

July 31, 2012

Good Afternoon,

As you may know, many questions were raised last week about reporting attendance data through the EMIS system. A statewide review of district reporting practices is now underway. I urge you to review the extensive guidance contained in the EMIS manual with any staff in your district involved in evaluating, coding or entering student data. A prompt and thorough review will guarantee that your district's information is reported timely, accurately and honestly. We can accept no lesser standard.

Questions or concerns about these issues should be directed to the ODE Ombudsman who will gather inquiries and ensure they are routed to the proper office for a prompt reply. If you know of any improper activity, including improper attendance data practices, please report it to the Ombudsman by calling, toll-free, 1-877-644-6338 or via email at pete.lupiba@education.ohio.gov.

On behalf of Ohio's children, thank you 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 – PARCC releases draft college ready policies and descriptors for public review and comment through Sept. 21, 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) grants awarded

For curriculum directors, teachers and school counselors – Health education curricula training scheduled, Ohio will participate in 2012-2013 Green Ribbon Schools

Congratulations – Zanesville teacher invited to White House roundtable discussion

For School superintendents and treasurers

PARCC releases draft college ready policies and descriptors for public review and comment through Sept. 21

Ohio has joined the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) for the creation of the new state assessments in English and mathematics. PARCC has released two draft policies related to the new assessments:

1. The PARCC policy for making college-ready determinations in English language arts/literacy and mathematics; and
2. Draft policy-level performance-level descriptors (PLDs) and general content-level PLDs for the

PARCC assessments.

The drafts can be found online by clicking [here](#).

These policies and descriptors are key to determining the performance expectations students must meet in English language arts and mathematics for each grade level to demonstrate their degree of readiness for entry-level credit-bearing college courses. It is important that these readiness descriptors, currently identified as Levels 1-5, are a meaningful measure that teachers, parents and students can be used to gauge their readiness for the rigors of college.

PARCC is requesting public feedback of the policies that will be incorporated into the final recommendation to be presented to its Governing Board. Ohio is a member state on that Board. District-level comments will be very important as the Governing Board considers final adoption of the performance-level descriptors this fall.

School districts are encouraged to provide comments and suggestions for making the policies and descriptors as user-friendly as possible to PARCC no later than Sept. 21. The online Ohio-specific survey is available by clicking [here](#).

21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) grants awarded

ODE has announced that 75 school districts and community organizations have been selected to receive approximately \$14.9 million in federal funds for 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) programs for the 2012-2013 school year.

The funds provide high-quality before- and after-school programs primarily to children of high poverty and low academic achievement. The programs focus on reading, math and family involvement activities. They also engage participants in enrichment activities in areas such as sports, science, technology, arts and crafts.

The 75 recipients are new to the program, and were selected to receive up to \$200,000 each annually for the first three years of the grant's five-year cycle. During the fourth and fifth year, funding will be reduced as recipients prepare to sustain their programs after the grant ends. With this year's awards, a total of more than 110 organizations are conducting 270 programs as part of five-year grants that have started each year in Ohio since 2002. New grant recipients are listed [here](#) under the *Applicant and Recipient* list at the bottom of the page.

Ohio will participate in 2012-2013 Green Ribbon Schools

Ohio committed to the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) that our state will participate in the 2012-2013 Green Ribbon Schools competition. Green Ribbon Schools recognize and honor schools that are exemplary in reducing environmental impact and costs, improving the health and wellness of students and staff, and providing effective environmental and sustainability education, which incorporates STEM, civic skills and green career pathways.

Ohio's application will be available in early September, with an application deadline of Nov. 15, 2012. In this second year of the program, states will be able to nominate one district for this recognition. Interested schools and districts can review the applications from last year's winners – Loveland High School and North Adams Elementary School – as well as information about the national award program. This [Web page](#) will be updated as the application is developed and more resources become available.

For curriculum directors, teachers and school counselors

Health education curricula training scheduled

Health educators and curriculum directors/coordinators are invited to attend two one-day programs on the Characteristics of Effective Health Education. The trainings are presented by the Ohio Educational Service Center Association (OESCA) and are designed to teach educators how to develop curriculum,

training units and lesson plans that focus on building the critical thinking and decision-making skills that students need to establish good health behaviors.

Trainings will include an introduction to the newly released 2012 Health Education Curriculum Analysis Tool (HECAT). Dr. Susan Telljohann, the only Ohioan to serve as a writer of the National Health Education Standards and a lead author of the original and revised HECAT, will be the facilitator.

The trainings will be held Thursday, Aug. 9 and Friday, Oct. 5 at the Ohio School Boards Association Building, 8050 N. High St. in Columbus. For more information, contact Cecilia Burford at cburford@oesca.org.

Congratulations

Zanesville teacher invited to White House roundtable discussion

West Muskingum High School physics teacher Tami Fitzgerald was one of five National Board Certified teachers to be a part of a White House roundtable discussion last week. The event was part of the kickoff for President Obama's plan to create a national STEM Master Teacher Corps. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering and mathematics. They met with Education Secretary Arne Duncan and other education officials to discuss how to build an effective national program.

In June, Tami received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching at an event in Washington. Congratulations, Tami.

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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