

October 29, 2012

Greetings:

This June, when the Ohio General Assembly enacted the framework for the Third Grade Reading Guarantee, \$13 million was included in HB 487 to be used by schools to provide intervention programs designed to help children to be reading at grade level by the end of third grade. I am pleased to share with you that we are now accepting applications for the Early Literacy and Reading Readiness competitive grant program through December 31, 2012, as required by statute.

Individual school districts and community schools can receive up to \$100,000 in funding and consortia of three or more partners can receive up to \$250,000. Priority will be given to partnership applications.

Unfortunately, much of the attention given the Third Grade Reading Guarantee so far has focused on the consequences of not reading at grade level, as opposed to the measures designed to detect deficiencies early and provide planned interventions to enable students to be successful. Grant awards will further enhance how schools provide for additional opportunities to focus on continued student progress instead of student retention.

We have created an application process with ease and efficiency in mind. We are accepting applications through the Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan (CCIP), accessible through the SAFE account [portal](#). Information on and access to the application process is available on ODE's Third Grade Reading Guarantee [webpage](#). I encourage you to consider your options in pursuing this funding to enhance your early literacy and reading intervention activities.

Also, last week I encouraged you to participate in the Speak Up Ohio survey. You can do through Dec. 14, by clicking [here](#) and entering the password "ohio".

Finally, this Thursday and Friday is the Statewide Education Conference in Columbus. Any/all educational stakeholders are welcome to attend, including both RttT and non-RttT school personnel. I know I will see many of you there. If you aren't one of the more than 2,200 already registered to attend, walk-in registration is an option. Should you plan to register as a walk-in, I encourage you to arrive early as lines are expected. Details are available [here](#).

Thank you for all you do for the children of Ohio.

Have a great week.

Sincerely,



Michael L. Sawyers

**Approaching deadlines or important dates mentioned in previous editions of
EdConnection**

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 [\(10/1/2012\)](#)

- 11/2 Deadline to comment on proposed community schools sponsor rule changes ([10/22/2012](#))
- 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

Student Growth Measure updates available

Recently, the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) has posted additional guidance, resources, and materials on Student Learning Objectives (SLOs) on the [Educator Evaluation webpage](#), including a comprehensive guidebook with guidance for selecting assessments for SLOs, scoring individual SLOs and sample teacher and principal SLOs.

Additional guidance on combining Student Growth Measures (SGMs) will be posted in November.

ODE also will be offering regional training focused on implementing SGMs for Ohio's Teacher and Principal Evaluation Systems by the end of the calendar year. This training is optional and can be used to develop training at the local level. Districts and ESCs that have developed training plans are free to move forward with those trainings and should continue all other work toward implementing a local student growth measures plan. The ODE training, which is free to all participants, will be offered through September 2014. Additional information will be forthcoming regarding training dates and locations.

To support the implementation of the Student Growth Measures component of the evaluation systems, ODE is working in collaboration with select regional partner RttT Educational Service Centers to train and deploy SGMs and Alignment Specialists. These SGM Specialists will support LEAs by providing technical assistance and professional development following the regional trainings to district administrators, teachers, and other personnel on the alignment of local systems to the state framework and development and implementation of district and building student growth measures using the SLO process.

There's still time to submit 2012-2013 Green Ribbon Schools application – deadline Nov.15

Schools still have time apply to represent Ohio in USDOE's Green Ribbon Schools program. Now in its second year, the program recognizes and honors schools that are exemplary in reducing environmental impact and costs, improving the health and wellness of students and staff, and providing effective environmental and sustainability education that incorporates STEM, civic skills and green career pathways.

Ohio may nominate up to four schools, including non-public schools, for this national recognition. Ohio's application is now available with a **Nov. 15, 2012 deadline**. Applicants must complete the online survey application found [here](#). Schools are encouraged to print off a copy of the application prior to completing the online application. National resources and the applications from last year's Ohio winners – Loveland High School and North Adams Elementary School—are available for review.

Spring 2013 Ohio K-3 Diagnostics Field Test Opportunity

In the next few weeks, select districts will be notified of an opportunity for their schools to participate in the March 2013 Ohio K-3 Diagnostics Field Test.

Field testing gives ODE the opportunity to identify the difficulty level of items and determine whether the items are grade-level appropriate for the diagnostic instruments.

When finalized, the new diagnostics will provide districts with diagnostic screening measures that can be administered at the start of the school year to identify whether a student is on-track to achieve proficiency for a given grade/subject, as well as diagnostic tests that may be used later in the year to assess student progress.

Starting with the 2013-2014 school year, the new diagnostic instruments will assess the full depth and breadth of the Common Core State Standards in English Language arts and Mathematics as part of

Ohio's suite of Ohio's New Learning Standards for academic learning and will replace those standards currently offered by ODE.

For questions about the spring 2013 Ohio K-3 Diagnostics Field Test, please contact ODE's Office of Curriculum and Assessment at (614) 466-0223.

ODE's efforts spotlighted in national social media guidebook

Ohio's use of social media channels as an outreach tool is featured in a new report from the Reform Support Network, "[Building Enduring Race to the Top Education Reforms: Using Social Media to Engage With and Communicate to Key Stakeholders](#)". The guide discusses ODE's separate Facebook pages target to families ([Ohio Families & Education](#)) and teachers ([Ohio Teachers' Homeroom](#)), as well as the success of the fast growing Twitter account ([OH Education](#)) in reaching teachers and administrators.

These social media channels are a great way to stay up on the latest Ohio education news and share local news with over 10,000 users combined users.

Resident Educator program registration deadline is Nov. 15

Nov. 15 is the deadline for registering Resident Educators in the Connected Ohio Records for Educators (CORE) system. Resident Educators must hold a Resident Educator license, an alternative Resident Educator license of any type or a one-year out-of-state license. Click [here](#) for registration directions.

For curriculum directors, teachers and school counselors

Seminar series gives teachers opportunity to learn about East Asia

The National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (NCTA) is an 11-week seminar series that provides teachers for grades 6-12 with the knowledge, resources and expert guidance needed to incorporate or enhance curriculum about East Asia (China, Japan and Korea) in their classrooms.

Upon completion of the program requirements, participants will receive the following: \$500 personal stipend for your time and completed lesson plans; \$200 worth of seminar texts and resources to add to your personal library; \$300 resource grant to purchase Asia-related textbooks, films and other supplies for your school; option to purchase graduate credit; and continuing education unit certificate.

In Winter 2013, The Ohio State University's East Asian Studies Center, the coordinator for NCTA programs for Ohio, will offer a seminar on the Delaware campus of Columbus State Community College, taught by Ohio Wesleyan University's Anne Sokolsky. The online application is available [here](#). Applications received by Nov. 30, 2012, will receive priority.

Physical education evaluation training workshops added in November and December

Several workshops have been added the schedule to explain the new physical education evaluation measure related to health and wellness that will appear on Local and State Report Cards for 2012-2013. State law identifies four components that will be included – benchmark evaluation, body mass index (BMI), physical activity and compliance with the local wellness policy. To help teachers determine if the benchmarks of the first component are being met, ODE has developed an evaluation instrument that will measure student success in meeting targets contained in the physical education academic content standards.

Workshop space is limited and pre-registration is required. Individuals must register through STARS by first accessing (or creating) a [SAFE](#) accounts Dates, times and locations for the training sessions are listed in STARS. For more information, see the calendar link at the top left of [education.ohio.gov](#) or contact Lisa Lyle Henry at lisa.henry@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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