

June 25, 2012

Good Afternoon,

As you begin the close-out of the current fiscal year and the start-up of the new school year, I want to thank you for your leadership in delivering school improvements during these tough economic times. I know that you have a full plate, and I appreciate your dedication to improving the educational opportunities for all of the students you serve.

This week's EdConnection contains a few things going on that you might be interested in knowing about.

Thank you for all you do for Ohio's children. Enjoy what you can of the summer.

Sincerely,



Stan W. Heffner

**Note: *EdConnection* will be taking a two-week summer break of its own, returning with the July 16 edition. If any urgent news arises during that time, we will share it with you via other distribution channels.**

- **The *EdConnection* Editors**

**For School superintendents and treasurers – REMINDER:** Deadline for submitting PARCC Technology Readiness Tool data is June 29; ESEA Flexibility Waiver; 2011-2012 School Year Graduation Rate Supplementary EMIS Data Submission Information; Teacher Evaluation System – Description about Approved Assessments Updated; Application deadline for simplified USDA School Meals option is June 30

**For curriculum directors, teachers and school counselors –** Ohio Innovative Learning Environments conference – Bridging the Knowing-Doing Gap of Innovative Practice, July 30 to Aug. 3; Children's Defense Fund hosts national conference, July 22-25, in Cincinnati.

### ***For School superintendents and treasurers***

#### ***REMINDER: Deadline for submitting PARCC Technology Readiness Tool data is June 29***

The first data collection window for the SBAC-PARCC Technology Readiness Tool closes on June 29. As of last week, only 6.9 percent of the participating Ohio school districts have formally submitted their results for review. ODE suspects that, while some districts are working to complete this process, the completion rate is artificially low because districts that have completed the TRT have not formally indicated that their data is ready for review. If your district has completed the TRT process, please go back to the school surveys for each school in your district and make sure you have selected "yes" under "Data Entry Submission Status." Your help in this matter is greatly appreciated because the data collected from this tool will give PARCC states and districts a snapshot of their readiness for computer-based assessment in 2014-15. It also will help ODE create statewide strategies to address local needs. The [Ohio State Resource Coordinator Team](#) can address further questions or technical concerns you may have.

### ***ESEA Flexibility Waiver***

Those who were unable to attend the June 19 and 20 webcasts addressing the elimination of the troubled Supplemental Educational Service (SES) program and the return of funds back to districts and community schools can view the webcast recording and other materials [here](#).

### ***2011-2012 School Year Graduation Rate Supplementary EMIS Data Submission Information***

On the August 2012 Local Report Card, the first Four-Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate for the graduating class of 2011 will be displayed and officially used for accountability purposes. This new Four-Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate is being required of all states by the U.S. Department of Education. This rate identifies graduates as only students who earn a high school diploma within four years of entering the ninth grade for the first time. Although this rate was calculated and reported on the 2010-2011 school year Local Report Cards in Ohio, it was not used for accountability purposes. The adjusted-cohort Graduation Rate is calculated by counting the number of students who graduate in four or fewer years in the numerator of the calculation. The denominator comprises the number of students in the original group of first time ninth graders —adjusted to include students who move into or out of the district or school building.

The Ohio Department of Education recognizes that the process of creating and adjusting graduation cohorts is critical. A problem could arise when a district or school building is unable to make necessary adjustments because the appropriate EMIS reporting period has closed. There are two basic requirements under which a district or school building may utilize a supplementary EMIS data submission process for making graduation cohort adjustments:

- 1) During the appropriate EMIS reporting period, an LEA reports a withdrawal code and reason for a student that keeps the student in the denominator of the graduation rate calculation; **and**
- 2) After the appropriate EMIS reporting period has closed, the LEA obtains evidence indicating that a different withdrawal code and reason that removes the student from the denominator of the graduation rate calculation should have been reported for the student.

To request a graduation cohort adjustment, an LEA must fill out the *2011-2012 School Year Graduation Rate Supplementary EMIS Data Submission Form* in its entirety and submit it to ODE via e-mail by Friday, July 20, 2012. Only one student and one adjustment request may be included on each form. Please click [here](#) to obtain the form and information for requesting cohort adjustment. Any questions about this data submission may be directed to ODE's Office of Accountability at (614) 728-4510 or [accountability@education.ohio.gov](mailto:accountability@education.ohio.gov)

### ***Teacher Evaluation System – Description of Approved Assessments Updated***

Fifty percent of Ohio's Teacher and Principal Evaluation System is based on student growth. This component includes multiple measures. In addition to value-added data for ELA and mathematics in grades 4-8, the Ohio Department of Education provides a list of assessments that can measure student growth in non-OAA grades. This list will be updated annually. Recently, [information](#) was updated for clarity.

