

March 26, 2012

Good Afternoon:

Last week, Governor Kasich signed an [Executive Order](#) creating the Employment First Task Force, which is charged with promoting meaningful employment opportunities in the community for people with developmental disabilities. A key component of this initiative introduced in the Mid-biennium Review, requires that an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) for each disabled student, beginning at age 14, include a strategy for learning about and preparing for employment by establishing postsecondary community employment goals. This is an important part of our overall commitment to ensure that all students are prepared for their next steps when they graduate.

The deadline for nominations for the 2012-2013 Ohio Teacher of the Year award has been extended to May 1. I encourage all superintendents and principals to nominate a deserving preK-12 classroom teacher from your district. The short nomination form can be completed online and emailed to ODE. To review program details and nominate a teacher, please click [here](#).

Thanks for your continuing efforts on behalf of Ohio's children. Make it a great week.

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 – Please complete survey on transition to new standards, Documents on Student Growth Measures available, Food and beverage compliance report due, Reminder - Annual statewide tornado drill scheduled is March 28

For curriculum directors, administrators, teachers and counselors – Training date announced for Master Teacher scoring, ELL guidance posted on ODE website, Body Mass Index information available

For school superintendents and treasurers

Please complete survey on transition to new standards

Building level administrators and/or curriculum supervisors are asked to complete a survey to provide information to the ODE on their progress and success in transitioning and implementing Ohio's College and Career Ready Standards. This information will inform ODE's work as they provide support, resources and tools during the transition. Please complete the survey at this [link](#). Thank you for your assistance with this effort.

Documents on Student Growth Measures available

The Ohio Teacher Evaluation System will provide educators with a richer and more detailed view of their performance, with a focus on specific strengths and opportunities for improvement.

The new system relies on two key evaluation components, each weighted at 50 percent: a rating of teacher performance (based on classroom observations and other factors), and a rating of student academic growth. Documents explaining the teacher performance aspect of the evaluation system will be available soon. The following documents that explain the student growth measures component of the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System are now available [here](#) or you can go to the ODE [website](#) and search keywords: *Educator Evaluation*.

- Student Growth Measures overview
- ODE-Approved List of Assessments
- Student Learning Objectives information
- Steps for Designing a Local Student Growth Measures Plan

Food and beverage compliance report due

Ohio Revised Code Section 3313.814 requires schools to report their organization's compliance with standards governing the types of foods and beverages sold on school premises. To fulfill your reporting requirements, you must log into your SAFE account and complete the survey, "Certification of Standards Governing Types of Foods and Beverages Sold on School Premises."

If you are the principal of more than one private school, or the superintendent of more than one district or community school, you must complete a separate survey for each organization. The survey can be found in [SAFE](#) under "FSL - Forms and Surveys List."

Reminder - Annual statewide tornado drill scheduled is March 28

The statewide tornado drill will be held at 9:50 a.m. on Wednesday, March 28. Ohio [law](#) requires schools to participate in the drill so that they are prepared in the event of severe weather. Schools are encouraged to work with their county Emergency Management Agency to prepare for this important safety drill.

The statewide tornado drill is held each year during Severe Weather Awareness week, which is designated this year as March 25-31. Each spring, floods, tornadoes, severe thunderstorms and severe winter storms can pose threats to people and property throughout the state.

Each spring, the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness provides [safety information and tips](#) on how to reduce the impact of severe weather hazards.

For curriculum directors, administrators, teachers and counselors

Training date announced for Master Teacher scoring

ODE's Office of Educator Effectiveness has scheduled a training session on Tuesday, April 24, at the Worthington Education Center to provide a brief overview of the Master Teacher designation and process, and scoring training for Master Teacher committee members. This session is meant for personnel that are new to the Master Teacher process. Register for training in STARS, via [SAFE Sign-in](#). Enter Master Teacher in the keyword box.

ELL guidance posted on ODE website

ODE's English Language Learner (ELL) consultants, with the assistance of the Ohio ELL Advisory Committee, have developed the document titled *Information and Guidelines from the Lau Resource Center*, which is available [here](#). This resource provides definitions of terms, as well as guidance on a range of topics related to the education of ELLs.

Body Mass Index information available

ODE's Office of Family and Community Support has posted two PowerPoint slide shows that provide information for Ohio schools regarding Body Mass Index (BMI) requirements and screenings. The first provides an overview of the Healthy Choices for Healthy Children Act and outlines the BMI requirements for schools, as well as BMI screening guidance from the Ohio Department of Health.

The second provides more details on BMI as a new indicator on the Local Report Card, which is required by law to be in place for the 2012-2013 school year. The slide shows are located near the bottom of ODE's Office of Family and Community Support [Web page](#).

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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