August 27, 2012

Greetings:

Last Friday, we provided Ohio school superintendents with an FAQ regarding the decision to delay the release of the 2011-2012 Local Report Card and detailed guidance for implementing the recently passed revisions to the Third-Grade Reading Guarantee. In case you missed it, you can find the FAQ here and the Reading Guarantee guidance here.

While the Reading Guarantee provisions are drawing quite a bit of attention because almost immediate action is required this school year, there are several other recent legislative changes which also require action during the 2012-2013 school year.

To assist you in identifying, planning for and meeting these requirements, we have developed a handy summary of newly legislated responsibilities and their effective/due dates contained within SB316. In addition to the Third-Grade Reading Guarantee requirements, the document offers a summary of new regulations including: data reporting; teacher evaluations; kindergarten enrollment and transfer; and teacher evaluation. You can find the summary here. I encourage you to add this information to your yearly calendars and share it with your staff.

Please remember your daily efforts really do make a difference in the lives of Ohio's children.

Sincerely,

Michael L. 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 – Sample science and social studies test questions temporarily offline, Update OEDS information now to stay informed, Electronic Teacher and Principal Evaluation System (eTPES) opens Sept. 4, Ohio Principal Evaluation System (OPES) available, Schools may apply for grants to defray travel costs to Statehouse, Remember requirement to observe Constitution Day on Sept. 17

For curriculum directors, teachers and school counselors – Anti-HIB professional development day is Sept. 24

For School superintendents and treasurers

Sample science and social studies test questions temporarily offline
Due to unforeseen circumstances, the science and social studies sample items mentioned in last weeks' EdConnection are not currently available for viewing. Over the next few weeks, our vendor American Institutes for Research has agreed to build and host a non-password protected website so these items can be easily available for public viewing. We will share that link with you when the sample science and social studies questions are available.

Update OEDS information now to stay informed
The Ohio Educational Directory System (OEDS) is an important tool used to transmit news and communications from ODE to the field. Additionally, the information contained in OEDS is used for a variety of data systems, such as Comprehensive Consolidated Improvement Plan (CCIP), and the Secure Data Center (SDC). Since ODE uses OEDS throughout the year, it is necessary for districts to keep information updated for superintendents, principals, email addresses, administrative roles and grade spans served by the buildings. ODE encourages districts to update this information, preferably at the beginning of a new school year.

So you are aware, the Office of Accountability has captured from OEDS the information that will be displayed on the 2011-2012 local report cards. As such, now is an ideal time for districts to enter and update information in OEDS for the 2012-2013 school year. For any changes and updates for the 2012-2013 entered into OEDS prior to Aug. 9, 2012, please contact Jackie Seward, Office of Accountability at Jackie.Seward@education.ohio.gov with the information that should appear on the report cards.

For help with OEDS, please contact oedsr.support@education.ohio.gov.

Electronic Teacher and Principal Evaluation System (eTPES) opens Sept. 4
ODE has developed and is making available an electronic tool, eTPES, to help streamline the teacher and/or principal evaluation process. eTPES will be used this school year for those fully implementing new teacher and/or principal evaluation systems based on RttT, HB 153 and SB 316. Districts that are not fully implementing OTES or OPES may take this opportunity to review and use the system, but will not be asked to report ratings until they are fully implementing.

On **Sept. 4**, initial access to the https://www.OhioTPES.com (eTPES) product will open only for LEA superintendents and their designees. While superintendents may identify a designee for eTPES, a designee is not required. This approach enables LEA leadership to determine the type of eTPES deployment preferred and the rollout schedule for their local school district or community school. A superintendent designee listed in the Ohio Education Directory System (OEDS) will receive the same level of eTPES access and authority as the superintendent or community school leader. Superintendents and superintendent designees listed in OEDS will receive an e-mail with further information on Sept. 4.

A superintendent or community school leader who chooses to have a designee for eTPES should identify that person and contact the LEA's local OEDS administrator to enter that information in OEDS before Sept. 4.

An Alignment Tool is provided in eTPES for districts to demonstrate alignment of their teacher performance rubric to the OTES rubric (if an alternative rubric is being used). The first step in eTPES begins with the alignment process. Upon completion, the user continues to Step 2. Districts using an alternative rubric are required to demonstrate alignment of the rubric to the OTES rubric prior to reporting performance ratings.

