

**Note:** This version of the April 2012 Ides of ODE was corrected following the email distribution of an earlier edition, which contained incorrect dates for spring 2012 Ohio Achievement Assessment administration and the pickup date for schools with enrollment of 7,000 or more.

## CURRICULUM UPDATES

### **Please complete survey on transition to new standards by April 30**

Building-level administrators and/or curriculum supervisors are asked to complete a survey to provide information to ODE on their progress and success in preparing to transition to, and implement, Ohio's College and Career-Ready Standards (the Common Core and the updated content standards). This information will inform ODE's work in providing support, resources and tools during the transition. Please complete the survey at this [link](#) by **April 30**. Thank you for your assistance with this effort.

### **Draft standards posted for public review**

Draft academic content standards for entrepreneurship, financial literacy and non-career technical business currently are posted on the ODE financial literacy [Web page](#), which also is available at [education.ohio.gov](http://education.ohio.gov) by searching for keywords: *financial literacy*. Educators are asked to review the draft standards posted and use the survey link on this Web page to provide comments by **April 27**. This feedback will assist in the refinement of these new content standards.

### **Revision update provided for Ohio's K-12 world language academic content standards**

A newly revised set of world language standards, which incorporates more than 800 comments and suggestions, was presented to the State Board of Education's Achievement Committee on April 9 as the first step in the formal adoption process. The feedback was collected during 15 statewide focus groups and from an online survey. Along with an explanatory PowerPoint presentation, the draft world language standards are currently posted on the ODE's [world language Web page](#) for previewing. Once the Achievement Committee recommends this fully articulated K-12 view of the standards for adoption, ODE will produce two customized versions (for Grades 6-12 and 9-12) for the grade levels where most Ohio world language programs actually begin. Upon adoption of these revised standards, ODE will create a companion model curriculum with a completion target of June 2013. Full implementation of the revised standards and model curriculum will take place during the 2014-2015 academic year.

### **Physical education evaluation training workshops continue**

Senate Bill 210 identifies four components that will make up a new measure related to health and wellness that will appear on Local and State Report Cards for 2012-2013. Those components are benchmark evaluation, body mass index (BMI), physical activity and compliance with local wellness policy. To help teachers determine if the benchmarks of the first component are being met, ODE has developed an evaluation instrument that will measure student success in meeting targets contained in the physical education academic content standards. To learn more about the physical education evaluation, educators can attend one of following free half-day workshops:

Date	Area	Location
Thursday, April 19	NE	Kent State University – Trumbull Campus
Friday, April 20	SE	University of Rio Grande
Tuesday, April 24	SW	Southern Ohio ESC
Monday, April 30	Central	Westerville Public Library
Tuesday, May 8	NE	Kent State University Salem City Center
Wednesday, May 9	S	South Pointe BOE

Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Individuals must register through STARS by first accessing (or creating) their [SAFE](#) accounts. For more information, see the calendar link at [education.ohio.gov](http://education.ohio.gov) or contact Lisa Lyle Henry at [lisa.henry@ode.state.oh.us](mailto:lisa.henry@ode.state.oh.us).

### ***SB 210 Report Card Indicator webinar to be held May 10***

To assist districts in understanding the health and wellness Local Report Card indicator called for in Senate Bill 210, a webinar will be conducted on **Thursday, May 10**, from 2-3:30 p.m. This webinar will include a short presentation followed by a question-and-answer session. A panel of experts will be available to respond to questions. Space is limited to 200 participants and pre-registration through STARS is required. [Click here](#) to access (or create) your SAFE account, then select the link to STARS V2.0. For more information, please contact Lisa Lyle Henry at [lisa.henry@ode.state.oh.us](mailto:lisa.henry@ode.state.oh.us).

### ***Arts Standards Re-Vision on track and moving forward***

Public review of the first drafts of Ohio's arts standards for dance, drama/theatre, music and visual art drew comments from nearly 400 arts educators and constituents across the state. Survey and other written responses from on-site sessions revealed a high level of satisfaction with the updated framework and direction of the revised standards. Some writers and editors recently reconvened to review the feedback and integrate suggestions into the drafts. These new versions will be reviewed by the State Board of Education at its May and June meetings. The revision timeline and the spring drafts will be posted early next month for review on the [Re-vision Arts Standards](#) Web page.

### ***Communities of practice work site available to learn about credit flexibility***

A new shared-work opportunity for credit flexibility is hosted on the IDEA Partnership Communities of Practice website. This site provides information and includes direct links to ODE content experts, who answer questions and provide greater clarification on the credit flexibility learning alternative. Access the shared-work site by clicking [here](#) and selecting *Credit Flex*. Once there, select the *Ohio Credit Flexibility* link from the toolbar at the top of the page. You will see blogs, wikis, files, folders and a networking directory of Ohio schools that have volunteered to serve as resources on various credit flexibility topics.

