

Jan. 9, 2012

Good morning:

I hope you all had a great holiday season with your family and friends. The start of a new year is always a good time to reflect on what you have accomplished and look forward to what lies ahead. As always, this next year promises to bring lots of excitement and change, as well as challenges.

As the new year begins, Ohio plans to apply for a waiver to provisions of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), commonly known as *No Child Left Behind*. Although it has been acknowledged that several provisions within the law need some fine-tuning, the NCLB has not been revisited since it was first enacted in 2001.

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.

Thank you for your continuing hard work on behalf of Ohio's students. Make it a great week.

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 – Revised Standards and Model Curricula meetings underway

For curriculum directors, administrators and teachers – Apply now for free SPARK physical education training; Fifth-grade submissions to Amber Alert poster contest due Feb. 1

Good news for everyone – Miami Valley CTC shows how high school workplace readiness starts for small business

For school superintendents and treasurers

Revised Standards and Model Curricula meetings underway

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.

For curriculum directors, administrators and teachers

Apply now for free SPARK physical education training

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) is offering 40 middle school physical education teachers in selected counties two full days of training in the Sports, Play and Active Recreation for Kids (SPARK) PE curriculum on Jan. 23 and 24 in Dublin, Ohio. The application deadline is Jan. 18, 2012.

The grant is designed to reduce risk factors, prevent/delay chronic disease, promote wellness in children and adults, and provide positive, sustainable health change in schools and communities. ODE is collaborating with the Ohio Department of Health on the initiative and the Centers for Disease Control.

Participants will be required to implement the SPARK curriculum during the 2011-2012 school year. The training and materials are free and \$100 is available to the district for a substitute teacher for each day of the training. For more information and the training application, click [here](#).

Fifth-grade submissions to Amber Alert poster contest due Feb. 1

In September, Ohio's Missing Children's Clearinghouse in the Ohio Attorney General's office sent all elementary principals a mailing regarding a state and national poster contest for fifth-grade students.

The contest deadline is Feb. 1 for Ohio schools to submit their best poster. The Attorney General's office will select a state winner to send to the national sponsor, the U.S. Department of Justice (USDOJ). Ohio elementary schools can encourage all their children to practice safety tips by conducting local contests and incorporating related lesson plans into the curriculum.

Contest rules, application and resources are available [here](#). The site also provides prevention tips and notes for parents. Questions may be directed to Vicki Germann at vicki.germann@ohioattorneygeneral.gov or by calling (800) 325-5604 or (614) 466-1711.

Good news for everyone

Miami Valley CTC shows how high school workplace readiness starts for small business

Miami Valley Career and Technology Center (CTC) in Montgomery County took a risk this fall and

became the first to implement Ohio's new Entrepreneurship Pathway standards into a two-year high school program. The 36 juniors and seniors are doing research and writing business plans along with applications of real-work experiences for business start-ups in such areas as health fitness, accounting and daycare. The success in this second year of the Business Ownership Tech Prep program is due in large part of planning and on-going collaboration with Sinclair Community College and with on-site business partnership with FirstDay Federal Credit Union.

A team from the center will be among presenters at the Ohio Economic-Education Summit on March 7, 2012, in Columbus. To read more about this example of career education, check out the [feature story](#) on the Ohio Department of Education Web.

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

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