

August 14, 2012

Good Morning,

Summer break is quickly coming to an end. In fact, central office and building administrators return this week and next. With that in mind, the next two editions of *EdConnection* will focus on “back to school” resources to help you get your staff up to speed on new and ongoing initiatives that require attention this year.

As most of you are aware, this past weekend, I assumed the responsibilities of Acting State Superintendent until the State Board of Education determines its course of action for the State Superintendent's role at its special meeting Aug. 20. As I have shared with ODE staff, it is my expectation that in the interim, this transition will in no way prevent us from focusing on the work necessary to support the return of 1.867 million students for the 2012-2013 school year. I thank you in advance for your support during our leadership transition.

Sincerely,



Michael Sawyers

Note: Below are news items of interest to all superintendents and principals. Please share these items as appropriate with other suggested educators who will benefit from the information.

For School superintendents and treasurers – ODE offers communication toolkit for principals on new Ohio learning standards, Ohio Teacher and Principal Evaluation Systems (eTPES) goes live Sept. 4, Commerce Department aims to connect schools with unclaimed funds

For curriculum directors, teachers and school counselors – Free tuition for an online AP course available for eligible students, Advanced Placement mentors needed, ODE e-Reader Center growing fast

For School superintendents and treasurers

ODE offers communication toolkit for principals on new Ohio learning standards

To help school principals better communicate about Ohio's new learning standards and teacher evaluation system locally, ODE has produced the *2012 Principals Toolkit*. The kit, available [here](#), includes fact sheets, message points, and *Higher Expectations for a Brighter Future: Ohio's New Learning Standards*, a four-minute video that summarizes the state's new education standards and assessments. The video and several of the toolkit items are designed to be used at teacher meetings, family nights, PTA meetings, association conferences and community events to start conversations about how classroom teaching and learning will change.

Ohio Teacher and Principal Evaluation Systems (eTPES) goes live Sept. 4

The Ohio electronic Teacher and Principal Evaluation Systems (eTPES) is ready for evaluators to pilot or implement this school year. This system allows the evaluator to collect and store growth and improvement plans, evidence and documented observations to determine educator performance based upon defined rubrics. While districts have the option of the evaluation tool used, eTPES will be the system used to report educator ratings to ODE.

On Sept. 4, superintendents will receive access codes and instructions to begin using this Web-based educator evaluation system. ODE will also provide evaluators with several forms of customer support including three live Webinars for superintendents, principals and teachers in September. Watch for more details in *EdConnection*.

Commerce Department aims to connect schools with unclaimed funds

With a new school year approaching, the Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of Unclaimed Funds, is urging school superintendents and treasurers to regularly search for and claim unclaimed funds for their districts. In Fiscal Year 2012, the division returned approximately \$111,000 to 69 schools. The division also encourages districts to be on the lookout for unclaimed funds reported under the names of student activity groups, booster clubs or other organizations.

Common examples of unclaimed funds include dormant savings accounts, credit balances, cashier's checks and refunds from utility and insurance companies. New unclaimed funds accounts are coming into the Division each day, and a full list of those accounts can be searched [here](#).

For curriculum directors, teachers and school counselors

Free tuition for an online AP course available for eligible students

Ohio public or private high school students may apply now for a one-time waiver of the fee for an online Advance Placement course through iLearnOhio. This is an excellent option for schools that are not currently offering AP courses to provide this opportunity to students. To be eligible, students must attend an Ohio high school or be homeschooled with an Ohio school of residence. The home district or school submits the waiver application and agrees that the student will receive credit for successful completion of the course. More information on the program and waiver fee applications can be found [here](#).

Created by the Ohio General Assembly to provide access to high-quality distance learning courses, iLearnOhio is administered by the Ohio Resource Center within the College of Education and Human Ecology at The Ohio State University and under the direction of the Ohio Board of Regents.

Advanced Placement mentors needed!

ODE is seeking participants in the Advanced Placement Network Mentor Program. The goal of the program is to support the professional growth of new AP teachers by pairing them with veteran AP teachers.

To participate in this stipend AP program, mentors must have at least three years of experience teaching AP courses and agree to:

- Provide one-on-one assistance to mentees through a minimum of two site visits and other methods of communication;
- Share best practices with the AP Teacher Network; and
- Commit to a full school year of service with the mentee.

Applications must be received by noon Thursday, Sept. 6. The application is available [here](#). For more information contact [Yolande Berger](mailto:Yolande.Berger).

ODE e-Reader Center growing fast

ODE's e-reader collection continues to grow. We now have available all model curricula for English language arts and social studies in both .epub and .mobi formats that allow users to download these documents free to most popular e-readers. The first four science model curricula also are available now, with new documents being added weekly. See the files [here](#).

ODE is interested in your thoughts about how EdConnection fulfills your information needs. Please send any comments or suggestions to Superintendent@education.ohio.gov.

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