Educational Support Services
Working Together for Excellence
Eastern Suffolk BOCES

VOLUME 17: DECEMBER 2026 & JANUARY 2027
STUDENT-CENTERED SUPPORT: CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERY LEARNER

THE ESSENTIALS

ENHANCING EDUCATION WITH EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

Dear Colleagues,
Every student deserves opportunities to discover their strengths, explore new interests, and develop the skills needed for future success. Through Educational Support Services, ESBOCES partners with districts to make these opportunities possible—from hands-on enrichment and arts experiences to innovative technology integration, professional learning, and resources that support college and career exploration. In this issue, we highlight how our programs and services help districts create engaging, inclusive, and student-centered learning experiences for every learner. Thank you for your continued partnership in this important work.
In appreciation,
Dr. Krystle Hernandez-Barnett, Director of Educational Support Services, Eastern Suffolk BOCES

NY INSPIRES:
SUPPORTING DISTRICT IMPLEMENTATION

ESBOCES continues to partner with component districts to bring NY Inspires to life. Through **regional workshops, collaborative learning, and shared resources**, we support districts as they implement this statewide vision for transforming teaching and learning.

Our **NY Inspires Steering Committee** is here to help districts turn vision into action through collaboration, guidance, and resources that support meaningful, student-centered learning.

2026-2027 EASTERN SUFFOLK BOCES NY INSPIRES STEERING COMMITTEE	
Dr. Jasmin Varela, ESBOCES District Superintendent	Dr. Rebecca M. Raymond, Divisional Administrator of Educational Support Services
Mrs. Claudy Damus-Makelele, Associate Superintendent of Educational Services	Mrs. Emily Puccio, Divisional Administrator of Career, Technical and Adult Education
Mrs. Barbara Egloff, Director of Career, Technical and Adult Education	Mr. Sean Pugni, Divisional Administrator of Special Education
Dr. Krystle Hernandez-Barnett, Director of Educational Support Services	Dr. Jordan Gonzalez, Administrative Coordinator, L.I. RBERN
Mr. Jachan Watkis, Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion	

Stay informed! Visit our ESBOCES NY Inspires webpage for the latest updates, resources, and implementation guidance.



Have questions or need support?
Email nyinspires@esboces.org

A Practical Strategy for Multilingual Learners:
"Begin with a challenging question and give students multiple ways to explore and respond: conversation, writing, visuals, models, and their full linguistic repertoire. When schools expand how students participate and demonstrate understanding, multilingual learners have more opportunities to make their thinking visible and contribute to everyone's learning." – Dr. Jordan González, Administrative Coordinator, L.I. RBERN

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

For more information contact Dr. Ayesha McArthur, Program Administrator, at aymcarth@esboces.org

Professional Development: Inspiring Growth, Strengthening Practice

At Eastern Suffolk BOCES, professional development is more than a workshop; it's an opportunity to spark new ideas, strengthen instructional practice, and turn inspiration into meaningful change for students. Our expert consultants partner with districts to share practical strategies that foster creativity and critical thinking, support diverse learners, and prepare students for the future.

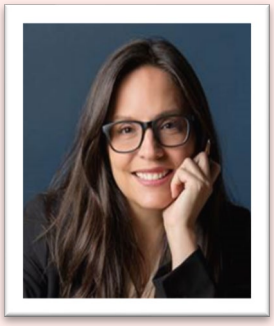
Ready to bring fresh ideas and new possibilities to your district? Explore our featured consultants and upcoming workshops to discover professional learning opportunities aligned with your district's goals and ready to make an impact. For more information, visit the ESS Professional Development Consultant Network.



