

May 14, 2012

Good Afternoon,

In the last few weeks, the Ohio General Assembly has been actively addressing bills relating to the Mid-biennium Budget Review (MBR) of the state budget. The legislation identifies and revises budget items enacted last year and reform existing education policy.

House Bill 487, which addresses much of the management efficiency framework in the MBR revisions, was passed by the House on April 27. A summary of the education related items in the bill can be seen [here](#). This bill is now in the Senate Finance Committee for consideration.

Senate Bill 316, which contains the education policy portions of the MBR, was amended and passed by the Senate last week. It has been assigned to the House Education Committee, with its first hearing scheduled for May 15. You can see a summary of the changes made by the Senate [here](#).

Things are moving quickly and we will likely see more changes before the bills come up for a final vote. You can keep up to date on the status of these and other education-related bills by checking [here](#) regularly.

I also wanted to let you know that Ohio is one of the states leading the development of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Based upon "[A National Framework for K-12 Science Education](#)," the first public draft of the NGSS document is now available for review [here](#).

I encourage you to share this opportunity with all interested science educators and professional scientists or engineers. We have developed a [webcast](#) to explain the review process. This is a great opportunity for Ohio to continue in a leadership role by developing rigorous science standards that will prepare students to face the knowledge expectations for success after graduation and in their choice of college and careers.

Thank you on behalf of Ohio's children for all you do. 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 – Districts sought for dyslexia pilot for early screening and intervention services, Register now for Educator Evaluation Symposium, Free Assistive Technology conference scheduled June 2, Help stop prescription drug abuse in Ohio, Save the date for Ohio Parent Forum on Oct. 13

For curriculum directors, teachers and school counselors – Advanced Placement (AP) Summer Workshops announced

Congratulations – Financial Literacy Steering Committee members recognized

For School superintendents and treasurers

Districts sought for dyslexia pilot for early screening and intervention services

ODE's Office for Exceptional Children is seeking six districts to participate in a pilot project to provide early screening and intervention services for children with risk factors for dyslexia. The pilot must run for three full school years, starting in 2012-2013 school year. At least one district must be in an urban setting, one in a suburban setting and one in a rural setting. The pilot

The pilot is the result of House Bill 96, which requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to establish a pilot project involving school districts to provide early screening and intervention services for children with risk factors for dyslexia. The goal of the pilot project is to evaluate the effectiveness of early screening and reading assistance programs for children at risk for reading failure including those students exhibiting risk factors associated with dyslexia and to evaluate whether those programs can reduce future special education costs.

OEC will also be conducting a formal evaluation to determine whether to continue, expand or make changes to the pilot project. Awardees are required to participate in the evaluation as part of their involvement in the Dyslexia Pilot Project.

Interested districts and community schools may apply by 5 p.m. on May 25. Selected districts will be notified by June 8. To apply for the project, or for more information, click [here](#) or contact [Wendy Stoica](#) by email or at (614) 644-7307.

Register now for Educator Evaluation Symposium

The May 25 Ohio Educator Evaluation Symposium is just around the corner and thousands of educators from around Ohio are expected to attend. New breakout sessions are being added for what promises to be a rewarding and worthwhile day of learning. To learn more and to register, click [here](#).

Free Assistive Technology conference scheduled June 2

Students who are blind or visually impaired, their parents and the professionals who serve them are invited to a free Assistive Technology conference on Saturday, June 2. The event will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the ESC of Central Ohio, 2080 Citygate Drive in Columbus.

Assistive Technology vendors focusing on braille literacy, writing, reading, communication, math, science and more will be available all day to demonstrate products and answer your questions. Breakout sessions with in-depth, hands-on information (refer to the attached agenda). Box lunches will be provided.

The event is sponsored by the BEST Grant and its collaborative partners: Center for Instructional Supports and Accessible Materials (CISAM); the Ohio State School for the Blind and the Ohio Center for Deafblind Education.

Although registration is free, attendees must register in advance. The registration deadline is May 25. For more information, including a registration form, visit the [CISAM website](#).

Help stop prescription drug abuse in Ohio

On average, four Ohioans die every day from a drug overdose. The abuse of prescription pain medications and heroin, both classified as opiates, is epidemic in Ohio. Schools can be part of the solution to this problem. Through a new service of the Ohio Attorney General's Office, anyone can make a confidential, toll-free call to report people they suspect are prescribing or distributing prescription drugs inappropriately. The number is (855)-BCI-OHIO (224-6446). You also can download a prescription drug abuse [fact and tip card](#), as well as a [poster](#) to display in your schools. Please share this information – your call might just save a life.

Save the date for Ohio Parent Forum on Oct. 13

ODE, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Education, will host a free Parent Forum on Saturday, Oct. 13 at Bowsher High School in Toledo. This free event, hosted by the Toledo Public Schools Parent Congress, is designed to inform, educate and train parents and equip them for their roles as partners in the learning process of their children. Topics for breakout learning sessions will include bullying, early learning, special education and college and career readiness. To register, contact parent.congress@tps.org. For more information, contact ann.bohman@education.ohio.gov.

For curriculum directors, teachers and school counselors

Advanced Placement (AP) Summer Workshops announced

ODE will offer AP Summer Workshops for RttT teachers and administrators, beginning June 15 in the northeast, central and southwest regions of the state. Space is limited to 30 participants at each workshop, with no more than two teachers per school per workshop. Contact hours are available for participants.

Four-day workshops will be available for new AP programs and urban districts. One-day workshops will be available for participants working with established AP programs. For a list of workshops and the topics covered, click [here](#). Register in [STARS](#), using keywords: *Advanced Placement*. For registration questions, contact [Lisa Simpson](#) at (614) 752-8759.

Congratulations

Financial Literacy Steering Committee members recognized

Two members of ODE's Financial Literacy Steering Committee have been chosen for recognition for their work in the subject. The Committee has been instrumental in guiding the development of financial literacy and entrepreneurship content standards.

Congratulations go to both Lois Stoll of Benjamin Logan High School in Bellefontaine and Brian Page of Reading Community High School in Reading.

Lois Stoll and her student Mat Blum were chosen to attend the White House Summit on Financial Capability and Empowerment in Washington, D.C. They were selected based on information provided and the strength of the Family and Consumer Sciences Personal Finance program. Mat, a student in Stoll's Personal Finance class, scored in the top 20 percent of the nation on the recent U.S. Treasurer's Office Financial Capability Exam. Only one other student and teacher were selected for this honor.

Page has been named a *Money Hero* by Money magazine. In honor of its 40th anniversary, *Money* is featuring a year-long celebration of 40 people who have had an extraordinary impact on the financial well-being. The magazine is concentrating on everyday heroes – those whose names are not known to the general public; people whose day jobs are not necessarily about improving others' financial lives as well as people whose job centers on finance but who have gone above and beyond their job description to do something truly. There is a different theme each month; the theme for July is Financial Literacy.

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](#).

