

July 23, 2012

Good Afternoon:

We have just released *Higher Expectations for a Brighter Future: Ohio's New Learning Standards*, a four-minute video that provides a quick, simple overview of the standards and corresponding assessments and how parents can support them. You may want to incorporate this video into your opening day program. It's also a great way to open the school year's first meeting with parent organizations. To see the video and to download the presentation for use in local speaking engagements, website posting and other communications opportunities, just click [here](#).

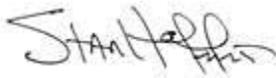
Additionally, we are converting a wide variety of documents, including curriculum materials, to e-reader formats for easy viewing on popular electronic readers such as the iPad and Kindle. Now available at ODE's [ePublication Center](#) are Ohio's new model curriculum and academic content standards for English language arts at each level. In the coming weeks, look for the posting of the standards for social studies, followed by science.

Last month, we began training evaluators in the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System (OTES), which some of you may have completed. And so far, the results are outstanding. We surveyed this summer's participants and more than 90% of the respondents said they feel more confident in using the OTES process as a result of the training and, more importantly, that the concepts and skills they acquired during the sessions will help them to improve student learning. This is an important finding because the overriding goal of Ohio's new evaluation model is the improvement of practice and the development of opportunities for continuous learning by educators at all experience levels. Please note that all evaluators must attend training and pass an examination before they can evaluate teachers under the new evaluation requirements. For more information on OTES training dates and locations and to register for the training, click [here](#).

I hope you, your principals and you teachers are taking advantage of these opportunities. In addition, I hope to see you at the next round of BASA regional meetings in early August.

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

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 – Ohio students taking charge to prevent violence – Aug. 1 webinar, Mark your calendars for annual Statewide Education Conference

Congratulations – SkillsUSA students earn national recognition

For School superintendents and treasurers

Ohio students taking charge to prevent violence – Aug. 1 webinar

Two exceptional programs where Ohio students are stepping up to the plate to stop harassment, intimidation and bullying are highlights of a free webinar on Wed., Aug. 1, from 3-4 p.m.

The presentation also will describe three components that make these programs successful and identify two ways to replicate this type of program in other Ohio communities. This webinar kicks off the 2012-2013 series to improving school climate and is open to 100 participants who register on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration opens 30 minutes before each program. The webinar will be recorded and posted online after the event. Registration and links to archived webinars are available [here](#).

Mark your calendars for annual Statewide Education Conference

The Ohio Department of Education Office of Race to the Top will host Ohio's Annual Statewide Education Conference on Nov. 1-2, 2012, at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. The conference will highlight successful, innovative models and transformational initiatives that support and accelerate academic achievement and progress. Sessions will focus on education reforms that permit students to graduate college and career ready.

Congratulations

SkillsUSA students earn national recognition

Ohio students placed first in the nation in the high school division by taking home 53 high school medals in the recent SkillsUSA National Conference held in Kansas City, Missouri. They competed in 81 different contests during the competition. Two Ohio students also were elected to national offices: Marical Ryan from Warren County Career Center in Lebanon (sending school: Waynesville High School); and Natasha Osborne from Upper Valley Career Center in Piqua (sending school: Anna High School). Other notable achievements are:

- 53 total medals earned – Third overall in the nation and First in the High School Division
- 28 Gold medals – First in High School Division
- 99 Students earned SkillPoint Certificates
- 306 total attendees from Ohio
- 19 Ohio students/instructors/programs received the Presidential Volunteer Service Award
- 15 students/advisors participated in the TimberlandPro service project
- 19 students/advisors served on the National Courtesy Corps.

Congratulations to all of the Ohio participants.



Teens “paint the town” – More than 200 students from 32 schools around Ohio took part in a service project in Glouster last Wednesday. Teens with Ohio SkillsUSA spruced up small businesses and homes in the once-thriving coal mining town. The project was part of the 2012 Summer Leadership Camp for students who take part in the SkillsUSA program, which reinforces knowledge and skills in community service, leadership and workplace competency.

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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