Natalie McGee is a nationally respected educational consultant, leadership coach, and Cultural Proficiency Trainer with more than 25 years of K–12 education and leadership experience. As **Founder and CEO of Progression Partners, Inc.**, she works with district leaders to strengthen leadership capacity, build equitable systems, improve instructional practice, and create school cultures where every student belongs. Her expertise includes equitable leadership, Cultural Proficiency, Equity Learning Walks, anti-bias practices, student support systems, Portrait of a Graduate, and data-informed strategic planning. Through customized professional learning and coaching, Natalie helps districts identify systemic barriers, translate priorities into action, and create sustainable improvements for students, staff, and families. **AREAS OF EXPERTISE:** Equity & Belonging Systems; Equity Learning Walks; Culturally Responsive Leadership



Diane Ripple has been a professional developer on Long Island and the surrounding areas since 1996. In 1999 she started her own company, **Consulting That Makes A Difference, Inc.** CMDI is a company that provides professional development in such areas as inclusive education, co-teaching, differentiated instruction, paraprofessional training and community building in over 40 school districts each year. **AREAS OF EXPERTISE:** Inclusive Education; Differentiated Instruction; Community Building



Samantha Scaturro is an educational consultant and founder of **IEP Ally**, supporting school districts in strengthening the quality and clarity of Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). With more than a decade of experience in public education, she has supported students ages 3–21 across a variety of special education settings. Samantha's interactive professional learning programs equip educators to use data effectively, make informed instructional decisions, and develop individualized IEPs that reflect each student's unique needs. **AREAS OF EXPERITSE**: Data-Informed IEP Development; Writing Measurable and Defensible IEP Goals; Progress Monitoring for Special Education; Strengthening Present Levels of Performance Using Student Data; Transition Planning in the IEP

DIGITAL LEARNING & ASSESSMENTS

For more information contact Jonathan Marron, Program Administrator, at jmarron@esboces.org

EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY COACH *SPOTLIGHT*

Discover how one of our coaches is empowering teachers and students to think creatively, tackle challenges, and turn innovative ideas into reality—and how partnering with an Ed Tech Coach can support this work in your district.



Carrie McGuire has been an **Educational Technology Coach** with Model Schools for eleven years. Throughout her tenure, she has provided support to multiple districts, with a primary focus on the Sachem School District.

Ms. McGuire provides essential support across school districts, inspiring students and teachers through hands-on, interactive technology integration. **Passionate about fostering invention literacy**, she seamlessly connects science concepts, such as electrical circuits, with Makey Makey microcontrollers, empowering students to design and create interactive projects, custom game controllers, and cross-curricular learning displays.

Carrie's collaborative approach brings computer science and engineering standards directly into local classrooms, helping educators and students explore how technology can be used to design, create, and solve problems.

Through her work aligned with the **NYSED Computer Science and Digital Fluency (CSDF) Standards**, Ms. McGuire continues to exemplify the core mission of Model Schools by empowering educators, fostering student innovation, and building meaningful cross-curricular connections across districts.



Interested in bringing an Educational Technology Coach into your district?

Visit the Model Schools webpage to learn more!

SCHOOL DATA BANK SERVICES

For more information contact Lauren Lewonka, Program Administrator, at SDBS@esboces.org.

STAFF DEVELOPER/SHARED DATA EXPERT *SPOTLIGHT*



Jennifer Raicovi has served as a **Staff Developer/Shared Data Expert** in the School Data Bank Services Program at Eastern Suffolk BOCES since 2017, helping Suffolk County school districts navigate complex reporting requirements and translate data into meaningful, actionable information.

Jennifer is one of the region's trusted resources for understanding New York State Education Department (NYSED) guidance and reporting requirements. Her **expertise in the Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC)** helps districts make sense of complex federal requirements, organize data collection, and prepare for successful submission. She develops practical resource materials that clarify reporting expectations and leads regional and in-district workshops to guide district administrators and data teams through the biennial process.

CRDC support is just one aspect of Jennifer's broader work with School Data Bank Services (SDBS). She partners with district leaders and staff to review and interpret data, facilitate meaningful data conversations, and provide professional development that strengthens data-informed decision-making and continuous improvement. Her background as a New York State-certified Social Studies teacher (Grades 7–12), combined with experience in business management, employee supervision, and annual audits, brings a valuable blend of educational and operational expertise to her work.

