

DID YOU KNOW...?

FACTS ABOUT DUTCHESS BOCES

ADMINISTRATIVE

Dutchess BOCES has provided excellent educational services for 50 years!

The District Superintendent is the liaison between the State Education Department and component districts: point person, representative, and interpreter.

We provide services that ensure every child, no matter what his or her level of ability may be, receives an education and life skills.

More than 1,200 students from the component districts and about 4,000 adult education students take part in Dutchess BOCES programs every year.

Federal and state mandates are in a constant state of flux. BOCES keeps on top of these mandates and offers the services districts need to comply.

By utilizing BOCES services, local school districts often receive BOCES state aid the following year, thereby saving taxpayers money.

Through Dutchess BOCES, school districts can access a full range of arts-in-education programs and educators that enhance every child's educational experience. BOCES levels the playing field. Larger districts may have more funding – smaller districts can access arts and other programming, such as environmental education.

The programs that Dutchess BOCES offers to the districts and community are more than just special education.

We collaborate with area institutions of higher learning (Dutchess Community College, Marist College, Bard College, Vassar College) as well as other regional BOCES to provide educational services to the Dutchess County and its surrounding regions.

We offer more than 130 different CoSer (Cooperative Service) Programs to our thirteen component school districts, covering a student base of over 47,000 pupils.

BOCES provides the districts with support programs that otherwise are too expensive to provide unless shared with others. Samples of such services include central transportation, business office, cooperative recruitment, community job fairs, computer repair and support, central printing, staff development, physical and occupational programs for students, alternative educational programs, centralized media and library.

School districts in Dutchess County can contract for services cooperatively through Dutchess BOCES instead of purchasing separately, which reduces cost and increases choice.

Using BOCES saves the districts money by pooling resources and sharing costs. Combining and pooling services means a higher quality at a lower cost for all school districts. With increasing taxes, BOCES makes sense.

ALTERNATIVE & SPECIAL EDUCATION

BOCES offers comprehensive special education services in districts and at BOCES sites. Services are provided during the regular school year and extended school year (summer school.)

Dutchess BOCES catches students that might fall through the educational cracks and not graduate high school. We operate an Alternative High School that serves students in all component districts who may benefit from a non-traditional approach to learning. High school diplomas are conferred by students' home district.

BOCES provides services for students with special needs even before kindergarten with the goal of including students into a regular classroom as soon as each is able.

BOCES is a great opportunity for a variety of students who might not excel in a common school environment.

CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

BOCES services go beyond special and alternative education to provide a working trade for many students who take advantage. Our Career & Technical Institute offers an excellent trade education for students. Some programs received college credit.

The Career and Technical Institute offers programs that prepare today's students for tomorrow's careers. Graphic design, health fields, technology, and electronics—these careers guarantee high-paying jobs.

Some think "BOCES" and automatically think "Vo-Tec". Automotive, Cosmetology . . . We do that, and we do it well, and we do more! High school students can take courses of practical study in Communications, Health Services, Law Enforcement and Education, just to name a few. The Career and Technical Institute has many success stories from students who graduate from their programs.

The Career and Technical Institute has students who are so highly motivated that they excel in their Regents tests and their SkillsUSA competition (winning first place!). CTI students have won New York State SkillsUSA competitions several times in the past few years, and have then gone on to compete at the national level.

Ed2go gives more flexibility and many more courses. A computer (even at a library) allows these courses to be available to all Dutchess County residents.

We have comprehensive Adult and Continuing Education offerings. Learning doesn't end at high school. The Adult Education program does not only offer interesting classes for someone looking for a new hobby, but also someone looking for a new career or an advancement in their field of expertise. BOCES offers courses that meet the needs of the adult learner. For many workers, certification means higher pay and better working conditions. BOCES offers a myriad of certification programs for adults, staying on top of career trends. Community benefits from Adult Education Program and Adult Literacy programs

Dutchess BOCES Inside-Out Program is a real necessity. Over ninety percent of inmates released stay and live in Dutchess County.

Since 2001, more than 2,000 families in Dutchess County have received services through Dutchess BOCES' Community Solutions for Transportation Program and 593* vehicles have been given to low-income working families through Wheels for Work.

**Stat as of 11-21-08*

COMMUNICATIONS & GRANTS RESEARCH

We offer Public Information Services to seven out of our thirteen school districts. Districts can purchase public information services, including web services, from BOCES at a fraction of the cost of similar service in the private sector. We are talented, professional, reliable, thorough and cost-efficient. Our Print Shop offers complete printing services, and the labor portion of any project qualifies for BOCES aid.

We receive more than 20,000 visitors each month to our website www.dcboces.org

The most visited section of the website is the Mid-Hudson Cooperative Recruitment Program's Online Application System: <http://www.dcboces.org/recruitment/>

The most popular publication downloaded from our website is the Adult Career & Technical Education bi-annual Course Catalog: <http://www.dcboces.org/courses/>

We provide full-scale printing services to twelve of our thirteen districts and to organizations that are connected with a local school district or fall under a governmental municipality.

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Dutchess BOCES hosts events for gifted students who attend elementary, middle and secondary schools. Programs include, but are not limited to, Scholastic Bowl, Math Carnival, Model United Nations, Teamwork Counts, Formal Debate, and Summer Scholars.

