

July 16, 2012

Good Afternoon:

Last week, Achieve, Inc., a non-profit advocacy organization that promotes a college and career readiness agenda, released the results of nationwide survey measuring awareness and approval of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). You can find the full report [here](#).

While generally positive, the findings provide valuable insight for building awareness and support in Ohio. For example, the survey found:

- A significant increase in awareness of the CCSS among teachers, up from 68% in August 2011 to 87% this year. Awareness of the CCSS continues to be very low among the voting public, with 79% having heard either “not much” or “nothing” at all about them.
- 68% of teachers who have seen, read or heard about the CCSS have a favorable impression of the standards, up from 59% in August 2011.
- A majority of voters (77%) and teachers (72%) support implementing the Common Core standards, with 45% of voters and 33% of teachers strongly supporting their implementation.
- Similarly, a majority of voters (74%) and teachers (64%) support CCSS assessments, with 40% of voters and 25% of teachers strongly supporting them.
- Public support of CCSS remains strong regardless of age, education level, race, ethnicity or party affiliation, with every subgroup registering a 70% or better favorability rating.
- Support holds when more information on the assessments and their components is provided. Components tested were those being contemplated by the PARCC assessment consortium (Ohio belongs to the PARCC consortium).

We have been working closely with other PARCC member states to develop and implement strategies for increasing awareness and support among teachers and the general public. As they are developed, I will share them with you and encourage you to utilize them in your communities.

It is hard to believe that we have already reached the halfway point of summer. I truly hope that you have had or will have an opportunity to rest and recharge before heading into the new school year.

I hope you, your principals and your teachers are taking advantage of the opportunities for professional development in the Common Core and revised Ohio academic content standards and training in the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System and Ohio Principal Evaluation System. For background information, click [here](#). To register, click [here](#).

Thank you on behalf of Ohio's children for all you do.

Sincerely,



Stan W. Heffner

For School superintendents and treasurers – Technology Readiness Tool update, Reminder – plans for make-up of excess calamity days via online lessons due July 31, Apply now for Innovative Approaches

to Literacy grant, Navy establishes National Defense Cadet Corps program

For School superintendents and treasurers

Technology Readiness Tool update

Thank you to everyone who completed the Technology Readiness Tool (TRT) before the first data collection window closed on June 29. Because of the additional information in the June 25 EdConnection, schools that had not completed the Tool went back into the system and the result was a completion rate of 74 percent by the end of that week.

If you already have a district-level TRT account and missed the first window, you are still able to access the TRT and complete the initial TRT setup and inventory/survey process. If you do not already have a district-level TRT account and have not already contacted the State Resource Coordinator (SRC) Team, you should contact them soon regarding setting up your account. ODE will start creating new accounts in August in preparation for the next data collection window (September 2012 – December 2012). Four more data collection windows will follow.

ODE's goal is to get 100 percent of Ohio school districts to participate in the TRT process. As Ohio tries to improve its technology infrastructure, we need a comprehensive picture of all districts' technology infrastructure to measure the resources and needs of the entire state in order to support classroom instruction and assessment. This includes being able to take a snapshot of the technology infrastructure that exists within public, joint vocational, nonpublic, private, charter and community schools.

If you have any question about the TRT or would like more information, please contact the State Resource Coordinator Team at OhioTRT@education.ohio.gov.

Reminder – plans for makeup of excess calamity days via online lessons due July 31

Schools in Ohio are permitted to use five calamity days for circumstances such as hazardous weather conditions, disease epidemic, damage to school building, inoperability of buses or other equipment necessary to the school's operation, or temporary conditions making the school building unfit, such as utility failure.

To make up calamity days in excess of five, schools have the option to use their contingency plans or use online lessons for up to three days. To use the online option, schools must submit a plan to ODE on or before July 31, 2012. For more information, including frequently asked questions and a link to Buckeye Association of School Administrators' model resolution for use in obtaining local board and teacher sign-off on your district plan, [click here](#).

Apply now for Innovative Approaches to Literacy grant

The U.S. Department of Education will award nearly \$28.6 in federal grants to help develop and improve literacy skills for students from birth through grade 12 within the attendance boundaries of high-need Local Education Agencies and schools. The new *Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL)* grant is available to eligible LEAs, national not-for-profit organizations, and consortia.

The application deadline is Aug. 10, 2012. For more information about this program, click [here](#).

Navy establishes National Defense Cadet Corps program

The Assistant Secretary of the United States Navy has announced the creation of the Navy National Defense Cadet Corps (NNDCC) program. The NNDCC program is modeled after the Navy's Junior Reserve officers Training Corps (NJROTC) and is designed to help schools establish citizenship development programs for their students.

The host school is responsible for the funding of the program, which includes instructor salaries, student uniforms and daily operational expenses. The Navy will supply curriculum material, selected equipment and the forms and regulations required to conduct the program. Applications for this program will not affect a school's existing request for the NJROTC program.

For more information, 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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