Please click here to watch a short video on how this electronic system can streamline your teacher and principal evaluation process and assist in the management of conducting and documenting evaluations in your district. As part of the roll-out, support will be provided in the form of user manuals, online help screens, technology support and live and recorded webinars.

Ohio Principal Evaluation System (OPES) available
A district policy for the new OPES must be in place by July 1, 2013, and be effective for the 2013-2014 school year. However, per the LEA's Race to the Top scope of work, some LEAs may use the system sooner than the required date. Now that OPES is aligned with the Ohio Teachers Evaluation System (OTES), all those who will be evaluating principals will need to complete state-sponsored training and pass an online assessment.

The online assessment will be available beginning in September. Any principal evaluator who has already

participated in an OPES training must pass an online assessment. Those evaluators may, but are not required to, take refresher training before completing the online assessment. Any principal evaluator who has yet to take the state-sponsored, two-day training will need to do so. Beginning in September, additional OPES training dates and sessions will listed be in STARS. Information about the online OPES assessment will be sent by e-mail directly to superintendents and to those who have completed the state-sponsored training.

Schools may apply for grants to defray travel costs to Statehouse
The 2012-2013 Ohio Statehouse School Transportation Program will begin accepting online applications beginning at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 4 for grants to defray travel costs for trips to the Ohio Statehouse and Museum this school year. Grants will be offered to any Ohio school that receives state funding and will be planning a trip for students in grades 4-12. The Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board (CSRAB) and the Capitol Square Foundation conduct the transportation grant program.

Please apply early, as grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, according to the order in which qualifying applications are received. A total of 240 grants are available, with 80 grants awarded in each of three categories based on proximity to the Statehouse. Schools less than 50 miles from the Statehouse will be reimbursed $200, schools between 51 and 100 miles away will be reimbursed $300 and schools at least 101 miles away will be reimbursed $400. The application and more information will be posted on the Ohio Statehouse website. To schedule a Statehouse tour, call (614) 728-2695.

Remember requirement to observe Constitution Day on Sept. 17
Each year, schools nationwide help students understand the U.S. Constitution and its significance by commemorating Constitution Day. This year, the event will be celebrated on Monday, Sept. 17, which is the 225th anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution. Educational institutions receiving federal funds are required to plan an educational program celebrating Constitution Day. ODE encourages schools to involve all students in grades K-12 in the celebration. As you plan your program, you may want to consider the following suggestions:

- Invite all teachers, parents and other community members when planning school-wide events;
- Engage students in meaningful activities aligned to the school's curriculum and the Ohio academic content standards;
- Plan programs with the current course of study in mind, connecting the topics and themes of Constitution Day to age-appropriate activities and grade-level content;
- Although Constitution Day is a once-a-year event, continue the study and discussion of our rights and responsibilities as U.S. citizens throughout the school year.

The following resources may be useful in planning Constitution Day events and activities:

- The National Archives and Records Administration celebrates Constitution Day by presenting related activities and lesson plans;
- Federal Resources for Educational Excellence features information from more than 30 federal agencies on teaching and learning, with topics including the U.S. Constitution;
- The National Constitution Center is an independent, nonpartisan and nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding of, and appreciation for, the U.S. Constitution, its history and its contemporary relevance; and
- The Library of Congress preserves valuable federal records including documents from the Continental Congress and the Constitutional Convention of 1774-1789.

For curriculum directors, teachers and school counselors

Anti-HIB professional development day is Sept. 24
Changing behavior to provide positive and protective learning environments is the theme for a professional development day to respond to harassment, intimidations and bullying (HIB) in schools. It will be held Monday, Sept. 24 at the Quest Business Center, 8405 Pulsar Place in Columbus from 8 a.m. to

4:30 p.m.

Participants will learn new ideas and receive resources to help identify, prevent and respond to bullying, harassment and intimidation. Featured speakers for this event are Dennis Embry and David Osher. The event is sponsored by the Ohio Departments of Education, Health and Alcohol and Drug Addiction, eTech Ohio, the Ohio Domestic Violence Network, the Ohio Mental Health Network for School Success, and the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights.

The cost is $30 per person. CEU and RCH will be provided. To register, click 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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