

September 17, 2012

Greetings:

As the Sept. 30 deadline for completing K-3 reading diagnostic testing for the Third-Grade Reading Guarantee provision rapidly approaches, I am able to share with you the reading cut scores regarding students' promotion to the fourth grade. Last week, the State Board of Education approved a cut score of 390 on the Grade 3 Ohio Achievement Assessment (OAA) for Reading for the 2012-2013 school year, with the cut score rising to 392 for 2013-2014. We feel this approach will allow schools to implement the proper diagnostic and intervention tools without severely impacting children who may not have been able to take advantage of the full scope of the interventions now required.

Recognizing that there has been a lot of uncertainty about how many children may face retention; I asked staff to review Grade 3 OAA reading test results for the 2010-2011 school year pending the availability of 2011-2012 data later this year. When excluding students with an approved Individualized Education Program (IEP) and those identified as limited English proficient, 72 percent of districts and community schools had fewer than 10 students eligible for retention using the 390 cut score.

As I mentioned before, we have created a Web page with guidance and resources for districts, educators and families to better understand the new requirements. These resources can be found by clicking [here](#). I encourage you to check this page frequently for updates and additional guidance.

Also, as you are aware, each edition of EdConnection contains a great deal of information, including upcoming dates and deadlines. To help you keep track, we are piloting a new section containing approaching deadlines mentioned in recent editions and links to the source of the information. Please let us know if you find it useful.

Have a great 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](#):

- 9/17** Early bird registration ends for the National Fall Conference on Educator Misconduct. ([9/10/2012](#))
- 9/21** Public comment period on PARCC draft college readiness policies and descriptors ends. ([9/10/2012](#))
- 9/21** RttT Mini-grant Round 2 applications due. ([9/10/2012](#))
- 9/24** General effective date for SB 316 provisions unless otherwise noted ([9/4/2012](#))
- 9/30** Complete reading diagnostic testing for all K-2 students. ([8/27/2012](#))
- 10/16** National Stop Bullying video challenge submissions due. ([9/4/2012](#))

For School superintendents and treasurers

Teacher-level value-added reporting as a student growth measure includes all eligible teachers in

2012-2013

Effective this school year, teacher-level Value-Added data will be reported for all eligible teachers statewide. Teacher-level data will be included as a student growth measure in the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System (OTES) and the Ohio Principal Evaluation System (OPES) and will be phased in over the next few school years based on provisions in Race to the Top, House Bill 153 and Senate Bill 316. The teacher-level expansion requires teachers each spring to verify the students they provided instruction to during the school year. Training on this roster verification process will be available this winter.

School administrators also are encouraged to take advantage of a series of regional workshops on the new measure offered by *Battelle for Kids* in September and October. For more information on these events and on accessing online Value-Added training courses, click [here](#).

Statewide Education Conference 2012, Nov. 1-2; Registration now open to all Ohio schools

The Ohio Race to the Top Office is hosting the Annual Statewide Education Conference 2012 on Nov. 1-2 at the Columbus Convention Center. The two-day conference, which is open to educators from all school districts and community schools, is designed to provide educators with the tools to successfully equip Ohio's 1.8 million students for accelerated academic achievement and progress. Don't miss your opportunity to learn from national and state experts, school districts and community schools. **Registration for this event closes Oct. 19.** For more information about registering and conference sessions, click [here](#). We look forward to seeing more than 3,000 educators soon!

Funds available to develop educator effectiveness programs

ODE is currently seeking proposals for two programs providing funding to support educator effectiveness at the local level.