### ***Application deadline for simplified USDA school meals option is June 30***

The Community Eligibility Option (CEO) will increase the number of free breakfasts and lunches available to all students at qualifying schools and local education agencies (LEAs) in high-poverty areas. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) National School Lunch Program chose Ohio and several other states to take part in CEO, which will improve accessibility to free meals by removing the need for families to complete applications and expanding eligibility to all students at participating schools and LEAs. It also reduces administrative paperwork and will speed up lunch lines at school.

Schools and LEAs eligible to apply for CEO are those with at least 40 percent of their students from families enrolled in several existing programs for low-income families. Among these programs are the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as the food stamp program) and

Ohio Works First, which are administered by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. Schools and LEAs that have 62 percent or more of their student body as identified students will receive 100 percent of the federal reimbursement rate for free breakfast and lunch provided to all students. Those whose identified students make up 40-61 percent of the student population will receive reimbursements based on a sliding scale formula.

To participate this fall, superintendents must sign and return the CEO agreement and the participation listing by June 30. These documents, as well as a recorded webinar, a worksheet to determine reimbursement rates and answers to frequently asked questions are posted on the program's [Web page](#). Questions may be directed to the Office for Child Nutrition at (800) 808-6325.

### ***For curriculum directors, teachers and school counselors***

#### ***Ohio Innovative Learning Environments conference – Bridging the Knowing-Doing Gap of Innovative Practice, July 30 to Aug. 3***

Learn from more than 100 breakout sessions from ODE consultants and Ohio educators addressing conference strands that include: inquiry-based instruction and assessment; transformative leadership; global education; college, career and community connections; and technology-supported learning. Featured presenters will include David Conley, Jim Popham, Robyn Jackson, Ken O'Conner, Asia Society, Buck Institute for Education (PBL), and Kristin Kipp, 2011 national online teacher of the year.

Teacher stipends (up to \$220), contact hours for continuing education and/or graduate credit options are available. The conference is co-sponsored by ODE, the Ohio Network for Education Transformation, Ohio STEM Learning Network, Hilliard City Schools and the Educational Service Center of Central Ohio. The cost is \$30 per day or \$99 for the week. For more information and to register, click [here](#). ([www.ileohio.org](http://www.ileohio.org)).

#### ***Children's Defense Fund hosts national conference, July 22-25, in Cincinnati***

*Pursuing Justice for Children and the Poor with Urgency and Persistence* is the theme. More than 60 workshops will focus on the latest research, best practices and community building models, as well as community and youth empowerment strategies to close the gap between what works and what actually happens for our most vulnerable—children and the poor. More conference information [here](#); registration [here](#).

### ***Congratulations***

Hats off to 14 Ohio Schools that are receiving national awards in July for their achievements in High Schools that Work (HSTW) and Making Middle Grades Work (MMGW) initiatives. Together the programs provide a school improvement model that produces students who are well-equipped for high school, college and careers.

Ohio schools made up 25 percent of the 54 award winners, which were selected from more than 1,200 participating sites in 30 states and the District of Columbia.

Ten Ohio HSTW high schools won across three award categories:

#### ***Platinum High Achievement Schools***

Little Miami High School, Maineville  
Sylvania Northview High School, Sylvania  
Bellevue High School, Bellevue

#### ***Gold Achievement Award***

Bethel-Tate High School, Bethel  
Talawanda High School, Oxford  
Van Wert High School, Van Wert

*Gold Improvement Award*

Collins Career Center, Ironton  
Hardin Northern High School, Dola  
Mahoning County Career and Technical Center, Canfield  
Morgan High School, McConnellsville

Four Ohio schools received the MMGW *Depth of Implementation Award*:

Bloom-Carroll Middle School, Carroll  
Shroder High School, Cincinnati (Grades 7-12)  
Patrick Henry Middle School, Hamler  
Northwestern Middle School, New Salem

For more information about the Ohio HSTW, click [here](#); for more on MMGW in Ohio, click [here](#).

**Congratulations to schools in a total of nine traditional school districts and one community school** that are receiving [AVID grant funding](#) in Ohio. They are Botkins Local Schools, Brooklyn City Schools, Cincinnati Public Schools, Columbus Public Schools, Fairlawn Local Schools, Fairport Harbor Exempted Village Schools, Hicksville Exempted Village Schools, Maple Heights City Schools, Toledo Public Schools and A+ Arts Academy Community School.

Advancement via Individual Determination (AVID) is a systemic instructional and achievement program for students in Grades 4 through 12 and post-secondary. The AVID college readiness system is designed to increase the number of students who enroll in four-year colleges and succeed in postsecondary education and training. Consistently, more than 98 percent of AVID high school seniors graduate from high school and more than 71 percent are accepted to four-year colleges.

*ODE is interested in your thoughts about how EdConnection fulfills your information needs. Please send any comments or suggestions to [Superintendent@education.ohio.gov](mailto:Superintendent@education.ohio.gov).*

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