

June 11, 2012

Good Afternoon,

Most of you have put the finishing touches on the 2011-2012 school year and are now entering the hectic schedule that most people think of as your “summer break.” I’m sure that you are either making personnel decisions, engaging in collective bargaining, planning for a levy campaign or overseeing facilities work to make sure that everything is ready for the return of students and staff in the fall. I hope you will be able to find some time for yourself as well.

This summer, ODE will be conducting three-day educator evaluator training sessions statewide. Times, locations and registration information can be found in STARS. I encourage all administrators who play a role in the evaluation process to take advantage of one of these opportunities now before the system takes effect in the 2013-2014 school year. You can learn more about these sessions and hear what several Ohio educators have to say about the training and the system by clicking [here](#).

Thank you for all you continue to do for Ohio’s children.

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 – Webcasts to explain changes in federal funding, OTES model and resources available, Apply now for Dropout Prevention and Recovery Program waiver, Pilot program launched for helmet replacement and education

For curriculum directors, teachers and school counselors – Get your school safety plan ready for 2012-2013

Congratulations – Ohio schools receive Schools of Character recognition

For School superintendents and treasurers

Webcasts to explain changes in federal funding

Ohio’s NCLB waiver eliminates the troubled Supplemental Educational Service (SES) program and returns the funds back to districts and community schools. The funds can now be used for interventions outlined in a school’s improvement plan, including interventions for the third-grade reading guarantee. Plan to join an Ohio Department of Education webcast to review guidelines and requirements for Ohio’s SES program and funding accessibility. Webcasts will be Tuesday, June 19, 2-3 p.m. and Wednesday, June 20, 10-11 a.m. (same webcast both days). No registration is required. Webcast details will be distributed to superintendents later this week and will be in the June 18 EdConnection.

OTES model and resources available

Over the past several months, the Ohio Department of Education has successfully piloted its Ohio Teacher Evaluation System (OTES) model with a number of districts and schools throughout the state. After evaluating the feedback from those in the pilot, the model is ready to be rolled out statewide and is available on the ODE website for schools to begin their planning for implementation.

The site also provides a number of resources that can be used with OTES. To view the model, as well as resources, frequently asked questions and other valuable OTES information, click [here](#).

Apply now for Dropout Prevention and Recovery Program waiver

Ohio school districts, community schools and chartered nonpublic schools may apply now for a Dropout Prevention and Recovery Program (DPRP) waiver that will allow Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to establish a program to allow students to graduate from high school without meeting the new Ohio Core Graduation requirements. The application period for the DPRP waiver will run through Sept. 28, 2012.

Senate Bill 311, enacted in 2007 by the 126th General Assembly, allows at-risk students to complete a competency-based instructional program rather than the Ohio core curriculum. Applications may be submitted via email **only**.

For more information about the DPRP waiver application, click [here](#).

Pilot program launched for helmet replacement and education

Northern Ohio is one of four areas in the country chosen to participate in a pilot program for youth football safety and helmet replacement. The *Heads Up* pilot program from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention has joined with numerous sports entities and equipment manufacturers (see list below) to launch a youth football safety and helmet replacement program for youth in underserved communities. The effort is expected to educate thousands of youth football coaches on vital health and safety issues, including [concussion](#), and provide nearly 13,000 new helmets to youth football players in low-income communities beginning in July 2012.

To help get concussion information into the hands of coaches, resources on how to prevent, recognize, and respond to a suspected concussion are incorporated throughout the program.

In its first year, the helmet replacement and education program also is being piloted in the California Bay Area, the Gulf Coast region and the tri-state region around New York City.

Learn More

- [Helmet Replacement Program](#)
- [CDC Heads Up Educational Materials](#)

Partners:

NFL, NFL Players Association, USA Football, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Athletic Equipment Reconditioners Association (NAERA), NCAA, National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE), Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association (SGMA), Rawlings, Riddell, Schutt, and Xenith is supported by U.S Consumer Product Safety Commission

For curriculum directors, teachers and school counselors

Get your school safety plan ready for 2012-2013

Prevent, Prepare, Respond, Recover – Ohio educators, first responders, local law enforcement and community organizations are invited to the 2012 Ohio Safe Schools Summit on July 24 at the Quest Business Conference Center in Columbus. The goal of this one-day event is to share best practices and promote collaboration to keep schools safe. National, state and district presenters will bring knowledge, experience and real-life perspectives to the table. Attendees will have the opportunity to apply what they've heard in practical small-group exercises and to return to their districts with information to build or

improve school safety plans required in state law.

Sponsors include ODE, Attorney General Mike DeWine and Great Lakes East Comprehensive Center. Other participating agencies are the Ohio departments of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, Health, Mental Health and Public Safety, as well as Ohio Family and Children First and the Ohio School Boards Association. There is no fee, but [Registration](#) is required.

Congratulations

Ohio schools receive Schools of Character recognition

Congratulations to Hamilton City Schools, which is the only school district in the country to be named a National District of Character by the Character Education Partnership (CEP) in Washington, D.C. The award recognizes schools and districts that demonstrate that character development has had a positive impact on academics, student behavior and school climate.

Hamilton City's program focuses on compassion, personal responsibility, honesty, respect and acceptance. These traits are woven into classroom, school and community activities. Students set weekly classroom learning goals, participate in service projects and develop leadership skills through school and extracurricular activities.

Hamilton has been recognized as an Ohio District of Character since 2010. Three of the district's schools also won Promising Practices awards, which showcase innovative best practices in character education. They join 297 Promising Practice winners, including seven other Ohio schools. All will be honored at the CEP's National Forum Nov. 1-3 in Washington, D.C.

The Promising Practices schools and their projects are:

Cincinnati – Saint Veronica School – Saint Veronica Spirit Families

Hamilton – Hamilton City Schools

Hamilton Freshman School – Bullying Awareness and Relationship-Building Day

Ridgeway Elementary School – Character Education Days for K-3

Wilson Middle School – Green Initiative – Inspiring Young Earth Stewards

Imagine Schools

Cleveland – Imagine Bella Academy of Excellence – Crucial Catch

Columbus – Imagine Great Western Academy – Bear Buddies

Columbus – Imagine Harrisburg Pike Community School – Data-Driven Decisions and Character Education

Toledo – Imagine Madison Avenue School of Arts – TNT is Blowing Up Character Education

Kent – Theodore Roosevelt High School – A Freshman Transition Program

Toledo – Washington Local Schools – Hiawatha Elementary School – Adventures with Tim

For more information about the Ohio program, 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.

Follow our new Facebook page for Ohio families by clicking [here](#).

Follow ODE's Twitter feed by clicking [here](#).