- *Locally Developed Student Growth Measures (SGM) Pilot*
ODE is seeking proposals from individual districts and community schools to pilot a locally developed SGM plan. Up to \$10,000 per district is available to support this work at the local level. **Proposals must be received by the Ohio Department of Education by 5 p.m., Oct. 5, 2012.** For more information, click [here](#).
- *Beginning Principal Mentorship Program*
The Beginning Principal Mentoring Program (BPMP) is a mentoring program for newly appointed school principals, assistant principals or individuals in charge of school sites. LEAs may apply through a competitive process for grant funds ranging from \$10,000 – \$100,000, depending on the scope of their project, to plan for and support implementation of a BPMP at their site. Grant applications are due to ODE by Oct. 31, 2012. Additional information about this opportunity may be found [here](#).

KnowledgeWorks to host discussion on P-16 efforts Oct. 4 in Columbus

KnowledgeWorks and Ohio Education Matters are hosting a free event on Thursday, Oct. 4, from 1-4:30 p.m. at the Renaissance Columbus to discuss the benefits of, and progress made by, communities with P-16 councils and the next steps for encouraging more local P-16 success. Discussion participants include the Strive Partnership, Ohio Grantmakers Forum, Learn for Life and the Stark Education Partnership. To register, click [here](#).

Communication workshops on education changes scheduled

In the next two years, Ohio's schools will face major changes. To help you communicate those changes effectively, the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) and the Ohio School Public Relations Association (OHSPRA) will sponsor ODE-led workshops that will provide tools and information that enhance district communication of the following major education initiatives: new curriculum standards; the new teacher evaluation system and the future of assessments; state report cards; and measures such as the Performance Index. ODE also will recommend actions that districts can take this school year. Members of OHSPRA will lead roundtable discussions on how to use tools and information for local school district communications.

The dates and locations are:

- Sept. 20 – Cuyahoga Valley Career Center, 8001 Brecksville Road, Brecksville; and
- Oct. 2 – OSBA Offices, 8050 N. High St., Columbus.

The cost is \$145, which includes breakfast and lunch. Register [here](#) for Sept. 20 and [here](#) for Oct. 2.

For curriculum directors, teachers and school counselors

Anti-HIB professional development day is Sept. 24

Changing behavior to provide positive and protective learning environments is the theme for a professional development day to respond to harassment, intimidation and bullying (HIB) in schools. It will be held Monday, Sept. 24, at the Quest Business Center, 8405 Pulsar Place, Columbus, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Participants will learn new ideas and receive resources to help identify, prevent and respond to bullying, harassment and intimidation. Featured speakers for this event are [Dennis Embry](#) and [David Osher](#). The event is sponsored by the Ohio departments of Education, Health and Alcohol and Drug Addiction, eTech Ohio, the Ohio Domestic Violence Network, the Ohio Mental Health Network for School Success and the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights.

The cost is \$30 per person. CEUs and RCHs will be provided. To register, click [here](#).

eTech Ohio provides online safety curriculum to Ohio schools

eTech Ohio will make Learning.com's *EasyTech* online safety curriculum available for K-12 students, teachers and administrators in all of Ohio's public schools and chartered non-public districts. This initiative will allow Ohio schools to satisfy the national E-Rate requirements surrounding student Internet safety and training. For more information on Ohio's implementation, click [here](#).

Manufacturing career path events part of Ohio Manufacturing Month in October

Next month, in recognition of Ohio Manufacturing Month, companies across the state are hosting events to provide middle school and high school students with a glimpse of the types of manufacturing jobs in demand and the skills required to do them. To learn more about these events, click [here](#).

On Oct. 11, students can talk with three young professionals in Ohio's manufacturing industry through eTech Ohio's distance learning program. The Ohio Development Services Agency (formerly the Ohio Department of Development) will cover the \$75 fee for the first 40 schools to sign up. To register for one of two telecast sessions, contact [John Ramicone](#) at (216) 916-6360.

ODE is interested in your thoughts about how EdConnection fulfills your information needs. Please send any comments or suggestions to Superintendent@education.ohio.gov.

Follow our Facebook pages for Ohio teachers and families by clicking [here](#).

Follow ODE's Twitter feed by clicking [here](#).