentic assessment strategies that make student learning visible and measurable. Attendees will leave with practical examples and system-level considerations for aligning assessment, instruction, and graduate competencies.

Bringing the Portrait to Life: Systemic Change for Lasting Innovation
Room 5 (Bridgehampton School, Consultant)
Dr. Robert Tymann, *Retired Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction*

Participants will explore the types of learning experiences that provide all students with opportunities to develop the skills and knowledge outlined in a district's Portrait of a Graduate. The session will identify barriers that often prevent sustainable innovation in schools and highlight potential leverage points for aligning purpose, process, and performance. Participants will leave with key talking points and strategies they can bring back to their school district to help determine where to begin this work.

Empowering Every Child Through Esports!
Room 8 (Uniondale Union Free School District)
Mr. Elmer Flores, *Special Education Teacher*
Mr. Sanjay Singh, *Economics/Participation in Government Teacher*

This session explores how an intentionally designed esports program can support a school district's efforts to achieve the New York State Portrait of a Graduate. Participants will learn how esports can promote belonging, elevate student voice, and engage learners who may feel disconnected from traditional academic models. The presentation highlights how esports fosters academic readiness, critical thinking, communication, creativity, and future-focused skills through authentic, student-led roles. Attendees will leave with practical strategies for aligning esports programs with district goals while empowering every child to thrive.

Reflections

Next Steps



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LinkIt! Portrait of a Graduate

LinkIt brings your Portrait of a Graduate to life by enabling efficient and consistent data collection, powerful reporting, and meaningful correlations across academic and non-academic data.

Student Collection

- Students self-assess and reflect using student-friendly competency language
- Monitor progress and upload work sample evidence into a digital portfolio

Teacher Collection

- Efficiently collect competency data and evidence in custom Data Locker templates
- Evaluate using district-defined look-fors

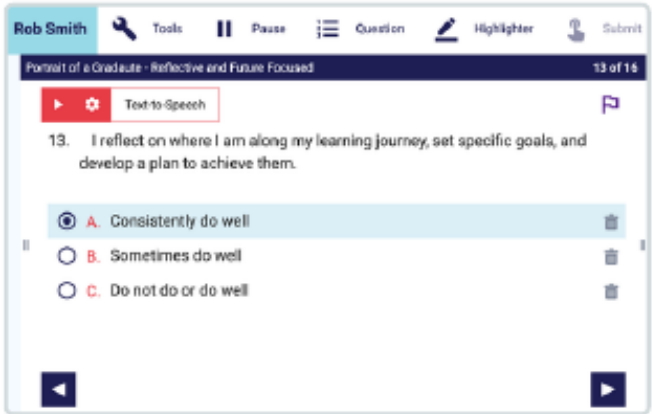
Reporting & Analytics

- Correlate Portrait data with Regents, College & Career Readiness, SEL benchmarks, MTSS frameworks, grades, behavior, and local assessment data
- Track growth and disaggregate by teacher and demographics

Full Customization

- Create teacher and student tools based on your district's criteria
- Set customizable look-fors and foster consistency with anchor model exemplars







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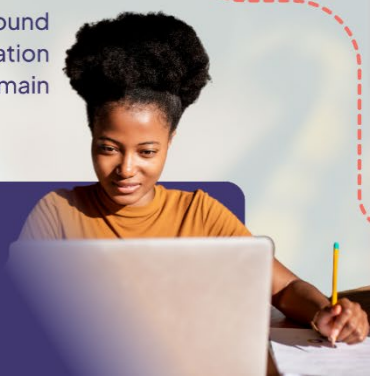
WHERE ACCESS MEETS EXCELLENCE







Founded in 2014 as iTutor, we started by supporting two New York schools with homebound instruction and quickly developed deep expertise in meeting the complex needs of education ecosystems. Today, as Fullmind, we proudly partner with hundreds of districts nationwide. We remain committed to delivering reliable, high-quality support that helps every learner thrive.



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SAM LABS

Future-Ready Skills Tracker

From Vision to Measurable Impact

Capture real evidence of future-ready skills during everyday instruction.

Build longitudinal insight aligned to your Portrait of a Graduate and district priorities.

Capture insight anywhere. Designed for real classrooms, on any device.

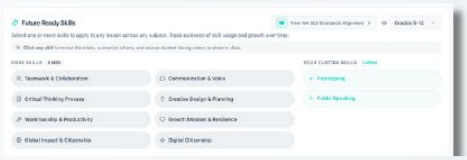
Built on the Instruction You Already Have
Leverages existing curriculum and classroom practice to capture real evidence of future-ready skills, without adding new programs.

Instructional Insight, Not Just Tracking
Teachers capture real-time evidence of student skills to inform instruction, support growth, and highlight strengths.

Longitudinal Growth You Can See
Track progress over time to identify gaps, highlight strengths, and demonstrate impact across classrooms, schools, and years.

Turning Insight Into Action
Instead of one-time evaluations or static reports, FRST captures intentional snapshots of student skill development during everyday instruction, aligned to your **Portrait of a Graduate** and district priorities. Over time, these moments build a meaningful, longitudinal view of each student's strengths and growth across future-ready skills.

Teachers use these insights to adjust instruction, create new opportunities, and support student growth, while students develop a clearer understanding of their strengths beyond academic outcomes.



Capture Real Evidence
Teachers capture intentional snapshots of student skill development during everyday instruction, aligned to your Portrait of a Graduate and district priorities.

See Patterns Across the System
Build a clear view of strengths and growth across students, classrooms, schools, and grade levels as data accumulates over time.

Inform Instruction and Opportunity
Use real insight to adjust instruction, create new opportunities, and support each student's development across future-ready skills.

From Instruction to Insight. Measurable Growth Starts Here



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[1] Cervetti and Wright, *Handbook of Reading Research, Volume V* (2020).

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Educational Services That Transform Lives



Eastern Suffolk BOCES, an educational cooperative of 51 Long Island school districts, provides educational leadership, direct instruction, management and support through quality, cost effective instructional programs and shared services. These programs and services maximize educational and career opportunities for Long Island's diverse community of lifelong learners, both children and adults, and enhance the operational effectiveness of its schools.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

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WESTERN SUFFOLK BOCES



DIVISION OF INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

BOCES Western Suffolk

Western Suffolk BOCES, a regional educational service agency, will provide quality, efficient, shared programs and services to school districts, their students, parents and communities. Our mission is to expand educational opportunities and alternatives, enabling learners to achieve their potential.

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- **GUIDANCE SYSTEMS**
  Laurie Mitchell / 631-549-6839
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  Michele Leonard / 631-549-4920 x206
- **SUFFOLK'S EDGE TEACHER CENTER**
  Dan Oggeri / 631-595-6818 or 631-254-0107

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- Support Services
- Curriculum and Instruction
- Technology
- Professional Development
- Health, Safety and Security
- Career and Technical Education
- Visual and Performing Arts Education
- Special Education
- Adult Basic Education
- Instructional Programs





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Conference Feedback

Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on this conference. Your insights are invaluable and help us continue to improve and better serve our districts.

Scan the QR Code for the conference feedback form!
https://tinyurl.com/EEC2026Feedback

Acknowledgements

Thank you to all participants who promote the academic success and well-being of *all* students.

Thank you to our sponsors, keynote co-presenters, breakout room presenters, students, Blue Ribbon Commission members, the conference planning team, and the support staff from Eastern Suffolk BOCES, Nassau BOCES, and Western Suffolk BOCES, whose collective efforts made this conference possible.

Long Island BOCES Planning Committee
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