

*Washington, DC* - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced that Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) has received a \$339,470 federal grant to increase student access to quality mental health care by developing innovative programs that link local school systems with the local mental health system. The funds are provided through the U.S. Department of Education.

"These federal funds will help make mental health care more available to students," Hinchey said. "This program, which ties schools and community resources together, helps students receive early detection, prevention, and treatment programs for mental health. Mental health services are critical to ensuring children receive the complete attention they need as they grow up, deal with many issues at home and in school, and face the many challenges associated with becoming young adults."

The grant will help Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga BOCES establish a collaborative partnership among schools, community agencies, and family organizations that will work together to ensure the integration of school and mental health systems for students. The goal of the program is to increase access to high-quality mental health care, support students with mental health needs, and maximize available resources.