

June 18, 2012

Good Afternoon,

As a former superintendent, I know that all of you have a summer “to do” list of items to be addressed before the start of the next school year. Over the last few weeks, there have been a few major developments, specifically: (1) the approval of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act Flexibility waiver and (2) the passage of SB 316, which among other things, establishes the Third Grade Reading Guarantee; both of which include items for your to do lists if they are not ready there. I am providing you with what I think are the pressing items from both the waiver and the Third Grade Reading Guarantee that should be addressed before school starts.

With Ohio’s approval of the ESEA Flexibility Waiver, districts will have flexibility from sanctions and reporting requirements previously mandated in ESEA. In order to receive this flexibility, Ohio has agreed to adapt college-and-career-ready expectations, dedicate more resources to close sub-group achievement gaps and implement an evaluation system that will support effective instruction and leadership.

Waiver “To Do” list

- Evaluate current progress on the transition to the new standards and develop and follow a plan to meet full implementation by the 2013-14 school year. ODE’s transition timeline can be found [here](#) and information on professional development and implementation is available [here](#).
- Set aside 20% of Title I District Allocation funds to schools identified as Priority and Focus schools. (**Note:** If you have Title 1- served schools identified as Alert, Low Performing or are in High, Medium or Low Support, you must also set aside 20 percent of the District Allocation funds for FY 13 only.)
- Use information and resources identified during the ESEA Flexibility Waiver webinar on June 19 and 20 (see item below for times) to develop goals for student improvement.
- Use the “Are You Ready?” report that will be released later this summer, to project performance on the new generation of assessments. These projections are based on current achievement scores compared to NAEP performance level of “proficient.”
- Attend one of the Principal & Teacher Evaluator trainings this summer or during the 2012-13 school year. Times, locations and registration information can be found in STARS.

As passed, the Third Grade Reading Guarantee provides a map for readiness, diagnostics and services to ensure kids have the reading fundamentals they need well before they reach third grade. Here are a few highlights of the provision.

The Third Grade Reading Guarantee:

- Ties promotion to the fourth grade to achieving a score, to be established by the Ohio State Board of Education, that demonstrates proficiency on the third grade reading achievement assessment;
- Provides some exemptions for special education and English as a second language students;
- Establishes criteria for children retained in third grade under this provision, including intense reading remediation of at least 90 minutes per day, instruction from a high-performing teacher and the option for mid-year promotion, should proficiency be established.

Third Grade Reading Guarantee “To Do” list

- Develop a K-3 reading diagnostic and reading improvement plan to identify and remedy reading deficiencies prior to third grade.
- Develop a parental notification process to inform families of students reading below grade level of the services being provided and the requirements to be promoted to fourth grade.

ODE is developing a Web page containing links to resources that districts can use to develop robust reading diagnostic and improvement programs to ensure reading issues are addressed well before fourth grade.

While this page should be available in the next few weeks, you can begin to explore the following resources:

- For PARCC Model Content Frameworks, click [here](#).
- For Common Core Standards in ELA, click [here](#).
- For assistance for K-3 teachers to navigate and use the Ohio Diagnostic Assessment System, interpret student scores and select appropriate activities, click [here](#).
- For reading resources geared to families, click [here](#).
- For reading resources geared to educators, click [here](#).
- For Get It, Got It, Go, a quick, efficient and repeatable tool that is useful in measuring children's risk and progress in critical language and early literacy indicators, click [here](#).

I will send you a follow up message when the system is fully operational.

Thank you for all you 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 on June 19-20 to explain changes from ESEA flexibility waiver, Beyond Boundaries Web page offers action plan for shared services, Revised content standards adopted in five areas, Free workshop offered on becoming a School of Character

Congratulations – Students advance to Skills USA competition in Germany

For School superintendents and treasurers

Webcasts on June 19-20 to explain changes from the ESEA flexibility waiver

Ohio's No Child Left Behind (NCLB) waiver eliminates the troubled Supplemental Educational Service (SES) program and returns the funds back to districts and community schools. The funds now can be used for interventions outlined in a school's improvement plan.

Plan to join an Ohio Department of Education webcast to review guidelines and requirements for changes needed for your FY13 Title I application, which is due July 1, 2012. Webcasts will be Tuesday, June 19, from 2-3 p.m. and Wednesday, June 20, from 10-11 a.m. (same webcast both days).