### ***May 15 deadline set for video contest designed to combat child abuse***

The Ohio Children's [Trust Fund](#) is sponsoring a high school student video contest to help educate and inspire the public into action regarding child abuse and neglect prevention. The contest is open to all public, private, community and charter Ohio high schools and career-tech centers. Submission deadline is **May 15**. Four videos will be selected and used as statewide public service announcements. Each of the top four schools receives \$5,000. Criteria for the video competition is posted on the Trust Fund [website](#)

## **ASSESSMENT UPDATES**

### ***Recruiting for Participants in Performance Assessment Pilot (OPAPP)***

The Ohio Performance Assessment Pilot Project is recruiting up to 300 high school teachers statewide from all Ohio schools for Cohort 4 of the program. Participation is open to all schools, not just those participating in Race to the Top. The professional development for this cohort will be delivered online. The only travel required for participating teachers is a trip to Columbus for scoring. More details about OPAP and the Cohort 4 application are available [here](#) or by contacting Lauren Monowar-Jones at [lauren.monowar-jones@education.ohio.gov](mailto:lauren.monowar-jones@education.ohio.gov)

### ***Chartered nonpublic schools need to update OEDS-R information immediately***

A link to an online survey titled *Intent to Participate in the Ohio Achievement Assessments (OAA) and Ohio Graduation Tests (OGT) in 2012-2013* will be sent to chartered nonpublic school principals via email this spring. Because the distribution list for the survey's message will be extracted from the Ohio Educational Directory System-Redesign (OEDS-R), it is essential that email addresses and other school information for principals are listed correctly. To ensure this important ODE communication is received, please work with your OEDS-R administrator to verify and update the principal and school information in this system **immediately**. All chartered nonpublic schools are encouraged to respond to the online survey by mid-June. Due to budget concerns, ODE will not send any hard-copy reminders on this matter.

### ***Help guide the development of next generation assessments with online pilot***

Students and educators now have an opportunity to take part in a pilot and experience how an online assessment might work as ODE develops the next generation of assessments for the 2014-2015 school year. Participation is voluntary to schools that participate in the Spring 2012 OAs and eighth-grade students who have a Statewide Student Identifier (SSID) number. Test coordinators should work with other district and school personnel to determine if the district will participate, which schools will participate and which students should participate. Once this has been determined, the Pre-ID information for the participating students should be submitted to the online TIDE system.

The online pilot contains both multiple choice and interactive questions. The content for the pilot test is eighth-grade social studies. Additional details related to the online assessment pilot, including an overview of procedures, technology requirements, schedules, documents, links and software, is now available on the [Online Pilot Portal](#). Questions concerning the online pilot may be directed to Denny Wagoner at (614) 466-0223 or [dennis.wagoner@education.ohio.gov](mailto:dennis.wagoner@education.ohio.gov).

### ***OAA for spring 2012 is coming soon***

Districts may conduct initial administration of the OAA Spring 2012 during the weeks of **April 23** and **April 30**. The week of **May 7** is to be used for **make-up testing only**. Districts with enrollments of less than 2,500 will have scorable test materials picked up no later than **May 4**. (These districts should not schedule initial testing on May 4.) The pickup dates will be no later than the following dates for the remaining categories of district specified: enrollments between 2,500 and 7,000, **May 7**, and enrollments larger than 7,000, **May 8**. Any district that had a building(s) designated as Early Return must have completed testing by **May 4**, and scorable tests for the designated building(s) will be picked up on **May 4**. Districts that selected the early completion option in TIDE will be picked up on **May 1**.

### ***Take good care of OGT calculators for future administrations***

Now that Ohio Graduation Tests (OGT) for spring 2012 are completed, district test coordinators and high school building test coordinators should pay attention to the tracking and care of OGT calculators for future test administrations. Before the spring 2012 OGT administration, some districts/schools requested large numbers of additional OGT calculators. Most common reasons given were "We lost or could not find them" or "Some stopped working and we trashed them." Please remember those are NOT valid reasons for more OGT calculators and that districts are responsible for their safekeeping. If you have malfunctioning calculators, please contact Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) for free replacements.

### ***Spring 2012 OGT results to be ready in May***

Spring 2012 OGT results for all students whose answer documents were returned to DRC by March 26 will be posted in the [Ohio Online Assessment Reporting System](#) (OOARS) on **May 14**. Printed score reports will be delivered to districts and interactive data will be posted in OOARS by **May 24**.

