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- **February 4, 2012 – National Reading Recovery and K-6 Literacy Conference, Columbus, Ohio**
- **February 13-15, 2012 - Ohio Educational Technology (eTech) Conference, Columbus, Ohio**
- **March 21-23, 2012 – Ohio Association of Administrators of State and Federal Programs (OAASFEP) 2012 Spring Conference**
- **March 28-31, 2012 – TESOL Convention, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**
- **March 29-31, 2012 – Ohio Foreign Language Association (OFLA) Conference, Columbus Ohio**

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- **A Cultural, Linguistic, and Ecological Framework for Response to Intervention with English Language Learners**
- **Handouts and PowerPoint presentations - 2011 Ohio TESOL Conference in conjunction with the Lau Resource Center**

Professional Development Opportunities

➤ **Revised Standards and Model Curricula meetings underway**

Excerpted from the January 9, 2012 EdConnection ([click here for complete copy](#))

Focus Two of the targeted professional development meetings on the revised standards and model curricula rollout have begun. These after-school workshops will run through May and are designed to help educators respond to Ohio's revised academic content standards and model curricula in social studies, English language arts, mathematics and science. Participants will take a deeper look at the 2010 revised standards and how to transition from the 2002 standards. Registrants should plan to take one workshop session in each of the subject areas they teach.

Registration is available in STARS by searching keywords: *targeted professional development*. Participants should download materials needed for the meetings from [ODE's Academic Content Standards](#) section by visiting their specific content area (accessible through links at left) and opening the relevant Targeted Professional Development page. The Academic Content Standards section also is accessible at the bottom of ODE's home page under the Educators heading. Contact hours will be awarded for attendance. For questions about registration, contact lisa.simpson@ode.state.oh.us.

For those who were unable to attend the Focus 1 sessions, the PowerPoint and all materials/activities also are available on the ODE Web site in the same location. Webcasts that simulate the meeting experience also will be available later this month.

➤ **January 26, 2012 - Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) webinar answers the question: Language difficulty or LD?**

Excerpted from CEC website ([link to website](#))

CEC's winter 2012 series of webinars kicks off to help teachers and administrators better differentiate between language difficulties that are part of learning English as a second language and difficulties that signal a possible learning disability. Participants also will learn what research has shown about the ways in which literacy instruction should differ for ELLs. "Teaching English Language Learners: Learning Disability or Second Language Acquisition?" is Jan. 26, 4 to 5 p.m. Eastern time. [Find out more.](#)

➤ **February 4, 2012 – National Reading Recovery and K-6 Literacy Conference, Columbus, Ohio**
Click [here](#) for more information.

➤ **February 13-15, 2012 - Ohio Educational Technology (eTech) Conference, Columbus, Ohio**
Click [here](#) for more information.

Professional Development Opportunities *(continued)*

➤ **March 21-23, 2012 – Ohio Association of Administrators of State and Federal Programs (OAASFEP) 2012 Spring Conference**

A featured workshop at this year's OAASFEP spring conference is entitled *Promising Practices for English Language Learners*. This workshop presents best literacy practices for teachers working with English learners. The presenter, Dr. Sandra Mercuri, Assistant Professor at the University of Texas at Brownsville, will demonstrate how K-8 teachers have effectively used metacognitive, schema building, contextualization and language development strategies to help English learners develop academic literacy to be successful in school.

Click [here](#) for more information about the conference.

➤ **March 28-31, 2012 – TESOL Convention, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

Click [here](#) for more information.

➤ **March 29-31, 2012 – Ohio Foreign Language Association (OFLA) Conference, Columbus Ohio**

Click [here](#) for more information.

Announcements and Articles

➤ **Opportunity for Ohio to Change NCLB Obligations**

Excerpted from the January 9, 2012 EdConnection ([click here for complete copy](#))

Education Secretary Arne Duncan has invited states to apply for waivers and Ohio plans to take advantage of this opportunity. This is our chance to determine what will work best for our children. We know that we have to increase our performance levels, while showing greater transparency and accountability. At the same time, we hope to provide districts with greater flexibility in how they get their results. Three primary areas of the waiver request will include a redesign of the accountability system, consolidation of plans for and use of federal title dollars into a single plan, more flexibility for low-performing schools to improve student achievement, and greater district control over use of Supplemental Education Services (SES) money to provide tutoring to disadvantaged students.

We plan to file our waiver proposal by Feb. 18. Since we see the need for change in a number of areas, we will file a single plan that will describe how we will pool a number of federal funding sources to deliver on results.

Your suggestions on what the waiver needs to contain are important for us to hear. For more information about the waiver, click [here](#). Please submit your comments and suggestions to eseawaiver@ode.state.oh.us.

Announcements and Articles ***(Continued)***

- **Educating Immigrant Students a Challenge in U.S., Elsewhere**
Source: Education Week, January 9, 2012 – click on the following link:
<http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2012/01/12/16populations.h31.html?tkn=VNUFbAkIwiuv1H9JqI4Y4HW1y259QptyAzM4&cmp=ENL-EU-NEWS1&intc=EW-QC12-ENL>

- **Reform for English Language Learners**
Source: Education Week, January 19, 2012 – click on the following link:
http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/rick_hess_straight_up/2012/01/reform_for_english_language_learners.html?cmp=ENL-EU-VIEWS2

Resources

- **Ohio Test of English Language Acquisition (OTELA) Administration**
The recording and PowerPoint of the December 16, 2011 webinar on the OTELA Administration are available on the OTELA page of the Ohio Department of Education website.
[Recording of Dec. 16 webinar: OTELA Administration](#) (WAV)
[PowerPoint for Dec. 16 webinar: OTELA Administration](#)
Click [here](#) to view the complete OTELA page.

- **A Cultural, Linguistic, and Ecological Framework for Response to Intervention with English Language Learners**
Authors: Julie Esparza Brown, Portland State University, and Jennifer Doolittle, Office of Special Education Programs, U.S. Department of Education
Source: The National Center for Culturally Responsive Educational Systems (NCCREST)
Click on the following link for the complete document:
http://www.nccrest.org/Briefs/Framework_for_RTI.pdf
To view the NCCREST website, click on the following link: <http://www.nccrest.org/>

- **Handouts and PowerPoint presentations - 2011 Ohio TESOL Conference in conjunction with the Lau Resource Center**
Did you miss the Ohio TESOL Conference held on November 11-12, 2011? If so, you can still access copies of the handouts and PowerPoint presentations of a number of the sessions. Click on the following link to the Ohio TESOL website to access these resources:
<http://ohiotesol.org/>