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***Dr. Richard A. Ross selected as superintendent; Michael Sawyers departing March 22***

The State Board of Education has selected Dr. Richard A. Ross as the next superintendent of public instruction, and he begins serving in that capacity Monday. Dr. Ross brings with him decades of experience in teaching and administrative roles, including superintendent of Reynoldsburg City Schools, Bryan City Schools and Ottawa-Glandorf Local Schools; and high school principal in the Jonathan Alder Local School District.

He also served as chairman of the Youngstown Academic Distress Commission and was an instructor for the Ohio University Educational Leadership Program. Most previously, Dr. Ross served as director of Gov. Kasich's Office of 21st Century Education.

Acting Superintendent Michael Sawyers said of Dr. Ross, "I know he will work to continue to build our education system into one that prepares Ohio's children for the expectations they will face in college and careers." Although Sawyers was offered a senior leadership role on Dr. Ross' team, he will depart ODE on Friday to accept the chief of operations and strategic development post with New Albany-Plain Local Schools. Sawyers said, "Please know that I have greatly enjoyed my two and one-half years serving at ODE and thank you for the relationships I have been lucky enough to form across the state. I wish you continued success meeting and serving the needs of children."

***Cupp Report and other resources are now available***

Now that the Auditor of State's final report on student data systems and the 2011-2012 Local Report Card have been released, several financial reports are available: the [Cupp Report](#), the [Expenditure Flow Model](#) and the [Benchmark Report](#). Please note that in these reports, some districts have their data marked "pending" because of findings in the Auditor's report that need addressing through corrective action. These data will be corrected after the actions are resolved.

***More information about Governor's new school funding plan available***

Since the release of Gov. Kasich's new school funding plan, more information about the proposal has been posted online.

To learn more, see the governor's [website](#) and the [ODE Web page](#) on the FY2014-2015 budget. The ODE page features figures from the state's Office of Budget and Management related to the governor's proposal, as well as an overall summary of the As-Introduced version of the budget.

### ***Districts may submit applications for federal Indirect Cost Recovery Plan***

ODE has posted the FY2014 Indirect Cost Recovery Plan from the U.S. Department of Education. As in the past, districts may apply to ODE to recover a restricted indirect cost rate through a district federal grant program. Please remember that indirect cost recovery does not represent additional grant funds; it is an amount removed from an approved program. Districts that wish to complete a Cost Recovery Plan submission for FY2014 may download the information from the [ODE website](#). The due date for district submissions is **April 30**.

## **Opportunities**

### ***Facts about changes in education, Local Report Card are available***

Recently, as part of an education update to the Ohio House and Senate Education Committees, ODE prepared several one-page summaries on key educational reforms underway in Ohio. You may find these summaries useful for discussions at a Board of Education meeting or with parents and guardians. The reform summaries, along with a timeline of key implementation dates, are available [here](#). In addition, the public is invited to review work to date on the new Local Report Card as specified in House Bill 555. For more information and to comment, click [here](#).

### ***ilearnOhio is accepting applications for the Digital AP Tuition Waiver***

Under the direction of the Ohio Board of Regents, *ilearnOhio* is offering one-time funds for Ohio high school students (public and private) who want to enroll in online advanced placement (AP) courses at little to no cost to the student or school. A student may receive only one Digital AP Tuition Waiver and must attend a public or private Ohio high school or be homeschooled with an Ohio school of residence. A school official must complete the application for the student through *ilearnOhio*. The district or school (or school of residence for homeschooled students) enrolling the student shall award the student credit for successful completion of the course. For more information, please contact the program office at [web@ilearnOhio.org](mailto:web@ilearnOhio.org) or visit the [ilearnOhio](#) website.

*ilearnOhio* is accepting applications for the Digital AP Tuition Waiver to begin anytime now through this fall. For students who want to enroll in an online AP course for the next academic year, now is the time to begin considering this option. Interested applicants also may wish to inquire how this program may apply to students enrolling in postsecondary education option (PSEO) programs.

### ***Before- and after-school programs can apply for five-year grants***

Before- and after-school programs can apply for the latest round of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) funds [here](#). This federal grant is a competitive grant which provides high-quality before- and after-school programs primarily to children of high poverty and low academic achievement. The programs focus on reading, mathematics, positive youth development, and parent and family engagement activities. They also involve participants in a wide array of enrichment activities in areas such as sports, science, technology, and arts and crafts. Awarded applications could receive up to \$200,000 annually for the first three years of the grant's five-year cycle. During the fourth and fifth year, funding will be reduced as recipients prepare to sustain their programs after the grant ends. Currently there are approximately 240 programs taking part in five-year grants.

