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**Shared Service Survey shows school leadership, opportunities**

As this newsletter reported last month, the state issued a report on shared services titled *Beyond Boundaries* and launched an associated [website](#). The report included excerpts of results from a survey completed by schools and other local government entities in late 2011. The website includes a link to the full data from the survey for those wishing to do more analysis. Two conclusions from the survey data are:

- **School entities are leaders among Ohio's governmental entities in shared services.** On average, for the 91 categories of services, the schools' reported participation rate was 24% vs. 8% for the non-school organizations polled. For example, schools' participation was higher for technology application hosting (53% vs. 12%), computer and software licensing (51% vs. 22%), purchasing of maintenance supplies (37% vs. 11%), vehicle purchase (28% vs. 11%), and general security services (15% vs. 5%). In only a few categories were schools' participation rates lower or about the same, including paving (9% vs. 12%) and facility maintenance (11% vs. 9%). For these comparisons, school entities included traditional schools, joint vocational schools, community schools, chartered non-public schools, educational service centers and information technology centers. The nonschool entities surveyed included, among others, counties, townships, villages, libraries and colleges.
- **Even in areas of high participation, schools are not fully utilizing shared services opportunities.** The highest participation rates were reported in the general areas of technology, administration and educational support. The highest rate for all school entities was "server storage or network deployment, management or operation" at 73%, and for traditional school districts it was "physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech and other therapy services" at 84%. Some of the higher areas of participation for school entities were data recovery (59%), purchasing of electricity (47%), purchasing of natural gas (46%), pooled health care (56%), Pre-K programs (48%) and administrator professional development (51%). Even in these areas where many schools are finding it advantageous to use shared services, about half of the schools are not reporting any use. Schools looking for savings opportunities may want to start by looking at these high-participation areas.

**ARRA 1512 quarterly reporting begins Sept. 4**

On **Sept. 4**, the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) 1512 Quarterly Survey will launch for activity through the third quarter of calendar year 2012, ending Sept. 14. All local education agencies (LEAs) receiving ARRA funding through various initiatives – including Title I, Part A Grants to Local Educational Agencies (Recovery Act); Race to the Top (RttT); School Improvement Grants (SIG); Education Jobs and the Teacher Incentive Fund – are required to report their data through this survey. Please note the following:

- Those LEAs that receive FY 2013 ARRA/SIG competitive 1003(g) funds for SIG buildings approved to receive such funds do not have to obligate those ARRA funds by Sept. 30, 2012.
- As per a January waiver approval from the U.S. Department of Education, districts that have

unexpended FY2009 Title II, Part D funds (Enhancing Education through Technology State Program) also need to complete the 1512 Quarterly Survey. These districts have until Sept. 30, 2012, to obligate the funds.

- **If you are a new treasurer** who previously has not been involved with quarterly ARRA reporting, you will want to get familiar with the required process. Please refer to the Data and Reporting Guidance section of the [ODE Stimulus Updates – ARRA](#) website. Also, please send a short message to [recovery@education.ohio.gov](mailto:recovery@education.ohio.gov) identifying yourself as a new treasurer so that ODE can make sure you have everything needed. In addition, each treasurer who is new to a district needs to ensure that, by Aug. 31, the district Ohio Educational Directory System (OEDS) administrator has added his or her name to the OEDS system with the treasurer's role assigned.
- **Central Contractor Registry (CCR)** registrations will need to be renewed. Since most ARRA subrecipients completed their initial registrations during September 2009, their annual renewals are due again in September. See the document *Maintaining the CCR Registration* under the *Data and Reporting Guidance* heading [here](#) to read a short three-step process on submitting renewals without changes.

For further assistance with the reporting survey, please see information under heading *Data and Reporting Guidance* on ODE's Stimulus Updates [website](#). The survey will remain available through close of business on **Sept. 14**; no submissions can be accepted after that time. Please direct any questions concerning the ARRA 1512 reporting to [recovery@education.ohio.gov](mailto:recovery@education.ohio.gov).

#### **Information posted to assist with District of Residence changes**

An updated School Funding District of Residence Change (SF-DRC) form and a new DRC Guidance Document are available under the heading *Tuition* on the Finance Program Information/Forms [Web page](#). The DRC process allows ODE to formally change the district of residence named in a court order. As you know, juvenile court determines the school district responsible for bearing the cost of educating a child when he or she is removed from home, or permanent custody is granted to a person other than the child's parent or a government agency. The determination is based on where the parent lives at the time the court order is issued.

If the parent moves to another school district after the initial court order, ODE can name a different school district to bear the cost of educating the child, as per Ohio Revised Code 2151.362. In such a situation, the school district named in the court order or in a previous determination made by ODE, may file the SF-DRC form to petition ODE to switch the burden of paying tuition for the child to another school district.

#### **Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program awards made**

ODE has awarded 1,362 Jon Peterson Special Needs scholarships to eligible students. The program was established during the current biennium budget and provides funding for students with disabilities to enroll in a program other than the one operated by their public school districts. Scholarship awards are based on the student's disability condition and range from \$7,196 to \$20,000 annually.

District-level information is available from the person assigned the role of "Reviewer-JPSN" in [SAFE](#). The district deduction for scholarship recipients is expected to begin by next month as an estimated amount and will be recalculated with each district payment report throughout the year.

#### **Save the dates for regional treasurers' clinics**

Treasurers, members of school finance offices and district officials will benefit from one of the regional day-long Treasurers' Clinics planned in five locations in September. The agenda will include shared service examples, the expenditure standards and other topics. ODE, the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) and the Ohio Association of School Board Officials (OASBO) are sponsoring the series.

Dates and locations will be: Sept. 5, Athens (southeast); Sept. 7, Rootstown (northeast); Sept. 19, West Chester (southwest); Sept. 20, Worthington (central); and Sept 27, Perrysburg (northwest). Registration and more details will be announced through OSBA and/or OASBO. Register [here](#) for a regional clinic.

*For more information, contact your [area coordinator](#) or the ODE staff member below.*

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