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Board to Board, May 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.

As you know, next year, Ohio will move to a new computer-based assessment system in math, English language arts, science and social studies. The State Board of Education is pleased that more than 600 schools around the state have administered more than 180,000 field tests of the new assessments so far this spring.

However, we know that not every school will be ready for computer-based assessments when they launch statewide in the spring of 2015. In certain circumstances, the Ohio Department of Education will provide paper and pencil versions of the new assessments at no cost to districts.

It is important to understand that paper and pencil assessments are intended to serve only as a short-term solution for schools that can demonstrate they currently lack the necessary technology infrastructure to administer computer-based assessments to a portion of their students during the 2015 testing windows.

To be eligible to use paper and pencil assessments, your district must have fully completed the Technology Readiness Tool. This tool helps districts determine their overall readiness to deliver computer-based assessments to all eligible students. Please make sure your administrators complete the Technology Readiness Tool by **Friday, June 20**, so the department can review your data.

Third Grade Reading Guarantee Parent Roadmaps now available

The department of education and the State Board are pleased to introduce [Parent Roadmaps](#), which provide parents with scenarios of the interventions and assessments that their children will receive each year from Kindergarten to Grade 4 as they pertain to the guarantee. These resources are intended to better inform parents about what the Third Grade Reading Guarantee means to their students.

We encourage you to share these important tools with your community.

Ohio Department of Health issues memorandum on Ohio measles outbreak

The Ohio Department of Health, local health departments and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are investigating an outbreak of measles occurring in several counties in Ohio. As measles has only rarely been seen in Ohio in the past several decades, [a memorandum from the Ohio Department of Health](#) has been issued to assist Ohio schools with understanding measles and what school nurses and school administrators can do to protect their students and staff members. Additional information about the 2014 measles outbreak can be found on the Ohio Department of Health [website](#).

Gifted Student data added to nationally-recognized Local Report Cards

As part of an ongoing effort by the State Board of Education to provide better information for parents, we recently added data to school and district report cards on the opportunities for and performance of gifted students.

Including gifted student data and implementing the Gifted Indicator as part of the report cards reinforces our commitment to share as much pertinent information as possible about Ohio schools with parents, taxpayers, school administrators and teachers. This data will help schools and families see what we still have to do to give students the education they deserve.

Several data elements will now be reported, including service, identification and achievement levels. This interactive data display is integrated into the Achievement component of the report card. A related Gifted Indicator is currently being developed by the State Board.

This indicator will be reported as “met” or “not met” on the 2014 report card that will be released this fall, and will be included in the calculation for the graded “Indicators Met” measure on the 2015 report cards.

The new A-F Report Cards were released in August 2013, providing a more comprehensive look at the performance of schools and districts. The new report cards use standards for grading that are more rigorous. Ohio’s report card initiative has been recognized as a national leader by the Data Quality Campaign for providing quality information and constant communication to local communities and policymakers.

Ohio’s interactive report card site can be found at reportcard.education.ohio.gov.

STEM-based curricula will help connect students to careers in science and agriculture

How can soybeans help today’s students pave the way for their futures? The Ohio Soybean Council is helping Ohio teachers connect their students to careers in agriculture, food science, engineering, biotechnology and chemistry through GrowNextGen.org. The site offers STEM-based curricula, interactive e-learning courses and career videos with a focus on real-world applications of math and science to soybeans and agriculture. Teachers can join a network on the site where they can share ideas with other teachers and connect with industry contacts.

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.