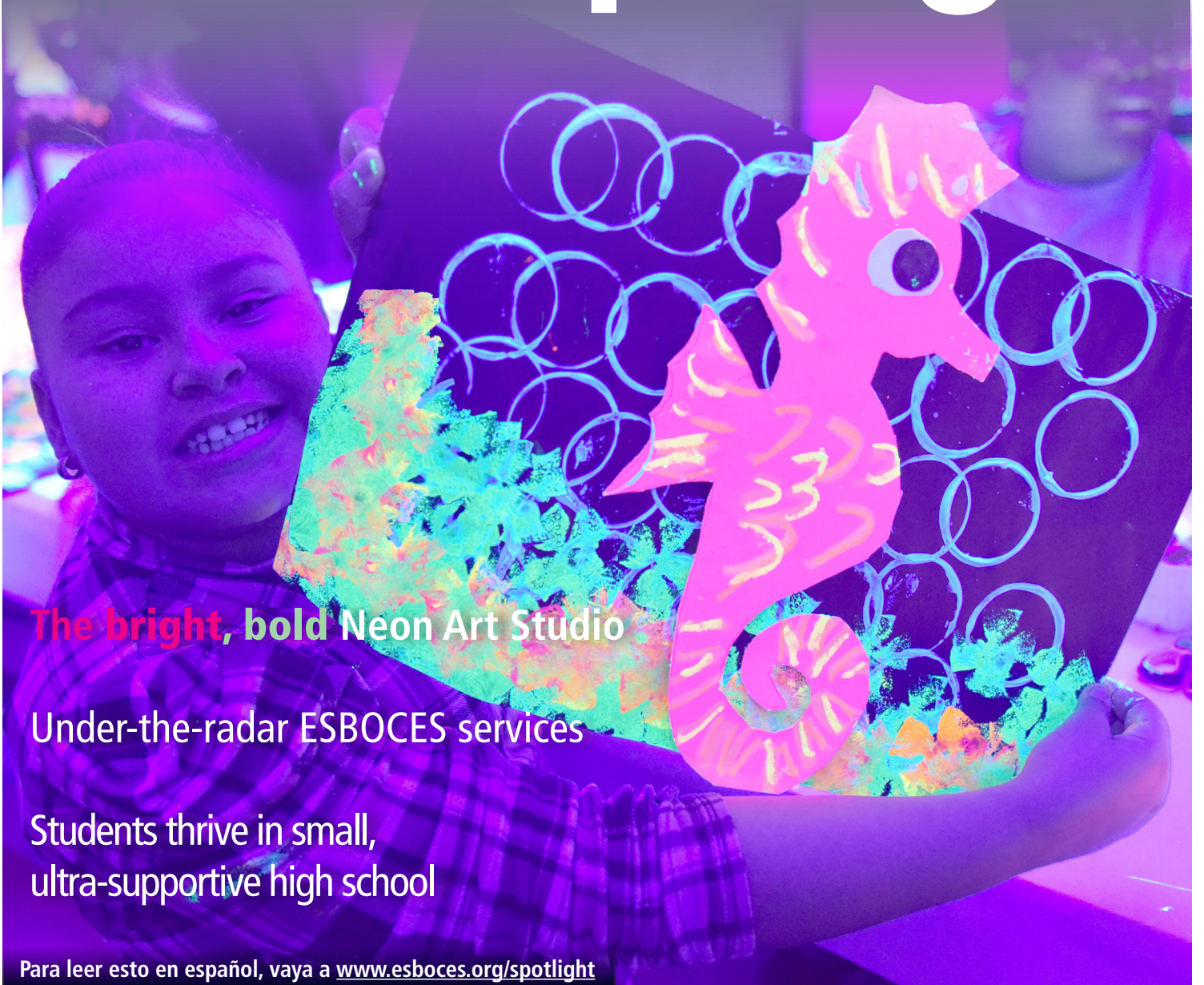


Spotlight



The bright, bold Neon Art Studio

Under-the-radar ESBOCES services

Students thrive in small,
ultra-supportive high school

Para leer esto en español, vaya a www.esboces.org/spotlight

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 138
Patchogue, N.Y. 11772

Eastern Suffolk BOCES
201 Sunrise Highway
Patchogue, New York 11772

ESBOCES by the Numbers

We continuously look to the future to develop and evolve programs that align with the needs of our students, component school districts, and communities. Below is just a handful of data from last school year that showcases ESBOCES as a trusted leader in education, a facilitator of collaboration and efficiency, and an engine for economic growth.