Get ahead of CRDC reporting with support from SDBS! Planning early can help districts clarify requirements, coordinate data collection, and address questions before submission deadlines approach. Whether your district is looking for guidance on reporting expectations, practical planning resources, or a regional or in-district workshop, Jennifer can help your team navigate the process with greater clarity and confidence.

CRDC Civil Rights Data Collection

Contact School Data Bank Services at SDBS@esboces.org to explore how Jennifer and our team can support your district's CRDC planning and preparation. *Visit the ESBOCES Civil Rights Data Collection webpage for additional information and resources.*

SCHOOL LIBRARY SYSTEM

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

SCHOOL LIBRARY SYSTEM'S VIRTUAL REFERENCE COLLECTION

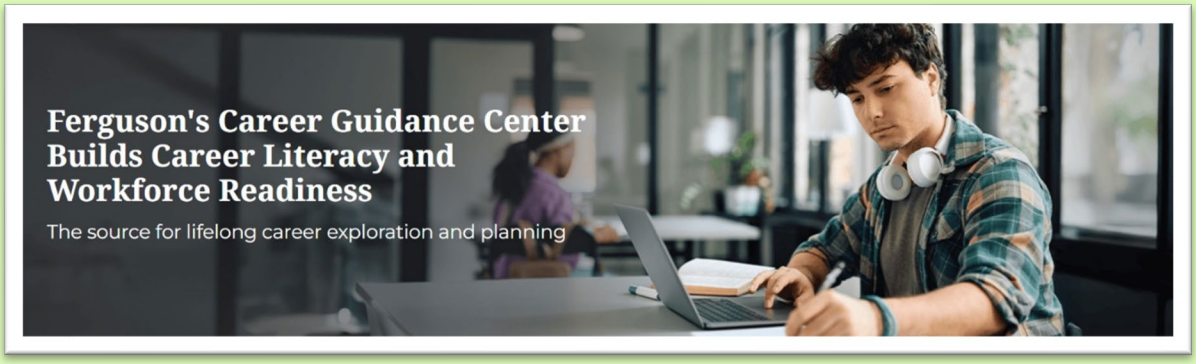
ProQuest: CultureGrams

NY Inspires emphasizes global readiness and culturally responsive and sustaining education. With **CultureGrams**, users are able to access **reports on the history, customs, and daily life of over 200 countries**, US states and Canadian provinces. In addition, users have tools to examine and compare essential country data such as population changes, economies and currencies, types of transportation, healthcare, and even energy production and consumption.



Infobase: Ferguson's Career Guidance Center

NY Inspires seeks to redefine how students demonstrate readiness for college and careers. Through **Ferguson's Career Guidance Center,** individuals can **investigate potential career paths by taking interest assessments and examining detailed career profiles**. Users can begin educational planning by exploring different schools, considering alternative education options, and reviewing financial aid opportunities. Users can prepare for entering the workforce by accessing informative articles on resume writing, interviewing, networking, and developing workplace skills. For those seeking practical experience, information on apprenticeships and internships is available, offering a pathway to initiate a career.



Click to access the Virtual Reference Collection

Questions? Call us at 631-286-0891 or email SLShelp@esboces.org

ARTS-IN-EDUCATION

For more information contact Loretta Corbisiero-Drakos, Program Administrator, at lcorbisi@esboces.org

Arts-in-Education: Bringing Learning to Life

What happens when students have the opportunity to create, perform, explore, and express themselves through the arts? Learning becomes more engaging, meaningful, and connected! The Eastern Suffolk BOCES Arts-in-Education Program brings enriching arts experiences into classrooms across subject areas, fostering creativity, critical thinking, effective communication, and global awareness. Explore these examples of programs available through Arts-in-Education and discover new ways to inspire students, enhance instruction, and expand learning opportunities in your schools.