Pre-registration is not required. The webcasts will open 15 minutes before the start times. Audio and video will be broadcast through the computer, so Javascript and Cookies need to be enabled to access the webcast. Questions can be directed to evc@arkadin.com.

On the day of the desired webcast, use this registration [link](#) to enter the June 19 webcast and this [link](#) for the June 20 webcast.

Information on new gifted performance indicator posted

As you may know, the State Board of Education recently adopted an indicator for gifted performance that will appear on Local Report Cards. The indicator will include a measure reflecting the level of services provided to gifted students and a measure reflecting the performance of certain gifted students on the Ohio Achievement Assessments and the Ohio Graduation Test. For more information, please click [here](#).

Beyond Boundaries Web page offers action plan for shared services

Late last week, the Ohio Office of Budget Management launched [BeyondBoundaries.ohio.gov](#), which contains an action plan, promising practices and examples of shared services for school districts and local governments. It also includes 10 recommendations to help schools and governments to find ways to create shared service opportunities identify barriers and ensure the quality of services provided. The plan is a comprehensive study that is designed to identify recommendations, potential collaborations and needed changes to the overall way of doing business in Ohio's public sector. It shows how local leaders can benefit by shared service opportunities and provides a roadmap for taking the next steps to succeed.

Revised content standards adopted in five areas

At its June meeting, the State Board of Education adopted several sets of newly revised content standards that were developed over the past two years. Many stakeholders throughout Ohio representing the education, business and professional sectors actively contributed to the revision process for these standards. Their participation informed the process and resulted in instructional guidelines that will better prepare students to contribute to a 21st century global community. Full implementation of these revised standards will take place during the 2014-2015 academic year. ODE's focus will turn now to the creation of a companion model curriculum for each area with a completion target of summer 2013. The revised standards are:

- **Fine arts** – Four sets of K-12 revised standards were adopted (in dance, drama/theatre, music and visual art) and are posted [here](#), along with participants of the working groups;
- **World languages** – These standards will guide instruction in all languages taught in Ohio's K-12 settings, including modern, classical and American sign languages. Along with an introductory PowerPoint presentation, these K-12 standards will be posted [here](#) in early July.

Three sets of business/financial standards posted [here](#) are those in:

- **Financial Literacy**, which will guide the integration of economics and financial literacy instruction within social studies classes or another class in middle or high school;
- **Entrepreneurship**, which will help K-12 students understand entrepreneurship's role in American economics and identify the personal interests, skills and abilities necessary to become an entrepreneur; and
- **Business Education**, which outlines learning expectations for traditional high school instruction encompassing business law, accounting, international business, business communication, marketing, economics, business management, information technology and 21st century skill development.

Free workshop offered on becoming a School of Character

Ohio Partners in Education will offer a free workshop on how to become a National or State national School of Character (NSOC/SSOC) on Thursday, Aug. 16 in Dublin. The workshop is open to all K-12

administrators and teachers in both public and private schools in the state.

The program promotes character development that has a positive impact on academics, student behavior and school climate. In addition to information about the state and national programs, participants will receive self-assessment tools to use to develop a school improvement plan and guidance on completing a successful SSOC application.

Registration is free, but you must be registered to attend. For more information, contact Lucy Frontera at lucy.frontera@charactereducation.org or call (614) 893-9971.

Congratulations

Students advance to Skills USA competition in Germany

Three Ohio students have been selected by SkillsUSA to compete in a World Team competition in Leipzig, Germany in July 2013. This year's SkillsUSA challenge in Ohio was highly competitive, with more than 2,200 participants from 95 schools. These teens will be among more than 1,000 competitors from 53 countries, including a team of 19 from the United States.

Congratulations to:

- Antony Costantini and Jarrod Nichols, graduates of Clyde High School from Vanguard-Sentinel Career and Technology Center, Sandusky County – Mechatronics; and
- Christopher Kuhn, graduate of Brookside High School from Lorain County JVS - Refrigeration (HVACR)

The SkillsUSA Ohio Championships is a great example of how our schools are preparing students to meet the workforce needs for a variety of Ohio employers. Mechatronics is an interdisciplinary area of engineering that combines mechanical and electrical engineering and computer science. These students will train for a year in preparation for the international competition.

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](#).