

November 13, 2012

Greetings:

During the Statewide Education Conference last week, there was a great deal of conversation about what education will look like in the digital age. Both keynote speakers Marc Prensky and Harvey Silver emphasized a need to think differently when approaching 21st century learning.

The digital discussion continued during the two sessions I hosted called *Straight Talk with the Acting Superintendent*, with much of the talk centering on the new online assessments and the technological implications for school districts. If you were not able to attend, I will share with you today some of what I shared at those sessions.

As you know, beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, Ohio will be using new online assessments in all subject areas based on the new college and career ready standards. PARCC is developing the Common Core-based assessments in English language arts and mathematics for Grades 3 – 8 and high school. Ohio is developing assessments based on the Ohio-developed standards in science for Grades 5, 8 and high school, and in social studies for Grades 4, 6 and high school. These assessments will replace the OAA and OGT tests.

We also are working with the Board of Regents to issue the RFP for the college and career readiness test that will be required at high school.

These assessments are being designed to be compatible with a variety of platforms. We have joined with other PARCC states to gather information about technology infrastructure using the Technology Readiness Tool (TRT). Ohio launched the TRT statewide in May 2012. There will be six points in time when the data will be analyzed to see how “ready” we are for online assessments: June 30, 2012; Dec. 14, 2012; June 14, 2013; Dec. 13, 2013; June 13, 2014; Aug. 18, 2014. More information about the TRT is available [here](#).

If you have not done so already, I encourage you to become familiar with the PARCC [website](#) and explore the sample questions, College and Career Readiness policies and descriptors, and technology specifications. These resources are intended to help you make informed decisions now to be able to make a smooth transition to the new standards and assessments coming online.

While we are on the subject of new assessments, the new Alternate Assessment for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities (AASCD) will be administered **Feb. 25 – March 29, 2013**. The new assessment uses a task-based adaptive model that is aligned to our new learning standards. It will provide a more realistic reflection of a student’s progress and therefore, overall school performance. There are more details below on the required training sessions for test administrators.

I realize the pace at which changes are coming can seem overwhelming at times, but the end result will mean a robust system that ensures our students are prepared to face the expectations of college and career. Thank you for your continued effort and support for our educational reform.

Finally, last week’s election results no doubt had an impact on education across the state. Voters elected Stephanie Dodd and Sarah Fowler and returned Ann Jacobs, Mary Rose Oakar, Michael Collins, Jeff Hardin and Bryan Williams to the State Board of Education. Many of your districts had levy issues on the ballot, of which, 55 percent were approved. I offer congratulations to those of you who were successful and my understanding to those facing the difficult decisions that must be made in the coming days.

Thank you for all you do for Ohio's children.

Sincerely,



Michael L. Sawyers

Approaching deadlines or important dates mentioned in previous editions of EdConnection

- 11/15** 2012-2013 Green Ribbon Schools application ([10/29/2012](#))
- 11/15** 2012 Asset Builder Awards nominations ([10/29/2012](#))
- 11/14** National Excellence in Urban Education program applications due ([10/1/2012](#))
- 11/15** Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship second round application period closes ([10/9/2012](#))
- 12/7** Civil Rights Data Collection submissions due ([10/22/2012](#))
- 12/31** Early Literacy and Reading Readiness grant application deadline ([11/05/2012](#))

For School superintendents and treasurers

Districts must update their Anti-Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Policies

At its October meeting, the State Board of Education adopted a revised model policy for Anti-Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (Anti-HIB). The policy was revised to reflect changes included in the Jessica Logan law (HB 116).

As of Nov. 4, 2012, districts are required to revise their Anti-HIB policies, as reflected in the highlighted sections of the ODE Model Anti-HIB policy, which is posted [here](#).

Eye exam data collection due by end of year

ODE is required by state law (SB 316) to collect and report data about comprehensive vision exams for students with IEPs. The information must be reported by the end of the school year, beginning in 2012-2013. Superintendents are encouraged to keep accurate data by maintaining a record of eye exams throughout the school year.