398

businesses partner with our CTE programs

4,063

students enrolled in instructional programs

60%

of graduates enter the workforce directly after graduation

3,551

students enrolled in adult education programs



1,152

staff attended **71** professional development workshops provided to the region

1,262

CTE students graduated with a high school diploma or equivalent



1,654

adult students enrolled in workforce development courses

72%

of CTE graduates go on to college after graduation

131

articulation agreements with colleges and universities

369

adult students broadened their employment opportunities by taking High School Equivalency (HSE) courses



\$7.7 million

is estimated to be saved through **63** cooperative bids

1,521

adult students improved their language comprehension, speaking, and literacy skills through English as a Second Language (ESL) programs

Behind the Scenes

ESBOCES may be best known for its career and technical education and special education programs, but there are many lesser-known programs offered to our 51 component districts. While these programs may not be as visible, you are witnessing the positive results of these services in your schools and communities. We continuously work to develop new programs and refine existing ones to best meet changing needs. Here are just a few:

- ★ **Auction Services** sells surplus equipment for districts to assist them in excessing broken or obsolete computers, equipment, furniture, vehicles, and other assets owned by school districts that no longer have useful lives. This reduces storage costs and gets them the competitive prices for items without dedicating staff to preparing bids or managing auctions.
- ★ School districts can purchase **computerized routing and management systems** through ESBOCES to help meet student transportation needs. ESBOCES provides project management and implementation services to districts which include initial needs assessment, database preparation, training, and ongoing support.
- ★ ESBOCES has several **Jail Education Programs** for incarcerated youth and adults. These programs provide counseling, education services and assistance, and support in finding employment after re-entry into the community.
- ★ **Outreach House** is a residential chemical dependency treatment facility for adolescents ages 12 to 18. Students work toward a Regents or local diploma, depending upon their specific needs.
- ★ The **Equivalent Aid Program** delivers basic literacy courses to out-of-school youths between the ages of 18 and 21. Instruction is provided in reading, writing, mathematics, and the development of English speaking, listening, and writing skills. This program includes assessment and support services to help young adults plan for future employment.
- ★ **Adaptive Driver Training** is offered to individuals with disabling conditions. Adaptive automobiles are available and one-on-one training is designed to teach driving habits and skills necessary to pass a NYS road test.
- ★ The **Office of Grants Management** helps coordinate the acquisition and maintenance of over \$25 million in grants and specially-funded programs to provide services to school districts and their students throughout the region. They include programs such as, ENL/Bilingual, Family Education Outreach, Learning Technology, Workforce Innovation, Employment Preparation, among others.
- ★ **Regional Occupational Safety and Health (ROSH)** provides in-district specialists and consultants for health, safety, and security. Services provided include security audits, security management services, and environmental consultants for things such as indoor air quality assessments and asbestos and lead testing.

To find out more about any of the programs mentioned here and countless others, review our Shared Services Guide at, <https://www.esboces.org/page/1298>.

First Class



Located in Holtsville and opened in 2017, Sequoya High School, an Eastern Suffolk BOCES school, seems like an ordinary Long Island educational institution. However, it stands apart from most schools in the region. Sequoya High School is a special education school that is home to approximately 320 students between grades 9-12 and 120 staff. It functions as a traditional high school, providing the same NYS-approved curriculum, and embodying the same rigor, clubs, etc., as every other public high school in the area. What makes it unique is the high level of support that the staff provide their students to ensure their success.

It's not uncommon for the student body at Sequoya to struggle with anxiety, depression, ADHD, exist somewhere on the autism spectrum, or battle with other mental health conditions. To make things more manageable, classes are smaller and each one is formatted in the same 12-1-1 ratio (12 students, one teacher, one teacher's assistant). Class periods are slightly shorter and there are a larger number of school counselors available with smaller caseloads compared to the average school district.

