During the 2014-15 school year, Orange-Ulster BOCES Division of Instructional Support Services had the exciting opportunity to serve as the lead of a consortium of 13 school districts that received the “Teaching is the Core” grant from NYS Education Department. The purpose of this grant was to review and improve student assessment practices and student learning.

The following districts participated in the grant: Chester, Cornwall, Florida, Goshen, Greenwood Lake, Highland Falls/ Fort Montgomery, Marlboro, Minisink, Monroe-Woodbury, Newburgh, Port Jervis, Valley Central, and Warwick.

As part of this grant, in collaboration with OU BOCES, each district organized a review team comprised of teachers and/or administrators to identify and improve local assessment practices. Through the process, a total of 265 assessments were reviewed throughout the region. The recommendations from the district committees as a result of these reviews were to keep 79 assessments, revise 179 assessments, and eliminate seven assessments. This represents a significant effort to assure that students in all districts in the region served by OU BOCES have access to engaging productive curriculum and assessments. A summary of this assessment review and action plan for each participating district can be found on the participating district’s websites.
“The Teaching is the Core grant gave us the opportunity to develop a process to review assessments to ensure that we are using assessments to their fullest potential in maximizing student learning,” said Diane Lang, Director of Instructional Support Services. “To continue this work, our Summer Institute will provide area educators with important tools for student success and will set the stage for the region to move forward.”