Although the data collection mechanism to fulfill the reporting requirement has not yet been identified, the Office for Exceptional Children has created an optional [data collection tool](#) that districts may want to use to begin collecting and maintaining this information now, rather than waiting until the end of the year.

Special education data reporting deadlines coming soon

Please be aware that deadlines for special education data reports to the federal government do not always coincide with EMIS reporting periods. Even if ODE's closing dates for EMIS reporting periods vary from year to year, the federal reporting deadlines are firm.

This holds true not only for the district-level special Education Profiles, but also for the December Child Count, which is based on a snapshot of data received by the last week of January. Please be sure that special education events and enrollments that occur before Dec. 1 are reported in EMIS before the end of the third week in January. That way, the numbers ODE sends to the USDOE are accurate. ODE also uses the data to produce the state-level Special Education Annual Performance Report, so accurate reporting is crucial. Should the snapshot data suggest possible findings of non-compliance, districts will have an opportunity to provide the correct information.

Nov. 16 webinars focus on school improvement efforts

The Ohio Leadership Advisory Council (OLAC) will sponsor two webinars on Friday, Nov. 16 to present Ohio's five-step process, a key to school improvement efforts. Brian McNulty will lead the webinars, which are intended for everyone who uses the Ohio Improvement Process (OIP).

The first webinar will be from 9-10 a.m. for Building Leadership/Teacher-Based Teams. The second will be from 10:15-11:15 a.m. for District Leadership Teams.

To register, go to STARS using your [SAFE](#) account, keyword: *OIP*. These webinars are part of a planned 12-webinar series. Previously recorded [webinars and materials](#) are archived on the OLAC website under the Webinars tab and are available at no cost. Updated [OIP resources](#) may be downloaded and customized for district use.

For curriculum directors, teachers and school counselors

Required AASCD test administrator training begins in December

The new Alternate Assessment for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities (AASCD) will be administered **Feb. 25 – March 29, 2013** will require training for test administrators before the testing period. The training sessions will be conducted by State Support Teams starting next month. Training dates and locations are in [STARS](#).

Also, the spring 2013 AASCD On-Time Order and Pre-ID window will be open through **Nov. 30, 2012**. District Test Coordinators can access TIDE through the [Ohio Alternate Assessment Portal](#). The portal contains a variety of resources, including user guides and fact sheets for parents, test administrators, administrators, test coordinators and technology coordinators to become familiar with these new assessments.

Nov. 30 seminar addresses Middle Level Instruction that Works

The Ohio Middle Level Association will present a one-day seminar designed for regular and special education teachers, as well as administrators who work with students in Grades 4-8. *Middle Level Instruction that Works* will offer research-based strategies that can align teachers and administrators curriculum, instruction, and assessment to increase the effectiveness of teachers and administrators and improve student learning.

Jim Mahoney, executive director of Battelle for Kid will be the keynote speaker. The seminar will be held at Miami University's Voice of America Learning Center, between Cincinnati and Dayton. The event is co-sponsored by the Ohio Department of Education, Ohio Schools to Watch, the Ohio Federation of Teachers and Otterbein University. To register, click [here](#). For more information, contact Robert Sehlhorst at (513) 309-3471 or selhorst_r@ohlsd.org.

Register now for Health Education Curriculum Analysis Tool (HECAT) workshop

Health and physical education teachers, school nurses, school administrators and district coordinators will have an opportunity to learn about the HECAT at a workshop on Dec. 10 at Wright State University Student Union near Dayton. The self-assessment and planning guide was developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and helps schools conduct clear, complete and consistent analyses of physical education curricula, based on national physical education standards.

The full-day workshop is sponsored by the Buckeye Healthy Schools Alliance. Space is limited and registration is required. The registration deadline is Dec. 3. To register, click [here](#).

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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