Staff and Curriculum Development

THREE BOCES PARTNER ON STANDARDS TRAINING

The MOBOCES Staff and Curriculum Development divisions partnered with two neighboring BOCES to offer regional one-day Building Capacity Turnkey Trainings in July and August. It is one of the few collaborative multi-region trainings on Next Generation Learning Standards in the state.

The three-BOCES workshop drew about 250 educators from across the Mohawk Valley over the two sessions, and it provided them with the tools to train their own in-district colleagues on NYS Next Generation Learning Standards. Through the turnkey trainings, participants will be able to help other teachers understand, utilize and align curriculum to the new standards, which will take effect in September 2020.

During each session, staff development specialists from MOBOCES, Oneida BOCES and Herkimer BOCES led a whole group session about organizing and prioritizing the standards, data crosswalks and vertical alignment of the standards between grade levels. Participants then split into ELA and Math groups for more focused work and training around those subject areas. Teachers left the workshop with materials and resources to lead the same training in their buildings for their peers.

GRANT SUPPORTS MADISON SUMMER READING

Madison school librarian Nicole LeClair offered an Evening Summer Reading program for five weeks to promote literacy and community involvement while school is out of session. Utilizing a $500 mini-grant from the MOBOCES School Library System, Nicole held themed weekly evening programs that included crafts, snacks, story time and engaging presentations led by community volunteers.

This fall, Nicole will participate in a showcase during a Communication Coordinators’ meeting to share highlights of her summer program and exchange ideas with other librarians in the region.

Alternative and Special Education

SUMMER PROGRAM ENDS WITH CELEBRATIONS

The Extended School Year (ESY) program at MOBOCES ended the summer with several celebrations.

Summer program instructors Aquilino Kolasz and Rebekah Davis organized a Summer Field Day on August 6. It was the first time the entire ESY program participated in a summer field day event, which was created as a mini version of the June special programs field days that Rebekah coordinates at our VVS program sites.

Through the event, students participated in tug-o-war, relay races, parachute play and other outdoor activities to reinforce motor skills and social skills, such as cooperation and following directions.

ESY also held its traditional Water Day on August 8, with students receiving time to play on water inflatables. This event also helped reinforce motor and social skills while allowing the students to engage in traditional summer recreational activities.

Adult and Continuing Education

BCCE OFFERS HEAVY EQUIPMENT ACADEMY

The BOCES Consortium of Continuing Education conducted a 40-hour Heavy Equipment Academy in August for 14 employees of the New York State Power Authority. The customized training program and focused on four pieces of equipment: backhoe, bulldozer, loader and mini-excavator.

This was the fourth time BCCE has partnered with the NYS Power Authority for a customized employee training. Previous Heavy Equipment Academies were held in 2008, 2012 and 2014.
**Regional Information Center**

**MORIC SUPPORTS SCEP PLANNING WORK**

Regional Data Leader Amy Konz worked with teachers and administrators from Roberts Street Elementary School in Canastota in July to support their development of a state-required School Comprehensive Education Plan (SCEP).

Principal Mike Faustino and his teaching staff in grades 4-6 met with Amy for several days to review building and district data identified by NYSED as areas for improvement and the data’s connection to ESSA goals and requirements. Following their work with Amy, the staff began developing plans and setting goals for improvement for the 2019-20 school year.

Amy has also done this work with the Madison school district.

**CBM SERVICE EARNS HIGH MARKS FROM DOT**

The Central Bus Maintenance (CBM) service earned a 97.6% passage rate on its NYSDOT vehicle inspections in the 2018-19 school year, far exceeding the state’s required 90% pass rate.

The DOT inspects each school-operated bus and van every six months. During each inspection, vehicles must have no deficiencies in category A, which typically relate to safety, such as issues with brakes, steering systems, doors, mirrors, windows and locks. Buses with A-level defects are immediately placed out of service until the issues are repaired and a new inspection is completed successfully.

Between its Oneida and Camden sites, CBM oversees repairs and inspections on nearly 300 school vehicles from 10 school districts. The DOT reviews each district’s fleet individually, and CBM Coordinator Frank Slawiak compiles the inspection data into an overall MOBOCES service pass rate. The 97.6% pass rate for the last year included four districts with a 100% pass rate, and the lowest pass rate was 95.8%.

In 2017-18, the MOBOCES service had an overall 98.8% pass rate. It has been five years since any single district fleet in the CBM service fell below the 90% threshold.

CBM also led a 30-hour basic training in August for new bus drivers from 11 districts, including Canastota and Stockbridge Valley. The training must be completed in the driver’s first year and includes vehicle safety, state regulations and more.

**Career and Technical Education**

**PHP OFFERS SUMMER CAREER EXPLORATION**

Fifteen students from Rome and Oneida participated in summer internships this year through the Professional Horizons Program. PHP offers students an opportunity to explore a career field through by job shadowing a work site mentor at a local business or agency. Students complete a minimum of 50 hours of work-based learning at the site and a culminating project or presentation on the work.

Students interned at Rome Memorial Hospital, Oneida Healthcare Center, Davidson Auto Group, Bartell Machinery and Rome Animal Hospital. It was the second year utilizing a new program structure to better serve students with a wider range of career interests.

**Early Childhood Education**

**PRE-K CLASSES HOLD SCREENINGS**

Incoming pre-k students in Canastota and Morrisville-Eaton participated in screenings this summer to assess what students know coming in and provide students and parents with an opportunity to meet their teacher and see their school. The screenings look at communication, motor and cognition skills, and they are conducted by pre-k teachers, aides and support staff.

This is the first time Morrisville-Eaton is conducting their screenings during the summer; typically, they have been held after schools reopen. Morrisville-Eaton staff said it increases teachers’ time in the classroom in the fall and helps students and parents with the transition to school.

Stockbridge Valley and Chittenango will have their screenings after classes begin, and all four sites conduct follow-up screenings in the spring to monitor students’ progress.

Pre-k families in all four sites coordinated by MOBOCES also held orientations and classroom visitations for students and parents before the first day of classes.