Patchogue Arts Council PEACE Project: "Woven Words"



Inspired by Emma Lazarus's "The New Colossus," students at Middle Country School District's Newfield High School turned their reflections on empowering language into a large-scale soft-sculpture crossword puzzle. Working from a list of **self- chosen empowering words**, students hand-sewed and stuffed each letter, then painted a finished surface onto every piece – building skills in mixed media, soft sculpture, and sewing construction. **The project paired hands-on craft technique with the poem's theme of welcome and empowering words**, giving physical form to language meant to uplift both the maker and everyone who encountered it in the hallway.



Patchogue Arts Council PEACE Project: "Cultural Identity through Weaving"

Hicksville High School students, whose families came from India, Bangladesh, China, El Salvador, and Pakistan, explored identity and pride through weaving. Throughout the process, **students reflected and celebrated their own personal backgrounds and culture** as well as the National Heritage of Native Americans and Mexico. They broadened their perspective on humanity, environmental, and social causes. The process and final works of art **helped students to better understand ways that change can be brought about by one person or one action** when it is intentionally sustainable, and when it includes ideas from past and present culture.





Mama Farm

In October 2026, Music & Fine Arts Directors representing approximately 25 school districts visited **Mama Farm** in **Brookhaven**, where they were welcomed by co-founder Elettra Wiedemann for an immersive tour of the regenerative farm. Participants **explored innovative educational opportunities that connect students to sustainable farming, entrepreneurship, and farm-to-fashion initiatives**. Working alongside designer Mimi Prober, students can discover the journey from raw materials to finished garments, opening the door to the worlds of fashion, design, and ethical manufacturing. By learning where wool begins and how it is transformed into clothing, students gain a deeper understanding of sustainability, the interconnected systems behind everyday products, and the **diverse career pathways that bring creativity, agriculture, and industry together**.

Access the catalog for a complete listing of Arts-In-Education Programs, https://artsined.esboces.org/AIESearch.aspx.

ENRICHMENT SERVICES

For more information contact Danielle Hudek, Program Administrator, at dhudek@esboces.org, or, Nancy Dowdy-Adams, Assistant Administrative Coordinator, at ndowdy@esboces.org.

Enrichment Services: Inspiring Creativity and Connection

The Eastern Suffolk BOCES **Enrichment Services Program** offers opportunities for students to explore, create, collaborate, and develop essential skills such as critical thinking, communication, and problem-solving. Take a look at these examples from our **Extended-Day Enrichment Program** and discover how your district can bring new opportunities for learning, creativity, and student growth to life!

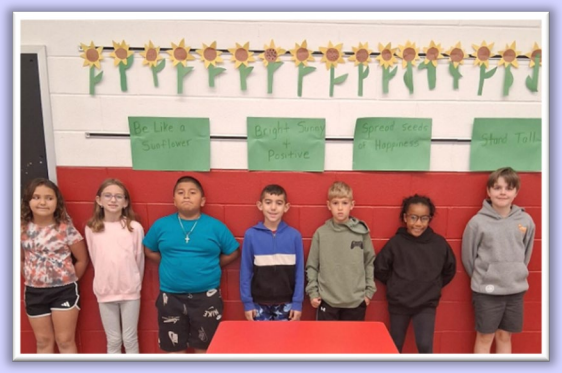


A Little Pumpkin Fun: Creativity, Expression, and Connection

Students at **Connetquot Elementary School in the East Islip Extended-Day Enrichment Program** welcomed the fall season through a playful, pumpkin-themed enrichment activity that encouraged imagination, creative expression, and individual choice. As students developed their silly pumpkin creations, they had opportunities to explore ideas, make design decisions, and celebrate the uniqueness of their work. This engaging experience supports the NY Inspires vision by creating space for student creativity, problem-solving, and self-expression while helping foster a welcoming and inclusive learning environment.

