



September 10, 2012

Greetings:

The July 31 edition of *EdConnection* contained a story about the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) releasing draft college-ready policies and descriptors for public review and comment. The deadline for submitting public comment is Sept. 21.

These policies and descriptors, which can be found here, are key to determining the performance expectations students must meet in English language arts and mathematics for each grade level to demonstrate their degree of readiness for entry-level, credit-bearing college courses. These readiness descriptors will serve as meaningful measures that students, teachers and parents can use to gauge student readiness for the rigors of college.

I strongly encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to provide comments and suggestions for making the policies and descriptors as user-friendly as possible. Input gathered in this process will be incorporated into the final recommendation to be presented to PARCC's Governing Board, of which Ohio is a member state. District-level comments will be very important as the Governing Board considers final adoption of the performance-level descriptors this fall. The online, Ohio-specific survey is available by clicking here. Please take a few moments to weigh in. This opportunity to make your voice heard ends Sept. 21.

Today, Ohio Auditor of State Dave Yost provided the State Board of Education with an interim report on the school attendance investigation his office is leading. You can listen to his full report here.

Have a great week.

Sincerely.

Michael L. Sawyers

Michael Saugen

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.

For School superintendents and treasurers – Governor Kasich orders flags to be flown at half-staff at all public buildings, moment of silence on Sept. 11 in honor of Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance; Guidance offered on appropriate use of language-learning software programs for credit flexibility; OPES training completion information needed from some participants; Resources for student growth measures and learning objectives now available online; eTPES webinar for superintendents and designees this Thursday, Sept. 13, Changes for students with disabilities' transition plans take effect Sept. 24; Round 2 of Race to the Top (RttT) mini-grant competition focuses on nontested grades and subjects – applications due Sept. 21; Ohio 2012-2013 Green Ribbon Schools application now online; National Assessment Governing Board nominations being accepted; National Fall Conference on Educator Misconduct - Oct. 17-19 in Cincinnati

For curriculum directors, **teachers and school counselors** – Community of Practice site provides resources for credit flexibility; ODE launches LinkedIn group for physical education professionals

For School superintendents and treasurers

Governor Kasich orders flags to be flown at half-staff at all public buildings, moment of silence on Sept. 11 in honor of Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance

Today, Ohio Governor John R. Kasich released a proclamation ordering "...that the flags of the United States of America and the state of Ohio shall be flown at half-staff upon all public buildings and grounds throughout from sunrise to sunset on September 11, 2012, and ...that all Ohioans observe a moment of silence beginning at 8:46 a.m. EDT to honor the innocent Americans and people from around the world who lost their lives as a result of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001." View the full resolution here.

Guidance offered on appropriate use of language-learning software programs for credit flexibility. The Office of Curriculum and Assessment is encouraging superintendents to remind teaching staff that Ohio's credit flexibility provision does not allow language-learning software programs as stand-alone options for earning foreign language credit. Research has shown that language-learning software programs and online courses, when blended with in-person instruction, can enhance the learning experience, but acquiring and mastering a language requires significant human interaction.

Ohio's credit flexibility and blended learning initiatives provide students a multitude of options to earn credits outside the traditional classroom. Students and counselors can use this <u>guidance document</u> to help evaluate, select and incorporate language-learning software products and online courses into credit flexibility and lesson plans.

OPES training completion information needed from some participants

Individuals who completed the Ohio Principal Evaluation System (OPES) training before Sept.1 but did not register for the class through STARS must fill out this <u>evaluator information form</u> and forward it along with documentation of course completion to <u>evaluation@education.ohio.gov</u> to access the online assessment portal. Once receives the information, an e-mail will be sent with username and password information.

Resources for student growth measures and learning objectives now available online

Several new resources explaining the student growth measures component of the Ohio Teacher and Principal Evaluation Systems are now available online here. Recently posted items include the *Student Growth Measures for Principal Evaluation* and the *Student Learning Objectives Guidebook*. Examples of SLOs will be available mid-Oct. The ODE OTES Web page is regularly updated with valuable guidance and resources. This is a good site to bookmark for reference.

eTPES webinar for superintendents and designees this Thursday, Sept. 13

ODE will host a live eTPES user webinar for superintendents and designees on Thursday, Sept. 13 at 9 a.m. Log-in information can be found here. This webinar will be available on ODE's YouTube channel for on-demand viewing shortly following the live session. User webinars for principals will be held Sept. 20 at 1 p.m. and for teachers on Sept. 27 at 4 p.m.

