

September 4, 2012

Good afternoon:

Today, local superintendents or designated staff are receiving access to, and instructions for, the electronic Teacher and Principal Evaluation System (eTPES). The first step is to complete the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System (OTES) and the Ohio Principal Evaluation System (OPES) rubric alignment process, which is required for using other components of this system. Superintendents also must designate the appropriate district personnel in OEDS to use eTPES, if they have not done so already.

eTPES will be used to report educator ratings to ODE by those districts and community schools that are implementing the OTES and OPES this school year based on provisions in Race to the Top, House Bill 153 and Senate Bill 316.

Even if your district is not implementing the required evaluations until next school year or already has a performance evaluation system in place, I strongly encourage you to take this opportunity to use and become familiar with the full capabilities of eTPES now.

While districts have the flexibility to select the system used to manage and conduct performance evaluation, eTPES includes a FREE evaluation management option with the ability to pre-populate data; store growth or improvement plans, observation rubrics and evidence; and calculate final effectiveness ratings.

As part of the roll-out, ODE will provide support in the form of user manuals, online help screens, technology support, and live and recorded webinars in the coming weeks and months.

Finally, last week I shared a [link](#) to a summary of new district responsibilities resulting from the passage of SB 316. This is a document we frequently update because the deadlines and responsibilities may be subject to future changes to rule or law. I encourage you to bookmark the link to assure you refer to the most recent version available.

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.

**For school superintendents and treasurers** – Physical education evaluations required for 2012-2013, Communication workshops on education changes scheduled, New flu strain affecting students, At-risk afterschool programs survey available

**For curriculum directors, teachers and school counselors** – New extended standards available now; fall trainings scheduled, Alternative Assessment training scheduled, National Stop Bullying video

challenge announced

### ***For school superintendents and treasurers***

#### ***Physical education evaluations required for 2012-2013***

Beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, all schools that are part of the state report card system are required to conduct physical education evaluations to determine whether their students are meeting the benchmarks contained in the physical education standards that were adopted as part of Senate Bill 210 ([Ohio Revised Code 3301.079](#)).

ODE has received a number of inquiries recently about the physical education evaluations. **Please note that there is no waiver for this portion of the legislation.** If your school is part of the state report card system, you are required to collect and provide data for reporting purposes through the EMIS system.

Data will be available for both buildings and districts, starting with the 2012-2013 school year state report card. For more information about the Physical Education Evaluation, 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.

#### ***New flu strain affecting students***

As of Aug. 24, there have been 98 cases of the H3N2v flu virus in Ohio, with 96 of them in children younger than 18. Because of this, the Ohio Department of Health is sharing information about this new strain of virus with schools and child care providers.

Symptoms of H3N2v virus infection generally are similar to the symptoms of uncomplicated seasonal influenza, including fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose, body aches and headache.

If you notice an outbreak of influenza-like illness in children or staff at a school, please send them home, refer them to their healthcare providers and call your local health department. In addition, it is especially important to ensure that individuals at high risk for complications from influenza infection and individuals who may have been exposed to swine, or associated with someone who has been exposed to swine, see their healthcare provider.

The ill students or staff should stay home until they are fever free (without the use of fever-reducing medication) for 24 hours. To prevent spread of the virus, encourage hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette and regular cleaning of the school buildings as ways to prevent transmission of the virus. For more information, click [here](#).

#### ***At-risk afterschool programs survey available***

ODE is currently conducting a survey regarding interest in at-risk afterschool meal programs. These programs provide children not only with a safe place to go after school to join friends in physical, educational and social activities, but also nutritious food that gives them the energy to concentrate on

homework.

Qualified afterschool programs can receive federal funding to serve a meal or snack to children in low-income areas through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) Child and Adult Care Food Program.

ODE has created this short survey to determine what the interest is among Ohio's school districts to participate in this valuable program. The program needs to be located in an eligible area, determined by school data. The closest school to the program must have at least 50 percent or greater of the enrolled students eligible for free or reduced-price meals. The program can be either a drop-in or enrolled program. Data from the survey will be used to plan training opportunities for program participants.

Superintendents, principals and food service directors in public and nonpublic schools are invited to learn more about the program and show their interest in it by completing a short [survey](#). Those who respond will receive a copy of the USDA program handbook about the program. Please respond by Oct. 1.

### ***For curriculum directors, teachers and school counselors***

#### ***New extended standards available now; fall trainings scheduled***

The State Board of Education has adopted the [Ohio Academic Content Standards – Extended](#) (OACS-E) for students who will participate in the alternative assessments during the 2012-2013 school year. These standards are for students with significant cognitive disabilities and signal a significant shift in expectations and instructional practices for students with disabilities.

This fall, teachers have the opportunity to take part in both online and face-to-face trainings about the extended standards before they administer the alternative assessments next spring. Educators can create an account and earn contact hours for completing the [online modules](#).

Regional meetings during the fall will help educators become familiar with the extended standards and guide their instruction. Contact your [State Support Team](#) (SST) for more information on the new AASCD trainings.

#### ***Alternative Assessment training scheduled***

State Support Teams also will be providing training on the new Alternate Assessment for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities (AASCD) later in the school year. Until now, the Alternative Assessment consisted of a portfolio-based collection of evidence. Because of the changes to the Alternative Assessment, test administrators will be required to take training on the new AASCD. Most of the trainings will be held in January 2013. More information about the Alternative Assessment trainings will be available from the SSTs at a later date. The AASCD test coordinator manual and the Directions for the Administration Manual are available [here](#).

Please note that the alternative assessment trainings are separate from the extended standards trainings and one is not a prerequisite for the other.

#### ***National Stop Bullying video challenge announced***

Students between 13 and 18 are invited to take part in the Stop Bullying Video Challenge by submitting informative and entertaining videos that send a positive message to youth about being "more than a bystander" to bullying in their schools and communities. The challenge is being conducted by the federal Health Resources and Services Administration and the Federal Partners in Bullying Prevention.

This month, U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan called on America's youth to take the Stop Bullying Video Challenge. The videos should be 30 to 60 seconds long and should showcase ways they are taking action against bullying, promoting a culture of kindness and respect in their communities.

The contest winner will receive \$2,000, with two runner-ups earning \$500 each. Complete details about

the contest, including submission guidelines and rules for eligibility are available [here](#). The submission deadline is Oct. 14. Entrants under 18 years of age must have permission from a parent or guardian.

***Congratulations***

Carole Morbitzer, mathematics teacher at Hamilton Township High School (Hamilton Local Schools) in Columbus, has received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST). She has taught for 17 years, including the last six at Hamilton Township High School. She also taught for 11 years at Reynoldsburg High School for Reynoldsburg City Schools.

Carole received the PAEMST award at ceremonies in Washington D. C. In 2005, she received the Ohio Council of Teachers of Mathematics Outstanding Mathematics teacher award.

Congratulations, Carole!

Official PAEMST photo available at [https://recognition.paemst.org/finalist\\_profile/24466](https://recognition.paemst.org/finalist_profile/24466)

*ODE is interested in your thoughts about how EdConnection fulfills your information needs. Please send any comments or suggestions to [Superintendent@education.ohio.gov](mailto:Superintendent@education.ohio.gov).*

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