

October 22, 2012

Greetings:

As part of the larger discussion about transforming educational practice, Ohio, like many other states, is taking a snapshot of technology in its schools. The goal is not only to capture existing classroom technology, but also to understand what technology students, families and teachers believe *should* be in school classrooms.

We know there is a gap between what is and what could or should be. Three methods are being used to form a complete picture. This includes two surveys that are being used by technology experts in districts and schools to determine “what is-” the Technology Readiness Tool (TRT) and the Biennial Educational Assessment (BETA) survey.

ODE is using the TRT, which focuses on collecting information about existing hardware devices, connectivity and human resources, to assist in developing PARCC computer-based assessments. More information about the TRT is available [here](#). eTech Ohio’s BETA survey addresses areas not covered in TRT, such as existing bandwidth, methods and providers of connectivity, wireless issues and solutions, and technical support. eTech Ohio will administer the BETA building survey from Oct. 3-Dec. 14, 2012. Find more information [here](#).

The third method collects input about “what could be” from students, families and educators. The Speak Up Ohio survey is a free, annual survey that collects local data on topics such as teaching and learning with technology, online assessment and digital citizenship. Speak Up Ohio also collects data on emerging technology topics, such as mobile devices, online and blended learning, e-textbooks and digital content. The Speak Up Ohio survey, open now through Dec. 14, can be found [here](#).

The effort to catalogue “what is” and “what could be” in classroom technology is especially important now for Ohio’s reform strategies. The results learned will serve as a valuable tool to determine support strategies moving forward. For those that have participated to date, thank you. I encourage you to continue or choose to participate in helping us inform the future for Ohio schools in an accurate and complete way. 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*

- 10/26** Deadline for public comment on Positive Behavior Interventions and Support, Restraint and Seclusion draft policy ([10/9/2012](#))
- 10/31** Beginning Principal Mentorship Program grant applications due ([9/17/2012](#))
- 11/1-2** Statewide Education Conference ([10/1/2012](#))
- 11/1** Alternative Compensation System RFPs due ([10/1/2012](#))
- 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](#))

For School superintendents and treasurers

Educator toolkit will help in sending substance abuse prevention messages

October is National Substance Abuse Prevention Month – a prime opportunity for educators and school administrators to discuss the risks of underage drinking, illicit drug use and prescription drug abuse with their students, and to emphasize the importance of making healthy decisions. The significance of such discussions is clear: One of the most important factors in achieving student success in the classroom, and later in life, is a student's ability to stay drug and alcohol free.

To promote these positive outcomes, the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services has partnered with the Ohio Department of Education and Drug Free Action Alliance to present a toolkit and activity guide. This resource provides fact sheets for educators, parents and teens, as well as evidence-based prevention activities you can work into daily school activities. The toolkit and the video We Are the Majority are posted [here](#).

Research from The Partnership at Drugfree.org suggests that teens who hear a lot about the dangers and consequences of alcohol and other drugs are 50 percent less likely to experiment with these substances.

Everyone has a role to play in prevention. You can and do make a difference when you share evidence-based information and lead activities with students and parents.

Thank you for your valuable efforts to support Ohio's schoolchildren.

ODE offers several opportunities for stakeholder comment on proposed community schools sponsor rule changes

The rules clarifying various aspects of becoming and functioning as a sponsor of community schools are currently undergoing a five-year review and re-filing process. There are proposed revisions to all seven rules under review.

ODE is providing a series of public review opportunities to support, oppose or suggest other changes to the rules as proposed. The Office of Community Schools is hosting a stakeholder review webinar from 3 to 4 p.m. each day Oct. 29-30. Register through [STARS](#). Comments can also be submitted using this [survey](#) through Nov. 2.

Civil Rights Data Collection submissions due by Dec. 7

The Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) is conducted by the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) of the U.S. Department of Education. The CRDC collects data on key education and civil rights issues in our nation's public schools, including student enrollment and educational programs and services, disaggregated by race/ethnicity, sex, limited English proficiency and disability.

Under federal law, every school district and all of the nation's public schools is required to participate in the 2011-12 CRDC. This includes all state-operated facilities for the deaf and blind, charter schools, and all educational programs at juvenile justice agencies. The U.S. Department of Education has been sending communications to districts regarding the collection. The Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) is now open for district submissions and will close on Dec. 7, 2012.

First collected in 1968, it is a valuable source of information about access to educational opportunities in our nation's public schools that is used by OCR and other federal educational offices, as well as parents, policymakers, researchers and many others in the education community. To learn more about the collection, or to access the survey tool, click [here](#).

For assistance in completing the CDRC, please contact the Partner Support Center at (855) 320-6459, Fax: 888-329-3336 (888-FAX-EDEN) or TTY/TDD: 888-403-3336, or see the [Contact Support Page](#).

October is Literacy information Month

October is Information Literacy Month in Ohio and 18 other states by gubernatorial proclamations. The term "information literacy" encompasses more than the ability to read. It means students have the skills to use current technology to find, evaluate, and use information. It means they understand and honor copyright. And it means they know how to protect themselves online. Click [here](#) to read the full proclamation.

Throughout the year, all schools in Ohio can use INFOhio's free online tools to develop students' information literacy and meet the research requirements embedded in the Common Core. GO! Ask, Act, Achieve (<http://go.infohio.org>) is a great starting point. GO! walks students through a research project step by step to keep them on track from start to finish, and it includes citation guidance as well as tips for maintaining a safe online profile.

For curriculum directors, teachers and school counselors

Register now for Physical Education Curriculum Analysis Tool (PECAT) workshop

Physical education teachers, curriculum directors, school administrators and district coordinators will have an opportunity to learn about the PECAT tool at a workshop on Nov. 14 in Columbus. 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 presenter will be Bane McCracken, recently retired profession of physical education from Marshall University. The full-day workshop is sponsored by the Buckeye Healthy Schools Alliance. Space is limited and registration is required. The registration deadline is Nov. 7. 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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