



SOUTH SENECA
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



AN INVITATION TO APPLY FOR THE POSITION OF

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

SOUTH SENECA
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



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CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

7263 MAIN STREET
OVID, NEW YORK 14521
(607) 869-9636

EDUCATION • OPPORTUNITY • COMMUNITY

ABOUT THE DISTRICT

The South Seneca Central School District – serving approximately 621 students across two buildings – South Seneca Elementary (Pre-K through grade 5) and South Seneca Middle/High School (grades 6 through 12) – serves as a vital centerpiece of its rural community in the Finger Lakes region. Known for its welcoming atmosphere and deep-rooted connections, South Seneca prides itself on the involvement and support of local families, businesses, and organizations that contribute to a close-knit environment for students to learn and grow.

As a small district, South Seneca offers an exceptional range of programs for its size, giving students opportunities to explore diverse paths, whether they aim for college, career, or trades. Each student is encouraged to pursue their passions, and the district's flexible, supportive approach helps them develop confidence and independence. South Seneca's commitment to fostering an inclusive space where students can thrive ensures that everyone can carve out their unique journey and feel celebrated for who they are.

South Seneca also embraces the area's rich rural heritage, a source of pride for both students and families. With the scenic beauty of the Finger Lakes drawing visitors year-round, the district remains a vibrant hub for community gatherings, events, and traditions that celebrate local culture. South Seneca's supportive environment, small-school advantages, and dedication to each student's potential make it a truly special place to live and learn.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of South Seneca Central School District is to prepare students for their individual futures through a comprehensive and engaging educational program.

SCHOOL BUILDINGS & CONFIGURATION

Elementary School **300 pupils**
Middle & High School **321 pupils**

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Board of Education of the South Seneca Central School District is seeking a dedicated and visionary educational leader to serve as Superintendent of Schools. The successful candidate will be student-centered, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to advancing the academic, social, and emotional growth of all students. They will possess strong leadership and administrative experience, along with effective communication skills to foster trust and transparency with students, staff, families, and the community.

The ideal candidate will bring innovative thinking, and a clear sense of direction to support South Seneca's evolving student needs. A strong focus on trades and apprenticeship programs will be vital, as will experience in P-12 curriculum coordination and data-driven decision-making. Our next superintendent will also inspire and support teachers and principals, encouraging academic achievement and addressing post-COVID educational challenges to help students continue to grow and succeed. An ability to engage actively with our rural community, including our Amish families, and to value community partnerships is essential.

The search process will be overseen by Ms. Lily Talcott, District Superintendent of the Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga BOCES. This semi-closed search will include confidential interviews conducted by the Board in the early rounds to ensure privacy for all candidates. The final round will welcome input from key stakeholders, allowing the community a voice in this significant decision. Ms. Talcott's guidance will be integral to a thorough and efficient selection process.

COMPENSATION

The position includes a three-year contract with a minimum starting salary of \$168,000 and an appealing benefits package.



CHARACTERISTICS OF THE IDEAL CANDIDATE

We are looking for a Superintendent to lead South Seneca Central School District with vision and commitment to a thriving, supportive learning environment. This leader will connect with students, staff, and the community. Key qualities include:

- **STUDENT CENTERED FOCUS**- Demonstrates an unwavering dedication to prioritizing the needs, growth, and well-being of all students, ensuring that every decision made contributes positively to their academic, social, and emotional development.
- **EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION**- Possesses excellent communication skills, that foster open, honest, and constructive dialogue with a wide range of stakeholders, including parents, teachers, students, and community members, to build trust and mutual respect.
- **LEADERSHIP** - Brings inspiring leadership qualities to the role, with the capacity to motivate and guide staff, support students, and engage with the broader educational community in creating a unified and purpose-driven school environment.
- **VISIONARY MINDSET** - Capable of developing and articulating a clear, compelling vision for the school district's future, effectively communicating that vision to all stakeholders and working to rally support that translates into meaningful, long-term progress.
- **PROVEN ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE**- Holds a solid background in educational administration, equipped with extensive experience in overseeing school operations, managing resources effectively, and making informed decisions that support district goals and objectives.
- **DATA-INFORMED DECISION-MAKING**- Skilled in analyzing and leveraging data to accurately assess school performance, recognize areas for growth, and implement strategic planning that aligns with the district's educational mission and values.
- **COMMUNITY-ORIENTED ENGAGEMENT**- Excels in building relationships with local community members and is adept at seeking and valuing community input, using it to shape educational policies and programs that reflect the values and needs of the community.

A successful history of administrative experience is required. While residency in the district is not required, the ideal candidate will demonstrate a strong commitment to being visible and accessible to our community.

RECRUITMENT TIMELINE

Application Deadline	December 11, 2024
Anticipated Appointment	February 2025
New Superintendent takes office	March 13, 2025

FINANCIAL DATA

2024-2025 Budget	\$26,124,252
State Aid	\$13,152,523
Local Tax Levy	\$9,095,567

FACTS & FIGURES

NUMBER OF
TEACHERS **73**

15 AVERAGE
CLASS SIZE

ANNUAL
ATTENDANCE
RATE **91%**

EXPENDITURES PER PUPIL

\$35,171



APPLICATION PROCESS

The Board has asked the Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga BOCES District Superintendent to assist and advise the Board in the selection process. All applications and communications should be directed to:

Ms. Lily Talcott, District Superintendent

Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga BOCES

555 Warren Road, Ithaca, NY 14850

Phone: (607) 257-1551

Email: Ltalcott@tstboces.org

Application forms can be obtained from the Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga BOCES website at tstboces.org/supersearch. Applicants are not to contact members of the Board of Education regarding the search process. The final choice of a Superintendent will be the responsibility of the South Seneca Board of Education.

The anticipated appointment date, with a successful contract, will be in February 2025 with a start date on March 13, 2025.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

The South Seneca Central School District Board of Education is composed of seven elected community members who serve staggered three-year terms. As a vital link between the school and the community, the board fosters open communication. For the 2024-2025 school year, regular meetings are held in the Middle/High School Flex Lab at 6:30 PM in Ovid. Community members are encouraged to attend and actively participate in these sessions.

Peter Jennings – President

Daniel Borst – Vice President

Averell Bauder

Mark Beardsley

Shannon Brock

Brenda Eastman

Edward Granger



www.southseneca.org



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Qualified and interested candidates must submit the following:

- Letter of interest
- Current resume or CV
- Completed application
- Transcripts and three letters of reference
- Copy of School District Administrator (SDA) or School District Leader (SDL) certificate

Scan to Access Application



Applications must be emailed by December 11, 2024.

