

# OATRTC A History

The Owego Apalachin Teacher Resource and Technology Center serves teachers, teaching assistants, administrators and support staff of the Owego Apalachin Central School District along with Zion Lutheran School and St. Patrick's School in New York's Southern Tier.

The teacher center encourages teachers to explore new ways to use technology in the classroom to increase student achievement and better utilize existing programs. Teachers will also be equipped with knowledge and techniques of professional development that enable them to better prepare all students to successfully meet the New York State Learning Standards and district goals.

OATRTC began as a single-district teacher center in 1999 with Ben Frisbie serving as director until his retirement in 2007. Today, Pam Horton is the director of the center. It is located in the village of Owego at the Owego Free Academy High School. Three of the district's four schools are within easy walking distance of the Teacher Center. The middle school location allows for school access down corridors in a building connected to the center's high school location. Meanwhile, one of the elementary schools (Owego Elementary School) is also on the campus complex.

The Teacher Center serves staff and students, each with unique characteristics and needs. The student population is bimodal, living in a suburban/rural combination with a strong technological influence from area industry. While more than 80 percent of the students go on to higher education after graduation, numerous college level courses are offered in English, science and math.

The inclusion setting has been, and continues to be, a major emphasis of the district and Teacher Center. To meet the divergent needs of all students, the OA district has a full offering of remedial and specialized programs throughout its four instructional buildings. The Teacher Center offers programs to support the needs of teachers to ensure the success of all students.

The center offers a large classroom as space for teachers to collaborate, study, or use computers and other equipment. As a shared facility with the school district's Mentor Program, the center is a hub of professional conversation, planning and collaboration between mentors, interns, directors, coordinators, and administrators.

The center provides some supplies and equipment, such as a die cut machine, hot and cold laminators, book binders, a button maker and a poster design center. Memberships in the National Staff Development Council and the Association for Staff and Curriculum Development help us maintain a professional library of the latest information on classroom practices and standards-oriented education. Throughout the year, including the summer session, specific activities are scheduled at any of the OA district's four buildings.

The center is a teacher-responsive organization, developed and operated in collaboration with the Owego Apalachin Central School District, the Owego Apalachin Teachers' Association, local colleges and universities, and corporate and community affiliates. The policy board operates in compliance with Education Law 316 and is the district's professional development team. The Owego Apalachin Board of Education and the policy board share high expectations for continuous professional development and understand the role of the center's small staff in the coordination of appropriate programs and activities for district employees that will positively affect student achievement.