

May 21, 2012

Good Afternoon,

Last week, I testified before the Ohio House Education Committee on SB 316, the Mid-Biennium Review bill for education policy. I discussed several components of the Senate-passed version of the bill, but my focus was largely on: [A] the need to provide early intervention and supports for students to read at grade level by the end of third grade; and [B] the importance of updating our state's accountability system. I also advocated that a high-quality accountability system should be guided by the following principles:

- It should contain accurate measures of student achievement and growth;
- It should be used less as a reward and punishment device and more as a tool to diagnose and guide continuous improvement;
- It should make sure that all children are benefiting from their school experiences; and
- It should be transparent so the community can understand its return on their investment.

You can find my full testimony [here](#).

Thank you for all you do for 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 – Technology Readiness Tool (TRT) opens May 21, June 12 Webinar scheduled – Moving Forward Safe and Supportive Learning, Ohio Innovative Learning Environments conference to be held July 30 to Aug. 3, Applications for 2012 Chinese Bridge Delegation are due June 15

For curriculum directors, teachers and school counselors – Register now for July Ohio Safe Schools Summit, 2012 Coordinated School Health Conference registration open now

For School superintendents and treasurers

Technology Readiness Tool (TRT) opens May 21

More than 250 Ohio school district superintendents and district-level technology coordinators participated on May 15 in a statewide kick-off webcast for the SBAC-PARCC Technology Readiness Tool. Superintendents or district-level technology coordinators who couldn't attend can review a recording of the webcast [here](#). This webcast explains what the tool is and how it will help Ohio transition to the Next Generation of Assessments. If you have any question about the tool that opens May 21, please contact the State Resource Coordinator Team at OhioTRT@education.ohio.gov.

June 12 Webinar scheduled – Moving Forward Safe and Supportive Learning

Join ODE in a webinar conversation on June 12 from 11 a.m. until noon to take an intense look at both academic and non-academic learning supports for student success. National guest speaker, Dr. David Osher will continue a discussion started in the fall 2011 webinar regional series regarding creating a positive school climate to promote positive youth development, prevent violence, close achievement gaps and increase student achievement.

This is an opportunity to join the Safe and Supportive Learning Collaborative, an educational learning community that provides resources and technical assistance, promotes sharing of best practices and encourages school, family and community partnerships. For more information, register [here](#).

Ohio Innovative Learning Environments conference to be held July 30 to Aug. 3

At this five-day conference in Hilliard, educators will learn from more than two dozen expert keynote speakers and more than 100 breakout sessions addressing the theme, Bridging the Knowing-Doing Gap of Innovative Practice. Featured presenters will include Will Richardson, co-founder of the Powerful Learning Practice professional development program and author of three books on using Web-based technologies in education; David Conley, chief executive officer of the Educational Policy Improvement Center and founder/director of the Center for Educational Policy Research; and Kristin Kipp, 2011 national online teacher of the year.

Conference strands will be based on inquiry-based instruction and assessment; transformative leadership; global education; college, career and community connections; and technology-enhanced learning. Teacher stipends, contact hours for continuing education and 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. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

Applications for 2012 Chinese Bridge Delegation are due June 15

School and district leaders are invited to apply for participation in the College Board's 2012 Chinese Bridge Delegation, which will be held **Nov. 7-15** in China, to help participants start or strengthen Chinese programs and partnerships. The week-long trip will include tours of K-12 schools, cultural activities, educational workshops and interactions with Chinese educators.

Superintendents, principals, curriculum directors, world language supervisors and other educational leaders with oversight of foreign language learning are invited to apply. Educators from institutions already offering Chinese language and culture programs also may apply, but previous Chinese Bridge Delegation participants may not. Delegates must pay a \$900 nonrefundable registration fee and are responsible for travel insurance, as well as costs and arrangements for domestic travel to a designated U.S. departure hub. Delegates are provided free international round-trip airfare, accommodations, food and in-country travel expenses while in China. The application deadline is **June 15**. For additional information and to complete the application form, click [here](#) or contact k12chinese@collegeboard.org.

For curriculum directors, teachers and school counselors

Register now for July Ohio Safe Schools Summit

Promoting safe school environments, sharing best practices and promoting collaboration between local schools and community partners is the goal of the 2012 Ohio Safe Schools Summit on July 24. This one-day event will be held at the Quest Business & Conference Center in Columbus, is geared toward state agencies, the education community and first responders.

The conference will focus on a four-part approach to school safety: prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. The presenters have a wealth of knowledge and will bring real-life perspectives and experiences to the table. The attendees will have the opportunity to network with their peers as well as apply what they've heard in practical small group exercises.

Sponsors include ODE, the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA), Attorney General Mike DeWine and Great Lakes East Comprehensive Center. Other participating agencies include the Ohio departments of

Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, Health, Mental Health and Public Safety, as well as Ohio Family and Children First. [Registration](#) is now open. To submit a proposal to be a presenter at one of the sessions, click [here](#).

2012 Coordinated School Health Conference registration open now

Strengthening Academic Achievement with Healthier Kids is the theme of the 2012 Coordinated School Health Conference to be held June 25-27 at the Cherry Valley Lodge in Newark. The registration deadline is May 25.

The conference is open to anyone who wants to address the non-academic barriers to students' academic success, including district wellness team coordinators, administrators, school nurses, food service directors, guidance counselors, physical education and health teachers and community organizations.

Schools/districts that bring a team are eligible for discount pricing. For more details, including a flyer and registration information, click [here](#). If you have other questions, please contact Jackie Sharpe at (614) 387-2241 or via email at jacqueline.sharpe@education.ohio.gov

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](#).