### ***Spring 2012 OGT rescore and verification window announced***

[TIDE](#) will accept spring 2012 OGT rescore and verification requests **May 14** to **June 25**. Requests for rescoring will be subject to ODE approval. There will be a \$25 charge for processing each rescore (unless it results in a score change) and for each verification request. A purchase order number is required for each rescore or verification request. District test coordinators will be notified via email when results are available. Note that results will not be posted until the district's purchase order is received.

OOARS will be updated at the end of the rescore/verification window if there is a change in a student's test score after a rescore. However, no information in the online reporting system will be updated based on a verification request, and new score reports will not be issued after verifications. OOARS and the state EMIS system are NOT linked. Districts are responsible for reporting their results to the statewide EMIS system.

### ***Here's the schedule for spring 2012 OTELA results and verifications***

The Ohio Test of English Language Acquisition (OTELA) results will be available to districts online as downloadable data in OOARS on **May 9**. Student score reports will be delivered to districts by **May 17**. Interactive data will be posted in OOARS on **May 24**. [TIDE](#) will be open **May 9** to **June 6** for districts to submit verification requests. There will be a \$25 charge for each verification. Purchase orders for OTELA

verifications should be payable to American Institutes for Research and faxed to (614) 220-9012 or mailed to American Institutes for Research, attn: Connie Scarborough-Burks, 41 South High Street, Suite 2425, Columbus, OH 43215.

The purchase order number is required for each verification request. The district test coordinator, who will be notified via email when the results are available, will access the results through TIDE by clicking on *Appeals*. Note that results will not be posted until the district's purchase order is received. Please note that printed results will not be sent to the district and that there are no rescues for OTELA.

### ***Spring 2012 AASWD results coming soon***

Alternative Assessments for Students with Disabilities (AASWD) results will be posted online on **April 30**, and student score reports will be delivered to districts by **May 7**. Interactive data will be posted in OOARS on **May 14**.

### ***Spring 2012 AASWD rescore and verification process described***

AASWD rescore and verification requests can be entered in [TIDE](#) through **May 29**. Requests are subject to ODE approval. There will be a \$25 charge for processing each rescore (unless it results in a score change) and for each verification request. A purchase order number is required for each appeal submission. The district test coordinator will be notified via email when the rescore or verification results are available. Note that results will not be posted until the district's purchase order is received. Printed results will not be sent to the district.

*Note:* Please do not file a verification request for a student who receives an NSA (Non-scorable Assessment). An NSA is a score and is not equivalent to a DNA (Did Not Attempt). When requesting an appeal in TIDE for students who received an NSA, use the rescore option. Do not use the DNA or any other verification options.

### ***Alternative pathway eligibility for a diploma described***

Section 3313.615 of the Ohio Revised Code provides an alternative pathway to graduation for students in the Class of 2007 and beyond who have passed four of the five required Ohio Graduation Tests and meet certain other criteria. Among the criteria is maintaining at least a 2.5 grade-point average on a 4.0 scale in the OGT subject not yet passed. The school district evaluates student qualifications for the alternative pathway to a diploma, but the conversion of letter grades to point values must follow the scale set by the State Board of Education. Helpful worksheets, a timeline, the State Board of Education conversion scale for grades, forms, a fictional student scenario sample, and more information about this process are available [here](#), or at [education.ohio.gov](http://education.ohio.gov) by searching keywords: *alternative pathway*. Questions also can be directed to ODE at (877) 644-6338; ask for *alternative pathway* assistance.

### ***Please remember alternate assessment cap policy***

Traditional local education agencies (LEA) and community schools are restricted to a cap of 1 percent for accountability purposes. As in the past, the cap does *not* limit the number of students who should or may be alternately assessed; assessment type is a decision of the individualized education program (IEP) team. Assessment type should continue to be based on the needs of the child.

Although requests for exceptions to the cap on alternate assessments have been granted in the past, the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) indicated that these exceptions were permissible only temporarily. Please remember that ODE no longer accepts requests for these exceptions from traditional LEAs. Instead, LEAs that serve more than 1,000 tested students will be restricted to the cap of 1 percent of their total tested population. LEAs that serve 1,000 or fewer tested students will be restricted to a cap not to exceed 10 students.

USDOE believes that alternate assessments should be restricted for use with students who have the most significant cognitive disabilities and that this number should represent only 1 percent of a state's total student population. Furthermore, the USDOE rationale for the cap is that regular statewide assessments, with or without accommodations, are appropriate for the remainder of the student population.

