Our Mission

The mission of the Orange-Ulster BOCES is to serve our component districts and community in the development of continuous learners who will be successful in meeting the challenges of living in our society today and in the future. We will accomplish this mission in a cost-effective manner with a dedicated, skilled, caring staff providing quality educational services in a safe, nurturing and accessible environment.

What is a BOCES?

BOCES is an acronym for Board of Cooperative Educational Services, a regional public education service organization. Established in 1948 by the state legislature, BOCES provides high-quality, cost-effective educational services to school districts in New York State. BOCES also provides special education, career and technical education, adult education, professional development, instructional services, educational technology support, library services and a number of management services for component school districts. There are 37 BOCES statewide. Orange-Ulster BOCES first provided services to component districts in 1957.

Cooperative Board Members

Eugenia S. Pavek, President
William M. Boss, Vice President
Michael Bello
Lawrence E. Berger
Martha Bogart
David Eaton
Edwin A. Estrada

BOCES Leadership

William J. Hecht
District Superintendent

Deborah McBride Heppes
Assistant Superintendent for Finance

Terry Reynolds
Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

Forrest M. Addor
Director of Technology

Andrew Carnright
Director of Adult & Continuing Education

Mark P. Coleman
Director of Operations

Orande K. Daring
Director of Career & Technical Education and Adult Practical Nursing

Diane E. Lang, Ph.D.
Director of Instructional Support Services

Kerri B. Stroka
Director of Special Education and Alternative Programs

The Board of Cooperative Educational Services, Sole Supervisory District of Orange-Ulster Counties, operates all programs in compliance with the federal and state laws which prohibit discrimination because of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, political affiliation, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, pregnancy, military status, veteran status, genetic predisposition or carrier status, ancestry, disability or any other legally protected status. The Compliance Officer is Theresa A. Reynolds, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction & Title IX/Section 504/ADA Coordinator, (845) 291-0100 Extension 10120.
Support communication and collaborative networking towards innovative solutions with districts’ leadership. 
Collaborate with districts to provide efficiencies and quality service to the region.

Provide leadership and dissemination of information/expectations from all state and local agencies.

Provide innovative instruction to diverse learners.
Support students’ social emotional development.

Individualize learning to meet the needs of each student.
Provide students with input regarding their educational and career pathways.

Incorporate culturally appropriate and responsive practices.

Educate and engage parents/guardians and community members in the significant role Orange-Ulster BOCES plays in education and community development.

Immerse students in learning through community partnerships and career-focused opportunities.

Reinforce and support a staff culture of high expectations and engagement for all.
Ensure an environment in which we expect and rely on staff to make quality decisions.

Encourage continuous improvement and professional growth.
Enhance security measures to maintain a safe learning and working environment.

Align financial resources to support student and program success while ensuring fiscal stability.
Provide support and implementation of innovative technology for internal and external users.

Prioritize renovation and construction projects to provide state-of-the-art learning environments.

Regionals Leadership
Facilitate innovative solutions in school leadership, management and curriculum to support collaborative success for our service region across New York State.

Student Achievement and Development
Empower all students with the knowledge and skills necessary to live healthy, rewarding lives as confident, successful individuals.

Community Engagement
Broaden meaningful, active engagement among students, parents, and school and community/business partners to enhance diverse learning opportunities for all students.

Employee Excellence
Expect staff to be dedicated, skilled and caring, while providing outstanding educational and/or management services.

Effective Resource Management
Maintain fiscal stability, maximize efficiency of the Orange-Ulster BOCES operations and align resources to support regional leadership, student achievement/development, community engagement and employee excellence.

Completion Rates
Career & Technical Education Division
Maintain or increase program completion rate
Current: 97% completed a CTE program in 2018
2019-2023 Goal: Completion Rate of 95% or higher

Special Education Division
Maintain or increase number of students who achieve an exit credential
Current: Options for exiting credentials have expanded for special education students
2023 Goal: All students will graduate/exit program with one of the State’s approved exiting credentials

College/Career Ready
Special Education Division
Increase number of transition and work-based opportunities for secondary students
Current: 25 off-campus and 4 on-campus work-based learning sites
2023 Goal: Increase to 35 off-campus and 5 on-campus work sites

Career & Technical Education Division
Increase performance on Industry Standard Assessments
Current: 75% Proficiency
2023 Goal: 80% Proficiency

Adult Education Division
Increase number of students entering the workforce from literacy programs
Current: Create a baseline data set
2023 Goal: Baseline data will improve

Increase number of students completing vocational training programs and entering the workforce
Current: 40% of Program Completers
2023 Goal: 55% of Program Completers

Regional Leadership
Instructional Support Division
Increase the number of Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and Cultural Responsiveness (CR) professional development offerings
Current: During 2018-19 we offered 20 SEL/CR professional development courses
2023 Goal: Increase offerings by 50%

Operations Division
Increase County-wide professional development for food service, transportation, and health/safety staff
Current: During 2018-19 we offered 83 courses
2023 Goal: Increase offerings by 20%

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
Empower all students with the knowledge and skills necessary to live healthy, rewarding lives as confident, successful individuals.

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