



John R. Kasich, *Governor*  
Debe Terhar, *President*, State Board of Education  
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## ***Board to Board, January 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 State Board of Education of Ohio is asking our local school board partners to help battle a substance abuse problem that is robbing too many Ohio girls and boys of their critical learning years. We must take bold steps to intervene for our kids, and here's why: Ohio drug overdose deaths increased 440 percent between 1999 and 2011, with prescription drugs driving that rise.

Nearly 30 percent of Ohio's high school students are using illegal prescription drugs, and one in 10 high school students recently reported they had first tried marijuana before age 13.

Schools can help turn the tide of student drug abuse, particularly by preventing first use, through the ***Know!*** Program. This program is part of a new, Ohio-focused drug prevention initiative called ***Start Talking!*** that Gov. John Kasich and First Lady Karen Kasich recently announced.

***Know!*** is based on findings that children who talk with their parents and other authority figures about drugs are 50 percent less likely to use them. ***Know!*** arms teachers and parents with these communication tools to deliver a strong, consistent message, especially to middle school students:

***Know! TEACHable Moments*** – These are one-page guides provided by the Drug Free Action Alliance and the Ohio Department of Education twice monthly. Teachers can use them for brief, anti-drug discussions in the classroom.

***Know! Parent Tips*** – These can help parents become comfortable talking with their children about drugs at home, reinforcing what students hear at school.

Local Board members also can learn about an additional parent education program, as well as other programs schools can become involved in, at <http://StartTalking.Ohio.Gov>. These programs take little or no time from the school day, are easy to implement and are free of charge.

I sincerely hope that your board will commit to making this initiative a priority in this new year. Please join us as we come together— board members, parents, guardians, administrators and teachers—to build a drug-free future for Ohio's boys and girls.

### ***Presentation on Value-Added***

During our January meeting, we heard a presentation on value-added by Jamie Meade, the Managing Director for Strategic Measures at Battelle for Kids.

As you may know, value-added analysis is a statistical method that helps educators measure the impact schools and teachers have on students' academic progress rates from year to year.

Value-added analysis provides powerful insight for educators to determine the impact of their curriculum, instruction, programs and practices on student learning.

Over the last decade, Ohio's evolving value-added system has provided educators with:

- Student growth measure results that are valid and reliable;
- School improvement use via an interactive website tool;
- Transparency of the results used in Ohio's Accountability System; and
- Transparency of the results most likely used for future educator evaluation results.

To view the presentation delivered to the State Board of Education, please click [here](#).

### ***Presidential award presented to two Ohio teachers***

Two Ohio educators recently received the nation's highest honor for mathematics and science teachers. [Elizabeth Pitzer](#), a fifth grade mathematics teacher in the Arcanum Butler Local Schools in Arcanum and [Natalie Harr](#), an early childhood science teacher in Crestwood Local Schools in Mantua are among the 102 recipients of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

The national winners were selected by a panel of distinguished scientists, mathematicians and educators following an initial selection process done at the state level. The program recognizes teachers for their contributions to instruction and learning, as well as their ability to help students make progress in mathematics and science. Winners of this presidential honor receive a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation and also are invited to Washington, D.C., for an awards ceremony and related events.

The nomination period for 2014 awards for elementary teachers is open now through April 1. See the [ODE website](#) for eligibility guidelines and nomination information.

### ***January is Human Trafficking Prevention Month***

The most common age in Ohio for youths to become child sex trafficking victims is 13 years old. Human trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery and both human sex and labor trafficking are happening here in Ohio.

To increase statewide awareness about this crime, the Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force and the Ohio Attorney General's Office have created free public awareness materials available for download and distribution. General information and links to additional handouts, fact sheets and posters are available [here](#).

Finally, I'd like to share with you the following reports that may be of interest to you and your Board:

- **Open Enrollment Task Force Report** – The Ohio Open Enrollment Task Force was created in House Bill 59 (130<sup>th</sup> General Assembly) under section 263.450. The Task Force was directed to review and make recommendations regarding the process by which students may enroll in other school districts under open enrollment and the funding mechanisms associated with open enrollment deductions and credits. They can be accessed online by clicking [here](#).
- **Early Childhood Education FY2013 Annual Report** – In FY2013, Ohio's Early Childhood Education program provided funding for 201 school districts, educational service centers or joint vocational schools to provide high quality preschool services to 5,700 three and four-year-old children of income eligible families. House Bill 59 (130<sup>th</sup> General Assembly) specifies that ODE must provide an annual report on this program and post it to ODE's website. This report can be accessed online by clicking [here](#).

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

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debe Terhar". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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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.*