

October 1, 2012

Greetings:

Time is drawing near for one of our biggest events for sharing vital information with Ohio educators. The Annual Statewide Educators' Conference will be held Nov. 1-2 at the Columbus Convention Center. This year, the conference is open to all school districts. With that in mind, organizers have packed the conference with nearly 100 presentations on several tracks that will provide educators with updates, best practices from schools across the state and nation, and opportunities to hear directly from ODE's staff.

You can find the session descriptions [here](#). Here are just a few of the presentations I think will make attending the conference worthwhile:

- **Third Grade Reading Guarantee Primer** – This session explains the new provisions, implications for students and districts, and ODE's supports to meet this requirement.
- **Next Generation Assessments Overview** – Information regarding new assessments developed for science and social studies by ODE and for English language arts and mathematics with the PARCC consortia.
- **BYO Technology: What Works, What Doesn't** – Learn more about the best practices and classroom strategies for 1:1 computing and how the selection of technology tools may impact student college and career readiness?
- **Transition to Ohio's New Learning Standards** – This session will give insight on recent changes to content standards, assessments and graduation requirements and offer a practical approach to incorporating these new standards into teaching practice.
- **Ohio Instructional Improvement System (IIS) Demonstration** – By the time of the conference, the IIS vendor will be selected and on hand to demonstrate the system, with a focus on functionality and integration with school data systems.
- **Ohio's Student Learning Objective Process** – Learn how to develop and use SLOs as a meaningful growth and evaluation tool.

More conference details, including registration and accommodation information is available [here](#). I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to hear more about the changes and reforms occurring in the state and how to apply them in your district.

Have a good week.

Sincerely,



Michael L. Sawyers

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.

Approaching deadlines or important dates mentioned in previous editions of EdConnection

10/5 Student growth measures pilot proposals due [\(9/17/2012\)](#)

- 10/16** National Stop Bullying video challenge submissions due ([9/4/2012](#))
- 10/19** Statewide Education Conference (Nov.1-2) registration closes ([9/17/2012](#))
- 10/19** Presidential Scholar nominations due ([9/24/2012](#))
- 10/31** Beginning Principal Mentorship Program grant applications due ([9/17/2012](#))

For School superintendents and treasurers

Alternative Compensation Model RFP released

Ohio seeks to build on the momentum of recent educational reforms and invest in systems that support a culture of continuous improvement and commitment to bold, scaled and sustained reform by establishing effective compensation models and implementing new approaches for achieving teacher and leader effectiveness. ODE has released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for LEAs interested in pursuing an Alternative Compensation System which includes evidence of student growth as one of multiple criteria.

The RFP is open to any LEA in the state. Although funds are provided through ODE's Race to the Top (RtT) grant, districts do not have to be part of the RtT grant to apply. Consortiums are encouraged. To view the RFP, click [here](#). The application deadline is Nov. 1.

Discounted Registration for November School Improvement Institute expires on Oct. 15

There is still time to take advantage of the discounted registration for the 13th annual Ohio School Improvement Institute (Nov. 15-16). Individuals can save \$50, while teams will save \$20. The early bird registration rates expire on Oct. 15. Previous participants know that this event allows opportunities for new ideas and strategies as well as time to determine implementation before returning back to the school/district.

The Institute will be held at the Columbus Renaissance Hotel and offer nearly 80 breakout sessions, as well as two keynote speakers, including Bill Daggett, who is known worldwide for his research and guidance on education improvement. For more information, click [here](#).

Nominees sought for National Excellence in Urban Education Program

The National Center for Urban School Transformation (NCUST) is seeking to recognize the nation's best urban schools. Urban public and community schools that serve low income communities do not use selective admission criteria and boast achievement results that exceed state averages for all students are eligible.

The award criteria, list of past winners and information about an Oct 4 webinar to provide information about the application process, click [here](#). The application deadline is Nov. 14.

For curriculum directors, teachers and school counselors

Oct. 18 meeting seeks input from Arts educators

ODE invites K-12 teachers of dance, drama/theatre, music and visual arts to join initial discussions about the development of model curriculum resources to support Ohio's recently updated arts learning standards.

Arts educators can give their input on the best instructional practices and classroom applications to help implement the standards. The focused discussion will take place on Thursday, Oct. 18 from 4-6 p.m. at Solon High School, 33800 Inwood Rd. in Solon. Space is limited. Please RSVP **by Oct. 11** to Nancy Pistone at nancy.pistone@education.ohio.gov or to Bill Nyerges at artsrevisionohio@aol.com. Please watch for additional opportunities to participate in the model curriculum development.

Ohio Parent Forum is Oct. 13 in Toledo

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. The 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, click [here](#). For more information, contact ann.bohman@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.

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