

# SCHOOL SAFETY

## Q: What are some important things we could do to improve school safety at TST BOCES?

### TST BOCES TOMPKINS • SENECA • TIOGA

*Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga Board of Cooperative Educational Services (TST BOCES) provides shared services and programming to nearly 900 school students and hundreds of adult learners.*

**Industry:**  
K-12 Public Education

**Location:**  
New York State

**Size:**  
350 staff serving 9 districts

**Use case:**  
School Safety

TST BOCES has been tackling the important issue of school safety for some time now through its district-wide Safety Committee. District Superintendent Dr. Jeff Matteson recently took that conversation to a new level by using Thoughtexchange to launch an exchange with staff across the district to get their perspectives on safety.

Nearly 70 staff participated and Dr. Matteson got a list of topics that was collectively prioritized in order of importance by the participants. Along with learning what was most important, he used Thoughtexchange data-analysis tools to dig into the results and pull insights that revealed where people agreed and disagreed.

“We got some information about some items we could do, and one of them was to lock classroom doors all day long and keep them closed—because data says how much safer that makes your situation,” Dr. Matteson explains.

The thought got high ratings in the exchange, but leadership felt it could be a change that not everyone might support. So they decided to launch another exchange to ask staff this question:

*What are your thoughts about keeping your workspace (classroom or office) door closed and locked at all times?*

“We heard a lot of information from them, and we’re now doing a pilot in certain aspects of our organization where we’re trying out locking doors for a few weeks to see what it’s like with the flow of traffic of the students,” Dr. Matteson explains.

“We’re going to practice it and see what other things come up. It’s an important part of our whole process for improving ourselves and ensuring this human organization is really serving the humans well.”



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**Dr. Jeff Matteson, District Superintendent**

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