Students receive individual and group counseling, and if a student's counselor is not available, an emergency counselor is provided. Additionally, Sagamore Children's Psychiatric Clinic has facilities located inside the school for those who require them, eliminating the need for those students to find outpatient care elsewhere.

Said Sequoya Principal Steve Repperger, "The teachers, staff, and administrators offer enormous levels of understanding and support. They are extremely involved and engaged with students." For example, if students are feeling overwhelmed or upset, it's okay to leave the classroom to take a 15-minute breather and utilize the BIR (behavioral intervention room), before returning to class.

There's also something else that's unique to the school – a no cell phone policy. This eliminates the concern among students of being photographed or videoed without their permission and having media posted or shared.

Eleventh grader Delaney Dugan offers a straightforward perspective – "At Sequoya, you can't make fun of someone for being in a special education school because you're here too. We all have that one thing in common."

Student Uchechi Chukweumeka explains that being different creates acceptance at Sequoya. "Diversity and inclusion are the norm here. You see people with different learning abilities, you see people who run track and play football. Essentially, you see people with different skills and styles. Everyone automatically feels welcomed."

Read on to gain additional insight about the school and to learn more about three Sequoya students, including Delaney and Uchechi, who have excelled due to the school's support system:

Delaney Dugan, Comsewogue UFSD, 11th grade



Before she enrolled at Sequoya, Delaney had attended three other schools. "I've struggled throughout all of school. I was a straight C student and really believed that I was stupid. I had a nervous breakdown in the eighth grade and my doctors weren't expecting me to get any better. Arriving here reminded me that I like to learn, I like school, and that I don't have to do this whole thing alone. I was able to undo a lot of damage. That is a personal success of mine. I beat the odds."

Delaney currently attends the agency's CTE Welding Program for a half day at Milliken Tech. She plans to attend the second year of the program next school year and her goal is to become a certified under-water welder.

"I am trying to guarantee myself a future. I've heard that for every one welder who enters the union, another four retire. After completing the Welding Program, I plan to move onto under-water welding. It pays big money."

Sharlize Stempkoski, Longwood CSD, 12th grade

Sharlize was in long-term, inpatient care before enrolling at Sequoya. She utilizes services at the in-school Sagamore Clinic. "If I hadn't been in the Sagamore Clinic and in Sequoya, I definitely would have gone to the hospital a few more times. I have been out of the hospital for two years and I am doing well," she said.

After graduation, Sharlize will attend Suffolk County Community College (SCCC), then Stony Brook University, which has reserved a spot for her as long as she maintains a good GPA. She plans to study psychology. Today she is currently taking college classes (Freshman Seminar, Western Civilization, and Bio 101) through SCCC as a dually-enrolled student.

"If I were to have a conversation with myself freshman year, I would never believe that I would be taking these classes. I have been out of the hospital for two years, and if you told me that in the ninth grade, I would have never believed you," she said.



Uchechi Chukweumeka, North Babylon UFSD, 12th grade



"The support that our teachers give us is beyond compare," explained Uchechi. "This year I had a mental breakdown. I was not able to give a presentation. My teacher gave me another chance and I was able to present. I did have a consequence and I did receive a lower letter grade, but he made me talk about what I was going through and made me feel comfortable. It's still a college class, we still have work to do. We just have more support."

Uchechi is a member of the National Honor Society and will attend Rochester Institute of Technology in the fall to study mechanical engineering. She also attends the agency's CTE Computer Coding and App Development class for half a day at Bixhorn Tech. Her long-term goals include working for NASA and earning a Master's and a Doctorate. She also takes college classes while in high school.

To learn more about Sequoya High School, visit <https://www.esboces.org/Page/2263>, or call Steve Repperger, principal, 631-622-1200 , or srepperger@esboces.org

Classroom

Here's a quick look inside our many educational programs, which consist of Career and

BLC Celebrates Disability Week

Brookhaven Learning Center created and celebrated Disability Awareness Week. Students participated in a disability awareness scavenger hunt, played disability bingo, and so much more. On *Down Syndrome Awareness Day*, Keith Caputo, the head of the Helping Makes U Happy organization, presented to students and News 12 attended to cover the story. Jake, a BLC student who has Cerebral Palsy, handed out "Jake's Journey" bracelets and presented to his peers about his disability on Cerebral Palsy Awareness Day.



