



February 27, 2012

Good Afternoon:

My deepest sympathies are with the students and their families, teachers, administrators, and staff of the Chardon Local School District and the Chardon community as they work through the tragic incident on their school campus this morning. My heart especially breaks for the family of Daniel Parmertor and for the students also injured in this tragedy. I appreciate the quick action to this situation by first responders, law enforcement, Chardon District Superintendent Joseph Bergant and his staff; all of whom worked to protect the students and staff at Chardon High School.

This situation underscores the need for all of us to review, communicate and practice our emergency management plans. As we all know, unfortunate events like this will create questions about the processes, procedures, and protocols within our schools.

Please keep the entire Chardon community in your thoughts and use today's tragedy as an opportunity for preventative conversation within your school community. Thank you for all you do to provide a safe learning environment for Ohio's 1.86 million students.

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 – Safety reminders in the wake of the Chardon tragedy, NCLB Waiver, ARRA and EdJobs 1512 Quarterly Reporting to begin March 5, Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship: District's Role, Last call to register for Ohio Economic-Education Summit, Principals: tell ODE what you need regarding revised standards transition

For curriculum directors, administrators, teachers and counselors – Learn how to lead and manage a differentiated classroom

For school superintendents and treasurers -

Review Safety Plans

Today's tragedy in Chardon reminds us that safety planning is essential for all schools. I strongly encourage you and your staff to:

- Ask local law enforcement and firefighter personnel to review your emergency response plan.
- Review and practice your school's emergency response/safety plan.
- Communicate with students, staff, and families regarding your emergency response/safety plan.

- Reassure students and parents that schools are safe places.
- Take any threat seriously. Notify local authorities immediately.
- Review and update your school's policies and procedures.
- Ensure that your school buildings are secure.

Today, in Chardon, the following local responders were contacted and assisted the Chardon Local School District: the Geauga County Board of Mental Health and Recovery Services; the Geauga County Family and Children First Council; and, the Geauga County Health Department.

The Department actively works with the Ohio Department of Health, the Ohio Department of Mental Health, the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, and the Ohio Family and Children First Council to insure safe and supportive learning environments for all of Ohio's students. Resources are available on the Department website via the Office of Family & Community Supports at this link.

NCLB Waiver

This morning, I shared with school districts the details of the waiver request of the federal No Child Left Behind Act we will submit tomorrow.

Key elements of our waiver submission to the U.S. Department of Education include:

- Replacing the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) measure (which had the unrealistic goal of 100% proficiency for reading and math for every student in every demographic group) with rigorous, but realistic, objectives that aim to cut the achievement gap in reading and math by half over six years while requiring higher performance from all students.
- Replacing the existing system of using labels to rate schools on the Local Report Card with A-F letter grades.
- Moving away from the system of "highly qualified teachers" and toward a new measure that bases teacher effectiveness, in part, on the levels of student performance they produce.
- Streamlining many reporting requirements to ease districts' paperwork burden.
- Giving districts more flexibility in using federal funds targeted for low-performing schools, making it easier for them to determine the best solution for their students.
- Reforming the troubled federal program of tutoring at low-performing schools to give them greater quality controls in selecting providers.

As you know, for Ohio to be competitive and for our children to have at least as good a life as we enjoy, our state must move beyond its current system of minimum school standards. This wavier is a major step in that direction and will give us the flexibility under federal law to enact changes already underway in Ohio to meet those higher expectations.

ARRA and EdJobs 1512 Quarterly Reporting to begin March 5

The quarterly data collection period for calendar year 2012 first quarter will begin March 5 and will run through March 23, 2012. If you have received any of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) continuation grants (Race to the Top, School Improvement Grants, Teacher Incentive Fund), or the Education Jobs (EdJobs) funding, you are required to complete this quarterly reporting.

Some districts also may see their FFY09 carryover for the Math and Science Partnerships, funding and/or their Title II, Part D Education Technology (non-ARRA) funding listed as well. For questions concerning

these two funds, please contact the Office of Federal Programs (614) 466-4161.

To access to the Web-based application ARRA 1512, use the <u>SAFE</u> home page. Districts should be sure to renew their annual <u>Central Contractor Registration</u> (CCR). To learn about the short, three-step process to submit renewals without changes, click <u>here</u>. Please direct any questions to <u>Recovery@education.ohio.gov</u>.

Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship: District's Role

The current SFY 2012-13 biennium budget established the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program (JPSN) which provides students who have been identified as having a disability with funding to be able to enroll in a program other than the one operated by their public school district. Starting today, February 29 through April 15, families of students eligible to enter grades K-12 for the 2012-13 school year can apply for the scholarship through an approved provider, who must then submit an electronic application through the SAFE portal of ODE to the district of residence for review. As soon as possible, districts must assign at least one SAFE account holder the role of Reviewer-JPSN in the system to begin receiving notifications for submitted student applications. Instructions on completing the scholarship application review process will be emailed to current SAFE account holders designated as special education staff. Information will also be sent periodically assigned the reviewers. Information about the program can be found by visiting the ODE Home page and using 'Peterson' as the search criteria or emailing Peterson.scholarship@education.ohio.gov.

Last call to register for Ohio Economic-Education Summit

Monday, Feb. 27, is the last day to register for <u>on-site</u> and <u>remote</u> participation at the Ohio Economic-Education Summit V (March 6-7, 2012). The Summit is will bring educators and business representatives together to improve the state's economy.

In addition to keynote presentations by the U.S. Department of Education, ODE and the Ohio Board of Regents, large-session remarks will be provided by Ohio leaders with culinary arts and energy industries. Breakout sessions will address future trends and workforce needs in industries connected to manufacturing, ag-bioscience, biomedical, finance, health, Information Technology, shale and other energy, logistics and occupations related to a new career area called Informatics. For more information and registration details, visit the Summit V site.

Principals: tell ODE what you need regarding revised standards transition

ODE will be developing an informational webinar addressing what principals need to know about the revised standards and model curricula. The Office of Curriculum and Assessment invites principals to complete a <u>survey</u> to help inform the development of content for this webinar.

For curriculum directors, administrators, teachers and counselors -

Learn how to lead and manage a differentiated classroom

The Differentiated Classroom is the title of a one-day session designed to help participants deal with the time, space, materials, groups and strategies to manage the needs of each student in the classroom.

The April 27 session, sponsored by AdvancED Ohio (formerly NCA) will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Dublin. Marcia Imbeau, co-author of *Leading and Managing a Differentiated Classroom* will explain and demonstrate how to lead a class that is differentiated to individual student needs. It is appropriate for all levels and subjects.

Each participant will receive a copy of the book, as well as lunch. The cost is \$200 for in-network (accredited) and \$250 for out-of-network (not accredited). For more information and to register, contact AdvancED toll-free at (877) 622-6446.

ODE is interested in your thoughts about how EdConnection fulfills your information needs. Please send any comments or suggestions to <u>superintendent@ode.state.oh.us</u>.

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