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Ohio Resident Educator Program updates

Requests for funding for the Resident Educator (RE) Program begin **February 1, 2013**. Funding is provided by ODE's Race to the Top administrative dollars (not local RttT funding). Districts and schools that currently receive local RttT funding should use a separate cost center code to keep the RE funding separate from other RttT funding. Districts and schools that **do not** receive RttT funding are still eligible for support for the RE program. However, their treasurers must set up an account to receive funding and have it approved per their local policy. The funding codes are as follows:

CFDA – 84.395

USAS – 506

The funding amount is \$350 for each **first-year** Resident Educator working in a public district, chartered community school, educational service center, career center, or joint vocational school. Because these are federal funds, they may not be allocated to private preschool or chartered non-public organizations. These funds may be used to support mentor training, mentor stipends and/or professional development for Resident Educators, mentors and program coordinators.

The Resident Educator Formative Progress Review (FPR) formalizes and aligns to the professional practices of collaborative conversations, inquiry, formative assessment and reflection that have occurred throughout the year between Resident Educators and mentors. The Year 1 Formative Progress Review (for Year 1 REs), guidance documents and a voice-over PowerPoint are available [here](#). The Year 2 Formative Progress Review (for Year 2 REs) will be available in February.

The Resident Educator Web page, located [here](#), is updated monthly with resources. Please bookmark this Web page and visit it often. Look for new rotating banners for current information and reminders. Click on the [Program Updates](#) button to review results from the Spring 2012 survey, a report from the program's external evaluator, and resources from the October 1, 2012 Ohio Program Coordinator Network meeting.

Advanced mentor trainings will be available in various locations throughout the state beginning in February and continuing through spring. Search in STARS in the **keyword** search, using "advanced mentor training."

Questions about the RE Program should be directed to REProgram@education.ohio.gov. Questions about

licensure should be directed to the Office of Educator Licensure at 1-877-644-6338 or educatorlicensure@education.ohio.gov.

EdChoice Scholarship Program updates provided

The EdChoice application period for 2013-2014 scholarships is **Feb. 1 – April 19, 2013**. The list of EdChoice-eligible public schools for 2013-2014 is available on the EdChoice [website](#). More than 300 nonpublic schools have registered to participate in the EdChoice Scholarship Program for the 2013-2014 school year. Chartered nonpublic schools that have not yet registered can still do so. EdChoice emailed registration information in December 2012 to the principals of all chartered nonpublic schools in the state.

More than 15,700 students have accepted EdChoice scholarships for the 2012-2013 school year and are attending a participating private school. In early October, ODE terminated 799 applications because the students did not begin the school year at a participating private school. Another 236 applications have been terminated as of January 2013 due to various reasons (e.g., students moving out of the area, students returning to public school district, etc.).

The winter payment for 40 percent of the annual tuition has been processed and mailed to private schools. Additional payments will be made to include schools that did not complete data entry in time for the first round of the winter payment. The spring payment for the final 20 percent of the annual tuition will be processed in March. Annual EdChoice surveys to parents and participating schools were conducted in November.

Cleveland Scholarship Program updates given

The 2013-2014 application period for the Cleveland Scholarship Program is **Feb. 1 – April 19, 2013**. Please note that the April 19 deadline is **earlier** than the CSTP application deadline of previous years. Now the CSTP deadline is aligned with the application deadline for the EdChoice Scholarship Program. The program [website](#) and all program documents have been updated to reflect this deadline date.

Currently, there are 5,826 students who reside in the Cleveland Municipal School District who are receiving the Cleveland scholarship and are attending a participating private school. ODE terminated approximately 462 scholarships for students who were not attending a participating private school for the 2012-2013 school year. As of January 2013, an additional 160 scholarships have been terminated for various reasons.

Winter tuition payments have been processed and mailed to the participating schools. Subsequent payment processing will continue for any schools that were not included in the initial round. Spring payment will be processed in March.

During November, CSTP conducted an annual survey of all participating schools as well as parents and guardians of current recipients.

New application system for EdChoice and Cleveland Scholarship Programs noted

The EdChoice Scholarship Program and the Cleveland Scholarship Program were added to the new online scholarship system on Feb. 1. This new system already is being used by the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program (JPSN) and the Autism Scholarship Program (ASP). Schools that currently participate in JPSN and/or ASP may already be familiar with the new online scholarship system.

Through the new system, schools can do almost everything that they can do now in the current system, plus perform additional functions, such as program registration. The new system also will allow for required documentation to be uploaded into the systems, such as school handbooks, tuition schedules, student address proof, custody documents and birth certificates.

Please note that scanning and uploading documents will be a required activity for all participating private schools in the new system. Participating private schools that currently do not have the ability to scan documents should plan to purchase a scanner or other office equipment that allows for scanning.

Both the EdChoice and Cleveland Scholarship Programs are working on user manuals and video tutorials to help participating schools adapt to working in the new application system. These items will be included in the new application system once they become available.

Application period for Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship has begun

The application period for the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program started Feb. 1 and will run through **April 15, 2013**. This application period will provide funding for services received for the 2013-2014 school year.

Students awarded during this period will receive the full scholarship amount awarded for their special education category. For example, if the student's special education category is Specific Learning Disability, then the scholarship award amount is \$7,608. If the special education category is Autism, the scholarship award amount is \$20,000.

Please contact the scholarship office at 877-644-6338 or peterson.scholarship@education.ohio.gov if you have additional questions or need assistance.

