



John R. Kasich, *Governor*  
Debe Terhar, *President*, State Board of Education  
Dr. Richard A. Ross, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

## **Board to Board, March 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.*

One million Ohioans have never graduated from high school, and we are adding roughly 24,000 youngsters to their ranks each year. We must look for new strategies to stop that flow and, at the same time, whittle down the number of adults without a diploma.

The governor's Mid-Biennium Review proposes several of these strategies. They include drawing adults back into diploma programs and helping at-risk girls and boys stay in school through identification, community-based mentoring and earlier access to career-technical education.

Every Ohioan deserves the flexibility to earn a high school diploma in a way that fits their unique circumstances, strengths and interests. New alternative diploma pathways that would result from the governor's strategies can help make that happen.

Get details [here](#) on the proposed legislation.

### **Alternative Assessments Approved**

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) recently announced the approval of three alternative assessments for students who do not meet or exceed the promotion score on the reading Ohio Achievement Assessment as required by the Third Grade Reading Guarantee.

The approved assessments are:

- Iowa Assessments Form F Level 9 (Grade 3)
- Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) - Measurement of Academic Progress (MAP)
- Terra Nova 3

According to the Third Grade Reading Guarantee, the alternative assessment for reading will align to end-of-year third grade standards. A student must achieve the accepted third grade level of achievement as designated by the assessment. This may be comparable or more rigorous than the Ohio Achievement Assessment for reading.

Districts can determine when they administer the alternative assessment during the student's third grade year, which includes the summer. The alternative assessment may only be used for promotion purposes if a student has not reached the promotion score on the third grade Ohio Achievement Assessment for reading.

Students now have four opportunities to demonstrate readiness and be promoted to the fourth grade. This includes the fall, spring and summer Ohio Achievement Assessment and the alternative assessment for reading.

Ohio's Third Grade Reading Guarantee ensures that every struggling reader gets the support he or she needs to be able to learn and achieve. The policy guarantees that boys and girls will be able to read at or above a third grade level when they complete third grade. It also ensures that third grade students who are struggling are identified early and have the interventions necessary to get them reading at a third grade level.

For more information about the alternative assessments or the Third Grade Reading Guarantee, please visit [here](#).

***Value-Added regional seminars planned***

The Ohio School Boards Association is partnering with Battelle for Kids and the Ohio Department of Education to provide regional seminars on Value-Added information and how it can help to inform local policy decisions that impact student learning. Learn how your district can use Value-Added information to its benefit. Choose from the following dates and locations:

Tuesday, April 15, **Southern Ohio Educational Service Center, Wilmington**

Thursday, April 17, **Tri-County Career Center, Nelsonville**

Tuesday, April 22, **Portage County Educational Service Center, Ravenna**

Thursday, April 24, **Wood County Educational Service Center, Bowling Green**

Cost for the two-hour workshop is \$50. Register online [here](#), or contact senior events manager [Laurie Miller](#) at (614) 540-4000 or (800) 589-OSBA.

***National School Change Awards applications now open***

Applications are now being accepted for the 15th Annual National School Change Awards. The awards recognize six schools throughout the country that have shown significant change for the better. All materials must be postmarked by March 31. Visit the [website](#) for additional details and submission guidelines.

***Recommendations 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,



Debe Terhar

President

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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.*