Sunflowers and Shapes: Growing Math Skills and Positivity

Students at **Ruth C. Kinney Elementary School in the East Islip Extended-Day Enrichment Program** combined mathematics, creativity, and social-emotional learning in this hands-on enrichment activity. Using geometric shapes to construct colorful sunflowers, students practiced shape recognition, spatial reasoning, and creative problem-solving. They then added positive, "sunny" messages that encouraged kindness, optimism, and a welcoming classroom community. This activity reflects the NY Inspires vision of engaging students in meaningful learning experiences that build academic foundations while fostering creativity, communication, and social-emotional growth.





STUDENT SUCCESS & WELLNESS

For more information contact Jenna Restivo, Administrative Coordinator, at jrestivo@esboces.org

Supporting Student Success: Vaping Prevention & Cessation

Through the JUUL Settlement-funded initiative, Student Success and Wellness Programs is expanding opportunities for schools to provide student-centered support around vaping prevention and cessation. The program equips educators, mental health professionals, and school teams with evidence-based resources, professional learning, and practical strategies to help students understand the risks of vaping, develop healthy decision-making skills, and access support when they need it.

To learn more about these programs and to register, please visit the Frontline catalog today.



UPCOMING EVENTS:
DECEMBER 2026 & JANUARY 2027

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
Community School Resources	commschoolresinfo@esboces.org
Curriculum Development	curriculumservice@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
Student Success & Wellness	studentsuccess@esboces.org
Third Party Assessments	thirdpartyassessments@esboces.org

DECEMBER 2026

START DATE	EVENT	PROGRAM
12/1	JUUL Initiative - Vaping Cessation Program Training	Student Success & Wellness
12/1	Learning Technology Grant: Project-Based Learning and Artificial Intelligence Academy	Model Schools
12/1	LAS Links Data Dive Workshop (ESBOCES-LAS Links Cohort Only)	Third Party Assessments
12/1	LAS Links Snack & Learn	Third Party Assessments
12/2	An Introduction to What Works Best in Schools: The Illustrated Guide to VISIBLE LEARNING - Matthew Baruch	Professional Development
12/2	An Overview of Autism Spectrum Disorders (NYS Education Department Approved Training) - Dr. Jeanne Villani, Psy.D.	Professional Development
12/2	Take Your Lessons to the Next Level with Canva - Introduction	Model Schools

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START DATE	EVENT	PROGRAM
12/3	Building Thinking Classrooms in Mathematics: Implementing Peter Liljedahl's Strategies - Nicolle Santaromita	Professional Development
12/3	Evidence-Based Literacy for Social Studies Teachers, Grades 7-12 - Jacqueline Darvin, Ph.D.	Professional Development
12/3	NY Inspires: Transforming Reading Instruction: Mastering the Record of Decision-Making (RODM) - Christopher Michael, Ed.D.	Professional Development
12/3	LLA: World Book for Elementary Librarians	School Library System
12/3	LLA: World Book for Secondary Librarians	School Library System
12/3	The Collaborative Classroom: Fostering Adult Relationships in Diverse Learning Environments A Collegial Circle Facilitated by Diane Ripple	Professional Development
12/8	JUUL Initiative - Vaping Prevention Program and Classroom Lesson Training	Student Success & Wellness
12/8	NY Inspires: Teaching the AI-Ready Graduate - Dr. Andrea E. Thomas	Professional Development
12/8	Pages with Purpose: Bringing Grammar to Life with Picture Books - Sarah Cordova, National Literacy Consultant & Author	Professional Development
12/8	The Orton-Gillingham Approach: Principles into Practice While Building the Reading Brain - Kim Nau, ATF/OGA	Professional Development
12/8	LLA: CultureGrams - Beyond the Factbook: Supporting Student Research with Trusted Global Information	School Library System
12/8	Northwell Health - Students with Medical Comorbidities	Community School Resources
12/8	LLA: SIRS Discoverer and SIRS Issues Researcher - Supporting Student Inquiry	School Library System
12/9	Building Career Pathways for Every Student: Implementing Work-Based Learning and Advisory Boards Aligned with the NYS Portrait of a Graduate - Bridget Lopiccolo	Professional Development
12/9	Desmos For New Users - Andy Malbouef	Professional Development
12/9	LLA: Rosen Interactive eBooks for Secondary	School Library System
12/9	LLA: Rosen Interactive eBooks for Elementary	School Library System
12/9	Desmos For Experienced Users - Andy Malbouef	Professional Development
12/10	LLA: The ELL-Friendly Library: Building Belonging Through Literacy and Language	School Library System
12/10	Stop Explaining Everything: Designing STEM Lessons Where Students Do the Thinking - Phil Dituri, Ph.D.	Professional Development
12/10	The Effect of Stress on Student Learning - Richard A. Faber	Professional Development

