

August 6, 2012

Good Afternoon,

Earlier this summer, I mentioned that we would provide more information about the Third Grade Reading Guarantee, which is effective this coming school year. ODE has created a Web page with guidance and resources for districts, educators and families to better understand the new requirements. These resources can be found by clicking [here](#).

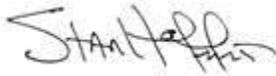
The Third Grade Reading Guarantee is designed to ensure that all Ohio's students are reading at grade level by the end of third grade. Students must receive diagnostic assessments so that those who are not on track for reading at grade level can get the extra time and help they need to overcome their reading deficiencies.

Some key points from the new requirement include:

- All K-3 students will undergo annual diagnostic tests to determine reading ability;
- If a student is not on track to read at grade level, the school district must create a reading improvement and monitoring plan that details the student's reading deficiencies, describes needed interventions and includes parents in the improvement plan;
- Unless students are exempted for reasons stated in law, those who have not reached grade-level reading by the end of the third grade will be retained. Students who are retained will continue to receive intensive remediation, including at least 90 minutes of reading instruction daily; and
- These provisions take effect this fall, but student retention under the new criteria will not occur until the 2013-14 school year.

On behalf of Ohio's children, thank you for all you do. Make it a great day.

Sincerely,



Stan W. Heffner

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 – Model OTES Board Policy available

For curriculum directors, teachers and school counselors – Free Aug. 16 webinar - What is Human Trafficking?

For School superintendents and treasurers

Model OTES Board Policy available

Ohio is working with many partners to develop a better educator evaluation system that will give teachers the help they need to keep improving. A key element of the plan is the legal requirement that local boards

of education, and Race to the Top-participating community school governing boards, adopt a standards-based teacher evaluation policy that complies with the State Board of Education's statewide framework by July 1, 2013. To assist in this effort, the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) and the State Board of Education worked with a variety of education organizations to create a model teacher evaluation policy for local boards to use as a resource.

The model policy reflects recent changes contained in HB 153 and SB 316 and complies with Ohio Revised Code. While local boards are not required to adopt the ODE model policy – your board can use it as a guide, adopt portions or use the entire document. The model policy and many other educator evaluation tools and resources are available [here](#).

For curriculum directors, teachers and school counselors

Free Aug. 16 webinar - What is Human Trafficking?

School counselors, educators, nurses, principals, psychologists and child therapists are at the “front line” of Ohio’s fight against human trafficking. They are invited to a free webinar on Thursday, Aug. 16, from 10-11 a.m. to learn how to recognize “red flags” and get help with this serious problem. University of Dayton Professor of Political Science and Human Rights Anthony Talbott and Anti-Human Trafficking Education Specialist Rachel Adkins of the Central Ohio Rescue and Restore Center will define human trafficking clearly and concisely, explain risk factors and warning signs, share easy-to-access resources, and provide guidance on how to help students in this situation. There is no cost, but registration is required. Click [here](#) to register and for information about webinars in September and October. Once registered, participants will receive instructions to access the webinar.

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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