Neon Oasis

Art Teacher Loriann Christian created a neon art studio for students at Sayville Elementary School using black lights, neon paints, and more. The studio, complete with soothing music, made for a multisensory experience for the 1st through 6th graders.



Nail Tech Clinic

Arlene Castellano-Duruz's Nail Technician class at our Adult Education Center in Brentwood hosted a nail clinic for the public. Curriculum for this New York State Licensing Program covers all phases of manicures, pedicures, artificial nail applications, nail art, and all other sanitation and sterilization procedures.



Happenings

Technical Education, Adult Education, Special Education, and Special Career Education.

Mystery Reader Game

Tecumseh Elementary School launched a mystery reader game where classrooms that correctly matched all nine staff readers with their assigned code names using supplied clues would be named "Best Detectives" and win a class pizza party. Here, Assistant Principal Kyle Valentine was the guest reader in Kelsey Marra's class.



Recognizing Excellence

The works of select Professional Photography, Digital Imaging, and Art, Design, and Visual Communications students from Bixhorn Tech were displayed in a recent exhibit at the Parrish Art Museum in Water Mill. Among those, five received the Senior Award of Excellence. Here are pieces from Peter Colon, **Eastport-South Manor CSD**; Nicole Labate, **Islip UFSD**; and Madison Smith, **Sayville UFSD**.

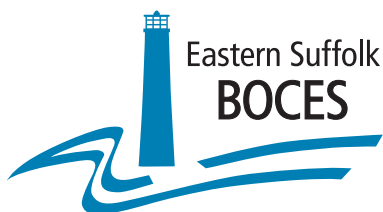
Life Saver

Certified Nurse Assisting student Andrea Calle, **East Hampton UFSD**, deserves a standing ovation. Calle, a student at Ward Tech, saved the life of a family friend who stopped breathing and collapsed at church. Calle performed CPR until the paramedics arrived. She earned her CPR certification in class and plans to take those skills further. Next year, she will begin the Clinical Medical Assisting Program, and then enroll in the Suffolk County Community College Registered Nursing Program after high school.



New Southampton-based CMA Program Coming

ESBOCES has partnered with **Southampton UFSD** to launch a Clinical Medical Assisting Program located in Stony Brook Southampton Hospital. Students will have use of one of the facility's classrooms and access to their outpatient center in Hampton Bays to participate in required clinical rotations. The half-day, morning program is open to juniors and seniors, will commence with the 2023-2024 school year, and eliminate the need for Southampton students to travel west to other agency locations for instruction. An afternoon Adult Education course with a special focus on recruiting from the Shinnecock Nation will also be offered. The course will train participants in a range of industry skills, such as phlebotomy, EKG, taking vitals, CPR, first aid, and more.



**Eastern Suffolk
BOCES**

Educational Services That Transform Lives

Eastern Suffolk BOCES Board

President
Lisa Israel

Vice President
William K. Miller

Member and Clerk
Fred Langstaff

Members

Arlene Barresi
Linda S. Goldsmith
William Hsiang

Susan Lipman
Joseph LoSchivo
Anne Mackesey

James F. McKenna
Brian O. Mealy
Catherine M. Romano

Robert P. Sweeney
Norman A. Wagner
John Wyche

District Superintendent
David Wicks

Chief Operating Officer
Vacant

Eastern Suffolk BOCES does not discriminate against any employee, student, applicant for employment, or candidate for enrollment on the basis of sex, gender, race, color, religion or creed, age, weight, national origin, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, transgender status, military or veteran status, domestic violence victim status, genetic predisposition or carrier status, or any other classification protected by Federal, State, or local law. ESBOCES also provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Inquiries regarding the implementation of the applicable laws should be directed to either of the ESBOCES Civil Rights Compliance Officers at ComplianceOfficers@esboces.org: the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, 631-687-3029, or the Associate Superintendent for Educational Services, 631-687-3056, 201 Sunrise Highway, Patchogue, NY 11772. Inquiries may also be addressed to the Office for Civil Rights at the US Department of Education, 32 Old Slip, 26th Floor, New York, NY 10005, 646-428-3800, OCR.NewYork@ed.gov.