Special LEAs that may request to exceed the cap are those with contracts for primarily serving high percentages of students with significant cognitive disabilities (e.g., community schools dedicated to students with autism). To request an exception, a special LEA will be required to submit a copy of its contract and a letter detailing the intent to exceed the cap, along with the state student identifying numbers for students whose IEPs indicate they should use alternate assessments. (Only those students who meet the Full Academic Year criterion and count toward accountability calculations for the LEA should be reported.) These special LEAs may obtain the form with instructions for completing the waiver by clicking [here](#) or by visiting [education.ohio.gov](http://education.ohio.gov) and searching keywords: *Alternate Assessments*. For questions, please contact Jackie Seward at [jackie.seward@education.ohio.gov](mailto:jackie.seward@education.ohio.gov) or (614) 387-7570.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### ***ODE video recordings and webinars now accessible via YouTube***

ODE now features its own [channel](#) on YouTube, where published video content such as recordings of webinars, conferences and interviews with Ohio educators are accessible. YouTube allows ODE to reach a wider audience of educators using various software to view recordings on computers, e-book readers and smart phones. Right now, you can hear from State Board members, ODE leadership and Ohio teachers on such topics as: the transition to the Common Core and revised content standards; Ohio's strategies for helping students achieve college and career readiness; and Ohio's No Child Left Behind waiver request. Please note that you can subscribe to the channel and receive email notifications every time a new item is posted. Recorded ODE webinars also are accessible at [education.ohio.gov](http://education.ohio.gov) – the link to the [webinar Web page](#) is at bottom right.

### ***INFOhio offers free classroom webinars***

If you need to earn continuing education credit or just want to learn something new, log in to one of INFOhio's webinars. They take place on Thursdays at least twice a month. Upcoming sessions include the following:

- April 19 – *How 2 Engage in 2.0 Tools*; and
- April 26 – *Learning on the Go: Mobile Apps and QR Codes*.

All sessions are held from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. If that time is inconvenient, all webinars are archived for later viewing. To register for an upcoming session or to view a previous one, click [here](#).

### ***Think INFOhio for reliable medical information***

Trustworthy information is especially important when students have questions about health. INFOhio has them covered with these online collections: *Health Source: Nursing/Academic Edition*, *Health Source: Consumer Edition* and *Alt Healthwatch*. *Nursing/Academic* gives students and their families access to peer-reviewed health journals on a variety of health topics, while *Consumer Edition* features informative, reliable articles written for a lay audience. *Alt Healthwatch* reports on scientific studies into the branches of alternative health. Access all three collections by logging [here](#) and selecting *All Database Search*.

### ***Incorporating e-books into today's classrooms***

How do schools choose the best e-book readers? How do they find e-books? And how do they create effective lessons for using them? Find all that and more in the E-book Study Group in INFOhio's [Knowledge Building Community \(KBC\)](#). The KBC is INFOhio's social network for educators. Free registration provides all Ohio educators with access to this group and dozens more. These networks allow educators to share ideas on cutting-edge classroom techniques with like-minded peers.

### ***Applications for 2012 Chinese Bridge Delegation are due June 15***

School and district leaders are invited to apply for participation in the College Board's 2012 Chinese Bridge Delegation, which will be held **Nov. 7-15** in China, to help participants start or strengthen Chinese programs and partnerships. The week-long trip will include tours of K-12 schools, cultural activities, educational workshops and interactions with Chinese educators.

Superintendents, principals, curriculum directors, world language supervisors and other educational leaders with oversight of foreign language learning are invited to apply. Educators from institutions

already offering Chinese language and culture programs also may apply, but previous Chinese Bridge Delegation participants may not. Delegates must pay a \$900 nonrefundable registration fee and are responsible for travel insurance, as well as costs and arrangements for domestic travel to a designated U.S. departure hub. Delegates are provided free international round-trip airfare, accommodations, food and in-country travel expenses while in China. The application deadline is **June 15**. For additional information and to complete the application form (coming soon), click [here](#) or contact [k12chinese@collegeboard.org](mailto:k12chinese@collegeboard.org).

### **Register for student summer language camp by May 15**

Camp OFLA is designed to meet the needs of budding linguists who will enter Grades 4-9 next year. To be held **June 10-16** in Bellville (near Mansfield), Camp OFLA is sponsored by the Ohio Foreign Language Association. Students entering Grades 4-6 may choose from Chinese, German or Spanish for a week of language immersion and cultural fun. Seventh- and eighth-graders may choose between French and Japanese for their immersion experience. Ohio teachers of these languages, assisted by advanced university and high school language students, lead the camp. Activities for the week include language learning, ethnic cooking, dancing, singing, sports, arts and crafts, campfires, games and swimming. The week culminates with a program on Saturday morning for parents and special guests. For more information on cost of attendance, location and activities, visit [campofla.org](http://campofla.org), [Camp OFLA on Facebook](#) or contact Lucas Hoffman at [lucashoffman22@gmail.com](mailto:lucashoffman22@gmail.com). The application deadline is **May 15**.

### **Thought of the month**

*“Treat people as if they were what they ought to be and you help them to become what they are capable of being.” – Goethe*

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