The application deadline is 5 p.m. on April 26. All applications must be submitted via the Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan (CCIP) and approved by the applicant's superintendent/CCIP authorized representative before the deadline. No extensions are permitted once the CCIP closes. Please send any questions to [21stCCLC@education.ohio.gov](mailto:21stCCLC@education.ohio.gov).

## **Reminders**

### ***ARRA 1512 quarterly reporting period closes Friday, March 22***

The American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) 1512 Quarterly Survey launched on March 4 for activity through the first quarter of calendar year 2013. All local education agencies (LEAs) receiving ARRA funding through Race to the Top (RttT), School Improvement Grants (SIG) and the Teacher Incentive Fund are required to report their data through this survey. Title I, Title II-D (non-ARRA) and Ed Jobs do not have to report since those grants are now closed.

Please note that those LEAs that receive FY2013 ARRA/SIG competitive 1003(g) funds for approved SIG buildings may still obligate those funds through Sept. 30, 2013.

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 **March 22**; 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).

### ***FY2013 EMIS October reporting period extended until Friday, March 22***

Based on requests from districts and discussions at ODE, the close of October reporting has been extended until March 22. ODE has a major data set (enrollment) that must be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education at the end of March, so further extensions are not expected. This period of time will give districts an opportunity to digest the content of the State Auditor's recently released report on attendance reporting. As districts review the report and consider any special situations in their own district that could impact state funding and count week reporting, ODE expects to receive additional help desk questions regarding reporting requirements. Responses to these questions will be made as soon as possible so that districts have time to update any October required reporting before the period closes.

### ***Make updates to board-approved five-year forecasts between April 1 and May 31 deadline***

All city, local, exempted village and joint vocational school districts are required to submit an updated five-year forecast by **May 31**. The forecast should be approved by your board and submitted electronically through EMIS. Traditional districts are reminded of the following details regarding their submissions:

- While the numeric five-year projections **must** be submitted through EMIS, districts continue to have the **option** of submitting forecast assumptions in PDF format via email. If choosing the email option, please be sure that your EMIS assumption submission section has this text: "Please visit the Ohio Department of Education website at <http://ftp.ode.state.oh.us/geodoc/5-yrForecast/>."
- PDF files should have the naming convention **DISTRICT\_NAME-IRN**, where all parts of the name are separated with an underscore followed by a dash and the IRN, and contain no spaces. For example, Newton Falls Exempted Village School District would be named NEWTON\_FALLS-045567 and Newton Local would be NEWTON-048637. Note that school district type (city, local, exempted village, joint vocational) should **not** be part of the file name. Email PDF assumptions to Sonja Hunter at [sonja.hunter@education.ohio.gov](mailto:sonja.hunter@education.ohio.gov).

Community schools need only update their five-year forecasts if there are changes to their October submissions. An update to a community school five-year forecast will need to be reviewed and approved by the school's governing authority and submitted to the Office of Community Schools (**not** through EMIS) between April 1 and May 31. Community school five-year forecasts and questions should be directed to [mary.cotton@education.ohio.gov](mailto:mary.cotton@education.ohio.gov).

## **Race to the Top (RttT)**

### ***RttT is lowering FY2013 budget allocations***

ODE is allowing local education agencies (LEAs) the option of lowering their FY2013 budget allocations in the CCIP if they determine that their current budget allocations are too high and will not be spending all of their funding. If your LEA would like to lower the current budget allocation in the CCIP for FY2013, please contact your RttT regional coordinator.

### ***New budget allocations to be announced in May 2013***

As we plan for Year 4 of RttT, ODE will announce around May 1 the revised four-year budget allocations for currently participating LEAs. Since LEAs have withdrawn from RttT since last May, ODE will redistribute the unused RttT funding. More communication and information shall be released as May 1 approaches.

### ***Year 4 budget Excel templates uploaded for participating LEAs***

ODE is assisting LEAs with their Year 4 budgets by uploading a Year 4 Excel budget template in the Collaboration Center (SharePoint). The Year 4 budget template is uploaded and placed into the Year 4 budget folder for each LEA participating in RttT. LEAs are responsible for updating their budgets using the template with the actual expenses for the first three years of RttT.

### ***FY2013 budget amendment deadline announced***

LEAs have until June 24 to submit any budget allocation changes in the CCIP through the amendment process. CCIP budget allocations for FY2013 must be in a status of "final approved" on June 30. Final expenditure reports will be due in the CCIP between July 1 and Sept. 30.

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

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