

November 26, 2012

Greetings:

In recent editions of EdConnection, I have been sharing examples of various reforms to continuously improve our education system in Ohio. While several changes impact local schools directly, I would like to update you on important reforms to educator licensure.

First, educator licensure applications will transition to an online environment beginning in January 2013. The automated online system will permit applicants to apply, renew and submit required fees electronically. The new system is being field-tested around Ohio and is receiving very positive reviews by applicants. If you are a pilot location, thank you for your participation!

Additionally, as you are most likely aware, most educator licensure tests (PRAXIS II) currently are administered by the Educational Testing Service. Earlier this year, ODE formally requested proposals to enhance accessibility, services, and improve cost competitiveness for the required licensure assessments. Through this competitive bid process, ODE has selected the Evaluation Systems Group of Pearson to administer most educator licensure assessments. Beginning in September 2013, Pearson will provide computer-based licensure testing at up to 60 testing sites around the state. In addition to providing more accessibility options for examinees, the new Pearson system will allow licensure candidates to receive a preliminary report of their test score immediately.

We have started the transition process with Pearson and will continue through the winter to validate the new tests for licensure types in Ohio. Once validated, the results will be submitted to the Educator Standards Board for review and to make recommendations to the State Board of Education for approval of required passing scores. This applies for all licensure areas except world languages, which will not change from the current tests offered through the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. ODE also has invited Pearson staff to our November Educator Standards Board and December State Board of Education meetings to make presentations on the transition process.

There will also be numerous opportunities for stakeholder input during the validation process. As more information becomes available, we will update you. Thank you for your continued efforts to serve Ohio's children.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Sawyers

Approaching deadlines or important dates mentioned in previous editions of EdConnection

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

Student Growth Measures trainings scheduled for district and ESC leaders

ODE has scheduled a number of trainings on the use of Student Growth Measures (including SLOs) in teacher evaluation. This training is designed as a train-the-trainer format and should be used to facilitate

further training at the local level. It is free to all participants and will focus on the following:

- Overview of Ohio's Student Growth Measure (SGM) model, including establishing default percentages for the three categories of SGMs
- Introduction to Student Learning Objectives (SLOs)
- Identifying High-Quality SLOs
- Process for Approving SLOs
- Guidance on Assessments for Measuring SLOs
- Establishing growth targets
- Scoring the SLO

Space is limited. Each LEA may send no more than two participants. When identifying participants, consider those best equipped with the skills to replicate the training. ODE suggests participation from a building administrator and a teacher leader or central office staff, ESC or community school sponsor representative who will be responsible for professional development.

Sessions are listed in [STARS](#) and all participants must pre-register in STARS. All sessions will be from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., with lunch on your own. December training dates and locations are:

Dec. 10 - South Central ESC
Dec. 11 - Tri-County ESC
Dec. 12 – ESC of Central Ohio
Dec. 14 – Athens-Meigs ESC
Dec. 17 – Auglaize ESC
Dec. 17 – Cuyahoga ESC
Dec. 18 – Montgomery County ESC
Dec. 18 – Mahoning County ESC

Additional training sessions will be scheduled in January and February.

Please complete Web-Based Recruitment System user survey

ODE's Web-Based Recruiting System (WBRS) is an online educator jobs forum where school districts can receive applicant information for posted job openings in their districts. A user survey is currently available so you can share your comments and ideas about how to make the WBRS more useful and efficient. You can complete the survey anonymously or provide contact information so that ODE can follow up with you regarding your recommendations. The survey will be available [here](#) until Dec. 31.

Current window for eTPES will close on Dec. 31

The window for first-time users to log on and set up an account using eTPES for the 2012-2013 school year will close at midnight on Dec. 31. If you would still like to use eTPES to pilot or implement this school year, please note this deadline. Those who already have established an account will be able to continue to use the system.

Beginning in January 2013, ODE will start downloading Value-Added data for those who have used the eTEPS system for the evaluation of teachers and/or principals during the 2012–2013 school year.

For curriculum directors, teachers and school counselors

Ohio educators offer unique insights via blogs

Teachers are an active group on many social media channels, but a few dozen regularly share their thoughts and useful information online in the form of web logs, more commonly referred to as "blogs." A blog is webpage where the author posts journal-like entries that others can subscribe to, comment on and share.

ODE has compiled a list of Ohio-based education bloggers available [here](#). National Public Radio's

StateImpact Ohio has also compiled a list of Ohio educators who use Twitter frequently, a list that can be found [here](#). These lists are by no means exhaustive nor an endorsement of views contained in the listed blogs. Feel free to share appropriate blogs for inclusion on either list.

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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