Information on desk audits and charter changes

Annually, a select number of chartered nonpublic schools are audited to ensure compliance with Ohio Operating Standards. Notification was sent this past fall to schools chosen for the current school year. The deadline date for providing documentation for the 2012-2013 desk audit is **Friday, Feb. 22, 2013**. Information should be mailed to the Office of Nonpublic Educational Options or may be sent via email to Chartered.Nonpublic.Schools@education.ohio.gov. The spreadsheet for documenting staff is available upon request at the same email address.

Please remember that changes to the charter of a chartered nonpublic school must be reported to the Office of Nonpublic Educational Options. If your school plans to move, add an annex, change ownership, add grade levels or close, please let that office know. The staff wants to work with the school ahead of the change to help the school to remain compliant with its current charter.

Nonpublic School Services System (NS3) opening Monday, Feb. 11, 2013

NS3 will open on Monday, Feb. 11, 2013. NS3 is a system to collect data to determine nonpublic schools' equitable portion of services provided by federal law for Title I, Title II-A, Title III, Special Education IDEA-B and Early Childhood Special Education grants. The data reported in NS3 is directly used in the funding formulas for each of these grants. Deadline to report NS3 information is 5 pm on Friday, May 10, 2013. For more information on NS3, click here for a link to the [instructions](#). The first page of the instructions includes links to YouTube videos that should assist with navigating the CCIP. If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Federal Programs at 614-466-4161.

Updates on Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO)

The deadline for nonpublic high schools to submit the letter of intent to participate in PSEO Option B for the 2013-2014 school year is April 1. The application for nonpublic student participation will be available about the third week of April. The applications must be postmarked no earlier than May 15 and no later than June 15. Please check the [PSEO website](#) for the application and other program information.

Ohio Department of Health provides flu information

As you all know, flu season is upon us. Attached to this message are three new fliers from the Ohio Department of Health with information about the flu targeting schools, parents and students. These fliers also are available online through the Ohio Department of Health at [flu.ohio.gov](http://www.odh.ohio.gov/features/odhfeatures/seasflu/seasonalinfluenza.aspx) or <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/features/odhfeatures/seasflu/seasonalinfluenza.aspx>.

Once you get to the site, click on "Flu Fighter Tools" to access these new resources as well as posters about hand washing and video clips about flu prevention.

In addition, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have resources available for schools:

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/> has general flu information

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/freeresources/index.htm> has free resources.

The following three CDC links have information specifically for schools about flu:

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/school/>

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/school/ga.htm>

<http://www.itsasnap.org/snap/about.asp>

Health experts in the school setting should encourage everyone to be vaccinated against influenza, emphasize the importance of good hand washing and respiratory etiquette, and encourage both students and staff to stay home when they are ill. This is an excellent time to teach or reinforce previous teaching about these health skills.

If you are noticing high absence rates or you have questions or concerns about influenza, please call your local health department. They can give you guidance and insight as to what is going on in your local community.

Writers sought for Fine Arts Model Curriculum development

The ODE Office of Curriculum and Assessment is beginning the process of writing a Model Curriculum to enhance Ohio's recently revised Fine Arts Learning Standards. ODE seeks K-12 educators in the visual and performing arts – dance, drama/theatre, music and visual art – to participate in a process to prepare model curriculum drafts in the four arts areas for additional feedback and public input. There will be three separate full-day meetings scheduled from March to June 2013 in central and northeast Ohio. The first meeting will be held mid-March. Selected participants will be reimbursed for travel to and from the meetings and for substitute teacher costs incurred by the school.

Applications to participate are available on the ODE website through the deadline of Feb. 15. Applicants who are selected will receive notification by the end of February.

[Click here](#) for additional information on the submission process and the application form.

Special opportunity available to teach in Taiwan

Through a memorandum of understanding with Taiwan's Ministry of Education, Ohio teachers have the opportunity to spend a year living and teaching English in Taiwan. The Ohio Department of Education invites new and experienced elementary and middle school teachers to apply to participate in the Teaching in Taiwan program for the 2013-2014 school year. The application deadline is April 5. For more information, visit the [Teaching in Taiwan website](#) or contact Dwight Groce at dwight.groce@education.ohio.gov.

Important dates for the 2012-2013 school year provided

- **Feb. 1:** Application period begins for the EdChoice Scholarship Program, the Cleveland Scholarship Program, and the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program
- **Feb. 11:** NS3 opens
- **March 11–24:** Ohio Graduation Tests administered
- **April 1:** Deadline for PSEO Intent to Participate letter for 2013-2014 school year
- **April 15:** Application period closes for the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program
- **April 19:** Application period closes for the EdChoice and Cleveland Scholarship Programs
- **April 22 – May 10:** Ohio Achievement Assessments for Grades 3-8 administered

- **May 10:** NS3 closes
- **May 15 – June 15:** Deadline period for PSEO Student Participation Applications (which must be postmarked no earlier than May 15 and no later than June 15)
- **June 17–30:** Ohio Graduation Tests administered

ODE Web resources

Each Web link below also is available at education.ohio.gov by searching for these keywords:

[Private Schools](#)

[School Charter Change Forms](#)

[Educator Licensure](#) (including certification requirements)

[School Finance Area Coordinators](#)

Center for Student Support and Educational Options

The Center for Student Support and Educational Options oversees nonpublic educational options, including the chartering and oversight of nonpublic schools. Please contact us with suggestions for future newsletter content, or if you have any questions or concerns about the information provided here.

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Autism Scholarship Program

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Cleveland Scholarship Program

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Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program

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