Changes for students with disabilities' transition plans take effect Sept. 24

As a result of Senate Bill 316, comprehensive transition plans are now required for all students with disabilities ages 14 and older. An individualized education program (IEP) written after Sept. 24, 2012, for any student with a disability who is, or will turn, 14 years of age in the year ahead must describe age-appropriate tests related to training, education and independent living skills to prepare the student for employment in a competitive workforce. The Office for Exceptional Children is developing resources to assist with these new secondary transition services requirements. For further information, technical assistance and training, please contact your regional State Support Team (SST). Districts have received notification about the specific law.

Round 2 of Race to the Top (RttT) mini-grant competition focuses on non-tested grades and subjects – applications due Sept. 21

Nearly \$1.5 million has been made available for Round 2 of the RttT mini-grant program, according to the Ohio RttT Office. The second round will focus on expanding value-added growth measures to grades and subjects not covered by Ohio's statewide assessments. Any RttT LEA that is currently participating in extended testing, or that plans to begin using extended tests during the 2012-2013 school year, may apply for the grant. Eligible LEAs must use one of the following assessments: the lowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS), Terra Nova Assessments, Renaissance STAR or Northwest Evaluation Association's Measures of Academic Progress. Grant applications, **due by Sept. 21**, can be found <a href="https://example.com/here-nearly-state-nearly-mini-state-nearly-s

Ohio 2012-2013 Green Ribbon Schools application now online

Ohio will be participating in the 2012-2013 U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) Green Ribbon Schools competition. Now in its second year, USDOE's Green Ribbon Schools 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 winners — Loveland High School and North Adams Elementary School—are available for review.

National Assessment Governing Board nominations being accepted

The National Assessment Governing Board is currently seeking nominations of qualified individuals to serve as board members. Governing Board members set policy for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), also known as the Nation's Report Card.

For 2013, the Governing Board seeks nominations for five positions in these categories:

- 1. Elementary school principal
- 2. Testing and measurement expert
- 3. Democratic state legislator
- 4. General public representative (2 positions)

Information about the positions and the nominating process is available here.

For terms beginning Oct. 1, 2013, the U.S. Secretary of Education will appoint five new members selected from a list of finalists submitted by the board. More information about the Governing Board and its membership and responsibilities is available here.

National Fall Conference on Educator Misconduct - Oct. 17-19 in Cincinnati

Professionals who identify, investigate, prosecute and remediate educators involved in misconduct from across the United States will meet Oct. 17-19 in Cincinnati at the 16th Annual Professional Practices Institute. *Accountability: It's All About The Kids* is the theme, featuring sessions on Elements of a Self-Audit, Aftermath of Victimization, Cybertraps for Educators, Tackling the Tricks of High Stakes Testing and Systemic Approaches to the Prevention of Sexual Misconduct with Students. Sponsored by the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education & Certification, this conference is an opportunity to meet and network with professionals dealing with these issues every day. Registration and additional conference information can be found here. The early bird registration deadline is Sept. 17.

For curriculum directors, teachers and school counselors

Community of Practice site provides resources for credit flexibility

Teachers, counselors, administrators, community members and students are invited to share their ideas

and questions about the implementation of Ohio's new credit flexibility requirements.

ODE has developed an online Community of Practice that provides ideas, resources, guidance and answers for individuals and teams who want to learn more about credit flexibility. Once registered, you can use the comment features, message boards and more to share thoughts on building this community into an effective network to support your efforts. For more information, click here and follow the registration instructions.

ODE launches LinkedIn group for physical education professionals

ODE recently launched the Ohio Physical Education Evaluation Communication group on LinkedIn to share information about implementing the new physical education standards that are effective for the 2012-2013 school year. The private group is designed to allow Ohio physical education professionals to share perspectives about how to incorporate the evaluation into instruction. To join the group and begin contributing, you must have a LinkedIn account and a profile that indicates you are a physical education professional. You can join the group 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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