Dutchess BOCES partners with Marist College and works to enrich the Teaching of American History for Secondary teachers in Dutchess, Orange and Ulster counties through a multi-year Teaching American History project.

Dutchess BOCES provides technology training and support for teachers in Dutchess County in the areas of SMART Boards, course management systems (Moodle), using audio in the classroom, digital storytelling, video conferencing, and concept mapping through our Model Schools Program. We are also hosting a series of International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) webinars featuring nationally known presenters.

We serve as a repository for the New York State Department of Education, offering state publications and bulletins related to disabilities, which are available to public and private schools within Dutchess County through our SETRC Office. In addition, both professional and parent resource materials are available for loan to teachers, administrators, related service providers, parents, students and agency personnel.

We offer a series of Countywide Coordinators meetings in the areas of English Language Arts, Foreign Language, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. These meetings bring together Department chairs and program coordinators from across Dutchess County in order to discuss current educational issues, NYS regulatory updates, current research, and professional development needs.

Dutchess BOCES works diligently to disseminate New York State Education updates and information to our component districts. This includes providing the most up to date training opportunities in content areas (e.g. Physical Education Profile), assessments (e.g. New York State ELA and Mathematics Testing Grades 3-8, Earth Science Part D Training), and current trends (e.g. Value Added Analysis).

We partner with vendors to provide a fully integrated service to our component districts in order to promote student learning. (e.g. AUSSIE/Balance Literacy, Performance Pathways/Curriculum Mapping, Wilson Learning/RTI and Literacy, Thinking Maps/Teaching and Learning, Capital Region BOCES & Batelle/Value Added Analysis).

Our Educational Resources Division conducts ongoing professional development seminars for administrators and educators on a full range of topics, enabling them to meet continuing education requirements conveniently and cost-effectively. We provide professional development for thirteen component school districts, offering programs to over 5,000 teachers annually, training teachers and keeping them current with the latest changes in the curriculum and testing.

Dutchess BOCES Educational Resources sponsors and facilitates the county's Summer Scholars Program in partnership with Bard, Marist and Vassar Colleges.

Dutchess BOCES Educational Resources School Library Services assists our public school libraries with automation and shared resources.

Dutchess BOCES participates in a four-county WAN with Ulster, Sullivan and Orange counties to further promote collaborative learning and shared resources for reducing cost.

We provide all aspects of technology to the classroom and provide training to teachers for using technology in the classroom. We maintain/repair computer related equipment in our Microcomputer Repair CoSer. We ensure proper filtering to student Internet content in order them while in the classroom.

We offer a ***New Teacher Seminar Series*** designed so districts can either select individual workshops to suit their needs or mix and match across the four broad categories of *Developing Effectiveness in the Classroom, State and Federal Regulations, Collaborating, and Special Education for the First Year Teacher* to build a customized package. Workshops are held at the Dutchess BOCES BETA site or brought in-district. Every workshop can be tailored to fit either a two-hour after-school or six-hour full-day format.

We provide a two-day or more workshop series called ***Mentoring Matters*** for those interested in becoming a mentor. Prospective mentors are prepared for the requirements of mentoring new staff. Strategies and techniques are developed to plan for a successful mentor/mentee experience. This workshop series targets developing strong mentoring relationships in order to insure that all new teachers receive the necessary support to grow and thrive in their new roles.

We offer a ***Developing a Professional Learning Community Coaching Series*** using a mix of face-to-face interaction, collaborative time, reflection, technology, and PLC resources to provide the knowledge, skills, and tools that will allow participants to help transform their school community into a Professional Learning Community.

We developed ***an interactive website*** to offer users professional development information, instructional resources, and communication tools unavailable until this time. A user can now log in to the most up to date information obtainable on upcoming workshop opportunities, educational issues and state and local initiatives. In addition, users are able to communicate directly with other members of their interest groups about their craft and their professional interests. The website even offers users the opportunity to be notified via e-mail of upcoming events and interest group communications. The Educational Resources website can be accessed by going to <http://www.dcbooces.org> and clicking on **Educational Resources**.

We creatively collaborated with the ***Mid-Hudson Teacher's Center*** and ***Pawling Central Schools*** on the development of a series of workshops for teachers focused on generating stronger writing skills among K-8 students. This union required a significant shift from the dominant paradigms of teaching and collaborating but yielded extraordinary results and promoted the NSDC's goal of providing professional learning for every teacher every day to impact student learning. The benefits of this collaboration included: increased financial and human resources, the development of professional learning communities, increased communication, and improved capacity for schools to meet the needs of all learners.

Dutchess BOCES offers an automated Substitute Calling Service that assists school districts with arranging substitutes for employees requiring coverage. The system operates twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

HUMAN RESOURCES

The Mid-Hudson Cooperative Recruitment Program online service now accepts cover letters and résumés. Shared recruitment lessens the burden on individual districts and widens the pool of candidates for all schools.

Dutchess BOCES has a regional certification office serving those who live or work in Dutchess County.

Dutchess BOCES issues temporary coaching licenses for Dutchess County public school districts where certified and qualified coaches are not available.

All teachers at BOCES Education and Training Academy and Salt Point Educational Center meet the "highly qualified" requirements of *No Child Left Behind*.