

November 5, 2012

Greetings:

Recently, the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) Governing Board, of which Ohio is a member, voted to approve the College and Career Ready policy and performance-level descriptors for mathematics and English language arts. You may recall that the drafts of these policies were released this summer for public review and comment. PARCC received more than 1,300 comments, which resulted in revisions to the drafts presented to the Governing Board. These policies provide clarity in taking the next steps in transitioning to the next generation of assessments and how to interpret student performance on end-of-course exams. You can find the approved policies [here](#).

Speaking of end-of-course exams, now that ODE and the Ohio Board of Regents have identified the end-of-course exams by subject, work is beginning on the RFP to select a vendor to produce them. We anticipate issuing the RFP before the end of the year.

Last week's Statewide Education Conference was a tremendous success. More than 2,000 educators spent two days learning about the most urgent issues that will shape the future of learning for Ohio's 1.8 million students. This year, we also took unprecedented efforts to make content from the conference available to those of you who could not attend in person. Our Twitter account, [OHEducation](#), was host to real-time posts and commentary you can read by simply entering the #ohedconf hashtag in the search field on Twitter.

ODE staff also produced summaries of breakout sessions such as the Third Grade Reading Guarantee and Student Learning Objectives, which you can be found on the conference [blog](#).

In addition, you can read summaries and a compilation of online discussions and get a flavor for how audience members were reacting to speakers online for many sessions at our new [OhioEdDept](#) Storify feed.

Next week, the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) Capital Conference will also host the State Board of Education meeting. If you are attending the conference on Nov.12, I invite you to attend my Race to the Top Year 2 update to the Board at 10:45 a.m. I hope to see some of you there.

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](#))
- 11/14** 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](#))

### ***For School superintendents and treasurers***

#### ***\$13 million available for Third Grade Reading Guarantee Reading Readiness programs***

As mentioned in last week's *EdConnection*, applications for the Early Literacy and Reading Readiness competitive grant program designed to help early elementary students gain the reading fundamentals by the end of third grade needed to prepare them for the remaining school years, college and career. **The deadline to apply for funding through the program is Dec. 31.** Information on and access to the application process is available on ODE's Third Grade Reading Guarantee [webpage](#).

#### ***International Education Week is Nov. 12-16***

Schools all across America will celebrate International Education Week from November 12 to 16. U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan encourages all Ohio school districts are encouraged participate in this recognition in some manner during that week. Local Boards of Education are encouraged to approve Board Resolutions recognizing the benefits of integrating International Education within schools at all levels; primary, middle grades and high school. Individual schools can plan activities focusing on how education cuts across the curriculum in specific academic disciplines, including the social studies, science, mathematics, economics, technology, language arts, fine arts, family and consumer sciences and world languages. Schools also are encouraged to participate through displays, evidence of cultural awareness, examples of literature and art, recognition of international diversity within our schools and other expressions of international education within our schools and communities. For more information, click [here](#).

#### ***ODE seeking nominations for 2012 Asset Builder Awards***

The annual Asset Builder Awards recognize individuals and groups who are making exceptional contributions to student asset development through effective risk prevention, intervention, and youth development programs. These programs help young people develop personal assets that build their health and resilience now and for their futures.

Nominees may be individuals, schools, districts, youth organizations, businesses or community members. Winners are selected for outstanding youth asset development work that aligns with the Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets, which can be found [here](#).

The nomination deadline for the 2012 Asset Builder Awards is **5:00 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 15, 2012**. For program details and the nomination form, click [here](#).

### ***For curriculum directors, teachers and school counselors***

#### **Teaching in Taiwan – special opportunity available**

Are you interested in experiencing another culture? Traveling in Asia? Living abroad? Teaching English?

Through a memorandum of understanding with Taiwan's Ministry of Education, Ohio teachers have the opportunity to spend a year living and teaching English in Taiwan. ODE will provide information for the 2013-2014 school year sometime this January.

There is an immediate need, however, for teachers in Miaoli County, Taiwan for new and experienced elementary and middle school teachers. Ohio has several teachers assigned in Miaoli County, as well as other areas throughout Taiwan. For more information, please contact Dwight Groce at [dwight.groce@education.ohio.gov](mailto:dwight.groce@education.ohio.gov).

#### ***Nov. 20 webinar focuses on non-traditional options for earning Ohio high school credits***

School counselors and administrators are invited a credit flexibility webinar on Tuesday, Nov. 20 from 10-11 a.m. Tom Rutan, associate director of ODE's Office of Curriculum and Instruction, will discuss the credit flexibility option for students to earn high school credits in non-traditional ways. He also will review the recommended elements of a quality student credit flexibility plan and explain

available resources. Registration is free, but participants must register through [STARS](#) to get instructions to access the webinar. The keyword search is *credit flexibility*.

***State trainers sought for Ohio Teacher Evaluation System***

ODE is soliciting applications from Ohio educators to serve as State Trainers in the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System (OTES) program. The training will help assure a quality teacher evaluation program that is consistent throughout the state.

The deadline to apply for this position is Nov. 28, 2012. Those candidates who are interviewed and chosen as trainers will be required to attend the OTES three-day training before they attend the mandatory training on *Feb. 27, 28 and March 1, 2013* in Columbus.

Qualifications and the application for State Trainers are available [here](#).

***Online Local Professional Development Committee***

ODE recently created a new Web-based product for online Local Professional Development Committee (LPDC) registration and updates. This new online system enables ESCs, school districts and schools to request new LPDC registrations, to renew existing LPDC registrations, and to update LPDC address and staffing information.

The LPDC data will update the ODE OEDS-R system and contribute to ODE's planned transition to more automated and efficient processing of educator licensure renewals. ESCs, school districts and schools can now register their LPDCs online using the new CORE LPDC Public module. To see the latest information about online LPDC registration 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](mailto:Superintendent@education.ohio.gov).*

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