

October 9, 2012

Greetings:

Fall is officially here, and with yard signs popping up like daffodils in spring, so is campaign season. Elections provide us with a real-life teaching tool to discuss government and civic responsibility. I encourage you to take advantage of this K-12 teaching moment by participating in the *My Voice National Student Mock Election* project Oct. 25 - Nov. 1.

After 30 years and 18 elections, this free event stands as the nation's largest civic education project and the world's largest national mock election. This year's event is a joint effort between My Voice, a program designed by the Quaglia Institute for Student Aspirations and the National Student-Parent Mock Election, which has helped more than 50 million students learn about the country's electoral process and the meaning of democracy.

Classroom efforts will be supported by a new media project to survey students on issues of national importance, as well as issues that impact education and local communities. The polls will appear online, including via social media and mobile channels.

Teachers who [register online](#) to participate will receive updated information about customized mock election projects in their state, leading up to Election Day.

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*

- 10/15** Ohio School Improvement Institute early bird registration ends ([10/1/2012](#))
- 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](#))
- 11/1** Alternative Compensation System RFPs due ([10/1/2012](#))
- 11/14** National Excellence in Urban Education program applications due ([10/1/2012](#))

For school superintendents and treasurers

Application period open for Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship

The second application period for the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program is underway and will run through Nov. 15. This application period will provide funding for services received Jan. 1 through

June 30 of the 2012-2013 school year.

Students awarded during this period will receive half of the scholarship amount typically awarded for their special education category. For example, if the student's special education category is Specific Learning Disability, then the scholarship award amount would be \$3,804. If the special education category is Autism, the scholarship award amount would be \$10,000.

Districts must assign at least one [SAFE](#) account holder the role of Reviewer-JPSN to receive email notifications of submitted student applications. District Reviewers will have access to instructions once they access the scholarship application through SAFE. Look under John Peterson, the User Manual and Forms. Please contact the scholarship office if you have additional questions or access the online user manual for assistance.

Process begins for sponsors wishing to open new eschools for next school year

Beginning with the 2013-2014 school year, Ohio law allows for the opening of up to five new Internet- or computer-based community schools (eschools) each year. If more than five applicants notify ODE that they are interested in opening a new eschool, ODE will hold a lottery to determine which schools may open (Ohio Revised Code 3314.013 (B)).

By law, students enrolled in an eschool work primarily from their residences on assignments in non-classroom-based learning opportunities provided via an Internet or other computer-based instructional method that does not rely on regular classroom instruction.

Governing authorities that propose to open a new eschool must first enter into a Preliminary Agreement with a sponsor and then adopt a community school contract by March 15, 2013. Both the sponsor and the governing authority must sign the community school contract by May 15, 2013 to be eligible to open an eschool in the fall of 2013.

ODE must be notified within 24 hours when a community school contract is signed. If more than five applicants notify ODE that they are interested in opening a new eschool, ODE will hold a lottery by May 31 to determine which schools may open in the fall.

For more information about how to develop a community school and the sequence of activities that need to be followed to open a new eschool, follow the instruction in the guidance document [here](#). For questions, please contact Steve Tate at (614) 466-7058.

Public comment sought on Positive Behavior Interventions and Support, Restraint and Seclusion

Oct. 24 is the deadline for public comment on ODE's draft policy and rule focused on Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) and Restraint and Seclusion. This policy and rule (3301-35-15) provide local school districts direction on PBIS as well as limitations on the use of restraint and seclusion. Both the draft policy and the rule include a purpose, applicability, definitions, Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports, prohibited practices, seclusion, restraint, training/professional development, required data and reporting, monitoring and references. To review the drafts and access the comment form, click [here](#).

Special announcement to Race to the Top – District (RttT-D) grant applicants

Recently the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) has launched a 2012 Race to the Top-District competition to support school districts in implementing local reforms. This program requested LEAs interested in applying for the grant to submit a letter of intent by Aug. 30, with applications being due Oct. 30, 2012.