START DATE	EVENT	PROGRAM
12/10	Northwell Health - OCD/OCPD	Community School Resources
12/10	Preliminary ESSA Accountability Designation - A Strategic Briefing	School Data Bank Services
12/11	The Science of Reading and Learning for Students with Disabilities - Dr. Maureen Martin	Professional Development
12/15	From Data to Decisions: Effective Progress Monitoring in Special Education - Samantha Scaturro	Professional Development
12/15	JUUL Initiative - Vaping Cessation Program Training	Student Success & Wellness
12/15	Northwell Health - Suicide Risk Assessments for Advanced Clinicians	Community School Resources
12/16	Books of Choice: Thematic Discussions of Literature, Grades 6-12 - Amy Benjamin	Professional Development
12/16	Leading the Turnaround in Student Behavior: A Train-the Trainer Coaching Framework to Strengthen Classroom Management in High-Needs Schools - Dr. Shaun Woodly	Professional Development
12/17	Redefine Space Using Augmented Reality	Model Schools

JANUARY 2027

START DATE	EVENT	PROGRAM
1/7	Mastering Gemini Notebook for Diverse Learners	Model Schools
1/8	ANNUAL NYS MIDDLE SCHOOL ASSOCIATION (NYSMSA) REGIONAL CONFERENCE: The Power of Trusted Adults in Middle School - Keynote: Dr. Brooklyn Raney	Professional Development
1/11	Critical Leadership Questions for Inspiring Schoolwide Excellence (The Principal 50) - Principal (Baruti) Kafele, National Presenter	Professional Development
1/11	AI Prompt Engineering in Education: Unleashing the Power of AI in Your Classroom	Model Schools
1/12	Beyond Memorization: Transforming Spelling Through the Science of Reading - Lauren Kolbeck Szulc and Deborah Linscott-Feinstein	Professional Development
1/13	NY Inspires and the Portrait of a Graduate For All Learners Facilitated by Sean Pugni, Divisional Administrator for Special Education	Professional Development
1/13	LLA: Please Talk in the Library - Partnering with Teachers to Lead Socratic Seminars	School Library System
1/13	The Future-Ready Graduate: Mapping AI to the New York State Portrait of a Graduate Series: Part 2: Leadership & Systems- Leading the Shift & Cultivating an AI-Ready School Culture	Model Schools
1/13	Northwell Health - Project ECHO - Mindfulness in Schools	Model Schools

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START DATE	EVENT	PROGRAM
1/13	LLA: Building Better Readers - Reading Research Every Librarian Should Know	School Library System
1/14	Northwell Health - ADHD in Children and Adolescents	Community School Resources
1/15	The Five Moves of Reading Comprehension - Amy Benjamin	Professional Development
1/19	Northwell Health - Sleep Hygiene and Insomnia	Community School Resources
1/21	Counseling in the IEP: Connecting Present Levels, Goals, and Data from Eligibility to Exit - Samantha Scaturro	Professional Development
1/22	JUUL Initiative - Vaping Prevention Program and Classroom Lesson Training	Student Success & Wellness
1/26	JUUL Initiative - Vaping Cessation Program Training	Student Success & Wellness
1/26	Transforming Benchmark Data into Actionable Instruction	School Data Bank Services
1/27	From Text to Tiers: Bringing MTSS Literacy Instruction to Life	Model Schools
1/28	Northwell Health - Stress First Aid	Community School Resources



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Jachan Watkis – Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

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