

Feedback from Faculty and Staff on Vision Statement for OCM BOCES

OCM BOCES will prepare students for success through innovative instruction, support to schools, and collaboration among school districts and municipalities. Innovative instruction will result in students who graduate prepared with the skills to be successful in their careers and further education.

*All students will be regularly engaged in relevant and real world experiences with an emphasis on solving problems that are meaningful to them and their community.
Collaboration with industry and the community will enhance learning opportunities.*

Teacher and Staff Responses:

- Tasks performed in lab, at school, pertaining to real problems
- Students are put into local businesses for work study programs
- Clinical experiences allow students to do this
- Not possible with present school day and open door BOCES policy
- Very idealistic; the population we receive even with the intense 1:1 support will find it difficult in the real world
- We are leaving the students who could be successful behind because so many in the class have overwhelming issues
- CTE trades are the real world; Collaborating with industries and the community helps students get a job after they leave the class; We need to see this bridged with career explorations
- Through the lab experience, the students will encounter the same challenges, problems, and logistical difficulties that professionals would
- The student population does not allow for this
- The bad behavior of students prohibits learning for the majority
- Continue to explore software and websites that give students a choice to explore interests.
- CTE/Career Academy collaboration to build a county-wide tech school
- We have a service project Think Garden
- Special Programs visit our school including musical and art programs
- Students need to be involved in real life experiences like cooking, cleaning, checkbook use, how to save, use of a voting booth, basic car care, and maintenance of home, and steps to attaining a job, resume writing
- We need to develop a mentoring program with school between adolescent and elementary
- Need to develop effective transition plans for students

Classrooms will be centers of learning that embrace teamwork, focus on the exchange of diverse ideas, and value innovative thinking.

Teacher and Staff Responses:

- The importance of transferable skills are being valued
- Students need employability skills, not just learn the trade
- More group/team activities and problem solving ideas for students would be terrific
- Students are so diverse and so far apart on social and educational levels that this is not happening- class is a monitored event not a teaching event
- Students are working to try and embrace teamwork. There have been several clashes between students, but by getting them to do the lab skills in various groups, it opens up their eyes to the real work world
- Students are encouraged to work in teams, not only in labs but also on curriculum work
- If you have compatible students, teamwork is a wonderful idea
- We cannot put them in small classrooms and expect learning to happen
- Personal space gives students some control. Without it, they cannot learn-they are too busy protecting their space and acting out.
- We need social skills programming.
- We need team teaching techniques on the elementary side in different content areas
- We need to change how we group our classrooms
- We need team meetings with all service providers to make this happen
- We are fostering creative problem solving in our program
- All students are engage in theme-focused activities to promote life skills
- We need further collaboration between programs (Special Ed/Alt Ed/CTE)
- We need project based learning, specialized, expert-based research
- We need time built into the day for collaboration
- We need to continue to organize and communicate as a whole school

Technology will be an integral part of the learning and work of all programs and services

Teacher and Staff Responses:

- We are using Blackboard, SMART Boards, Internet, Mygradebook.com, flip videos, Facebook, and Myspace.
- We don't have SMART Boards or laptops for students to use,
- Technology not up to date as well as building does not support technology
- We have new computers in most rooms
- Can't use the timer on computers because the computers can't communicate with the projectors
- We need training, staff days to collaborate, administrative support, and our computer lab back

- We need further collaboration with the RIC to enhance webinars and online education
- We need greater access to computers
- We need to look at and redefine how we use technology (ex. Cell phones can be a battle, but we can teach appropriate time and incorporate lessons: www.polleverywhere.com)
- Most of the equipment is state of the art and students are trained properly
- Students actively engaged in online activities in the classroom
- Updating space and electrical issues will allow this to work
- We teach students how to use technology in the industry they are going to work in
- Between the SMART Boards, the computers, and the high-tech equipment, students become an integral part in using technology to learn

Our facilities will be modeled after the world of work with cutting edge technology that is adaptable and flexible to meet student and workforce needs

Teacher and Staff Responses:

- We have access to technology
- We need a true library/media center. Our students have very limited experience researching in books.
- We can improve by team teaching with workforce professionals
- We need workforce/offsite classrooms
- We are limited and behind the real world
- Outdated facilities
- Limited by the guidelines of NCLB and Regents
- Need a building that can handle technology
- Need to teach technology skills such as keyboarding, adaptive technology, and Dragon Speak use
- Need a technology support person on site
- Need a resource officer, more staff to classrooms, buildings, doors, and windows alarmed
- Serious consideration should be given to changing class sizes in order to make this happen
- The very nature of our program is a direct parallel to the world of work

BOCES will be a model of leadership and leadership support. Leaders will be identified, grown, supported, and sustained through professional development, coaching and networking. Current research and promising thinking will guide the management of educational institutions, instructional practices and decisions impacting student achievement.

Teacher and Staff Responses:

- BOCES 101
- Student Services Curriculum and Instructional Council
- New Teacher Orientation and Mentoring
- Encouragement and support for teachers attending professional development
- Could we build an articulation with area CAS programs?
- TAs need additional training and support
- Need clinical approach to supervision for social workers
- Need morale boosters, holiday staff parties, and give an extra sick day for overachievers
- Need to use data for continuous improvement
- We need to hold discussions around supporting teachers with students who may be struggling before we can move into a larger topic of leadership
- Teachers staying up to date in their field is important
- Giving teachers the ability to go to meetings on their subject area is an important part of the leadership role

BOCES will be seen as a driving force for the collaboration among districts, agencies municipalities, and businesses to develop and enhance the cost effective opportunities

Teacher and Staff Responses:

- Student driven internships at CTE in their senior year
- Cause for Paws business partnerships
- Career Academy partnering with Adult Ed Construction Technology to build an aerated compost bin for CTE culinary and floral arts waste
- Projects with Industry grant and job skills development with area employers
- Teachers in the World of Work
- Yes, this is the ideal
- CTE Advisory Council
- Consultant Committees with area businesses
- Often our students feel disconnected from their home schools; They should be included in home school activities
- Consolidation of services through BOCES
- Continue marketing of our services
- Need internship coordination
- Press outlet is introspective
- Need to invite districts to be an ongoing part of student programming and student belongs to the district first