As part of the application process, LEAs with intent to apply are required to submit a copy of their completed application to the Ohio Department of Education, Office of Race to the Top by **Wednesday, Oct. 17**.

Notification letters have been distributed to RttT-D Intent to Apply LEAs as provided by the USDOE ([click](#)

[here](#) to download). LEAs not listed, but have intent to apply can download the notification letter [here](#).

Celebrate for Red Ribbon Week – Oct. 23-31

As one of the most well-known alcohol, tobacco and other drug prevention celebrations of the year, Red Ribbon Week is a prime opportunity to set the stage for many positive drug-free messages, so drug-free youth can feel empowered to let others know that they are part of the majority.

The Drug Free Action Alliance continues to offer programming ideas, resources, and materials to help schools send a positive message to their schools and communities. Red Ribbon Week is not a standalone prevention message, but can be used to kick off your school and community's substance abuse prevention efforts through We are the Majority, Drug Free 24/7.

For ideas about implementing an effective social marketing campaign, or to review and order materials with the Drug Free 24/7 message, click [here](#) or email Contact@DrugFreeActionAlliance.org.

ODE recognized for parent involvement efforts

The National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS) at Johns Hopkins University has recognized ODE's Office of Federal Programs for its outstanding efforts. The parent involvement program has made excellent progress in developing its leadership and for guiding districts and schools to develop comprehensive programs of school, family and community partnerships.

The NNPS State Awards Committee assessed the documents submitted by ODE and has included ODE's activity, How to Get the Most Out of a PIC Meeting, in its Promising Partnership Practices 2012 information. Readers praised the face-to-face discussions on ESEA that were conducted and appreciated the way ODE has communicated with districts and schools about improving their partnership programs.

The recognition includes a 2012 NNPS Partnership award plaque, recognition in NNPS publications, as well as free registration to the NNPS' 2012 Leadership Development Conference.

For information on NNPS, click [here](#).

For curriculum directors, teachers and school counselors

Free Webinar, Oct. 18 - What is Human Trafficking?

Youth between the ages of 12-14 are prime targets for human trafficking. Students can help other students fight this serious problem by learning how to spot "red flags" and how to get help for someone in this serious situation.

Social studies and other teachers are encouraged to have their students participate in a free webinar designed for students on Oct. 18, from 1-2 p.m., that will explain what human trafficking is and what the warning signs are. Presenters are Ohio experts - University of Dayton Professor of Political Science and Human Rights Anthony Talbott and Anti-Human Trafficking Education Specialist Rachel Adkins of the Central Ohio Rescue and Restore Center. There is no cost, but registration is required. Click [here](#) to register. Once registered, participants will receive instructions to access the webinar.

Workshop scheduled for Teaching and Learning in a Multicultural Environment

Health, physical education teachers, classroom teachers and administrators are invited to attend a workshop on Monday, Oct. 22 to learn about teaching and learning in a multicultural environment.

ODE is co-sponsoring the workshop, along with the Buckeye Healthy Schools Alliance and the Ohio Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. It will be held at the State Library of Ohio in Columbus from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Randi Love of The Ohio State University's College of Public Health will be the presenter.

The registration deadline is Oct. 18. For more information, or to register, click [here](#).

School Health Index Workshop is Oct. 24

The *School Health Index (SHI): Self-Assessment and Planning Guide* is a tool that school nurses, physical education teachers and school administrators can use to improve their health and safety policies and programs. The October 24 workshop, led by Margaret Sproule, Ph.D., will be held at the Ohio Center for Occupational Safety and Health in Pickerington, just east of Columbus. The registration deadline is Oct. 19.

The SHI was developed by Centers for Disease Control (CDC), in partnership with school administrators and staff, school health experts, parents, and national nongovernmental health and education agencies. SHI's purpose is to enable schools to identify strengths and weaknesses of health and safety policies and programs. For more information, or 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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