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Board to Board, April 2014

Board to Board is an outreach effort intended to keep local school board members apprised of important education-related issues, as well as the work of the State Board of Education.

The first round of field tests for Ohio's Next Generation Assessments is complete, and the State Board of Education is happy to report that the tests went well overall. We appreciate the district technology coordinators who worked to make updates that enabled Ohio students to take the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) math and English language arts tests as well as the American Institutes for Research (AIR) science and social studies tests. The Board also thanks the 180,000 students and their teachers who participated in all of these field tests. These individuals have helped Ohio take a big step toward building a better testing system.

The Ohio Department of Education will use what it has learned to work with test vendors and technology coordinators to improve the assessments and local technology before the Next Generation Assessments launch in spring 2015. We'll also use the experience to create professional development materials to help teachers and schools better understand how to make the Next Generation Assessments successful.

Additional field testing will take place in early May for end-of-year tests. The State Board of Education appreciates the districts and schools that have agreed to participate.

Nominate a district Ohio Teacher of the Year candidate by April 30; more recognition opportunities available

More teachers will gain recognition than ever before at the school district and regional levels through the 2015 *Ohio Teacher of the Year* program. The program has been restructured to include new *State Board Territory Teacher of the Year* awards for the 11 State Board of Education territories. State Board of Education members, together with leaders in their territories, are contacting district superintendents to promote the competition.

Superintendents have been asked to work with their principals by April 30 to select one teacher candidate to serve as the school district's entry in their *State Board Territory Teacher of the Year* contest. School districts and nominees will have until May 23 to complete and submit applications to their territory leads. All territory winners (one per territory) will advance to a state-level competition for the *Ohio Teacher of the Year*, who will be selected in fall 2014.

A timeline, instructions, the nomination form and a list of State Board territory leads are posted [here](#).

Practice tests now available in mathematics

End-of-year practice tests for Grades 3-8 mathematics, algebra I, algebra II and geometry are now available [here](#). These are important resources to help students, teachers and test administrators become familiar with the item types and technology. Also available are performance-based English language arts practice tests in Grades 3-11.

Know! campaign offers content for TEACHable Moments

The most recent installment of an ongoing series called *TEACHable Moments*, part of the *KNOW!* campaign, focuses on the relationship between family history and alcohol dependency. The *Know!* program, part of an Ohio-focused drug prevention initiative called *Start Talking!*, is designed to give adult authority figures the tools they need to help kids resist drugs.

Previously presented topics, such as alcohol's effects on youth, cough syrup abuse and the link between ADHD and substance abuse, are posted [here](#). These and future *TEACHable Moments* topics will provide you with information to help with brief but meaningful discussions in the classroom.

Technology integration program showcases ideas from teachers

To see how some Ohio teachers are effectively using technology to support student learning in English language arts classes, take a look at the videos presented in the [Ohio Teacher Showcase Project](#). The videos are accompanied by lesson plans and resources educators can customize for their students. Through this initiative, teachers statewide are contributing ideas to support the teaching of Ohio's New Learning Standards. Materials in more content areas are coming. The project is sponsored by the Instructional Technology Integration Partnership of Ohio and the Ohio Department of Education.

Recommendations still open for Ohio's Talent Pool

The State of Ohio maintains a file of emerging classroom leaders consisting of distinguished teachers and principals. These educators may be considered for membership on advisory boards and task forces, as well as candidates for special recognition programs. This year, the state is accepting teacher recommendations for Grades K-5, now through May 16, 2014. For further information, please visit [Ohio Talent Pool](#).

On behalf of the entire State Board of Education, thank you for all you do on behalf of Ohio's schoolchildren.

All the best,



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The State Board of Education has set education policy and directed the planning and evaluative functions of Ohio's public schools, as well as appointed and evaluated the superintendent of public instruction since 1956. The vision of the State Board is for all students to graduate well prepared for success. The State Board is made up of 19 members, including 11 elected and eight appointed members. The chairs of the education committees of the Ohio House of Representatives and Ohio Senate serve as ex-officio members.