



August 2012

A monthly newsletter from the Office of Curriculum and Assessment

CURRICULUM UPDATES

Be aware of the Third Grade Reading Guarantee provisions and ODE resources

Almost all provisions of the new Third Grade Reading Guarantee, which was included in Senate Bill 316, will take effect in the 2012-2013 school year. The Third-Grade Reading Guarantee is designed to ensure that all Ohio's students are reading at grade level by the end of third grade. To assist districts, ODE has compiled a Guidance Document and other related resources here. Also find this page by visiting education.ohio.gov and searching keywords: Third Grade Reading Guarantee. More information on this topic will be announced.

ODE to provide tools to assist districts in the development of interim end-of-course exams

ODE will be adding tools to its website to assist districts in developing interim end-of-course exams to comply with Am. Senate Bill 165. These will include an FAQ document, timeline and instructional video. A webinar also is planned for this September. Current information on the bill can be found here.. The new legislation requires that not later than July 1, 2013, local boards of education are to adopt interim end-of-course examinations for American history and American government. These interim examinations are to be used until the state end-of-course examinations are selected. Ohio's end-of-course examinations for American history and American government are to be determined by July 1, 2014.

ODE offers communication toolkit for principals on new Ohio learning standards

To help school principals better communicate about Ohio's new learning standards and teacher evaluation system locally, ODE has produced the 2012 Principal Toolkit. The kit, available here, includes fact sheets, message points and Higher Expectations for a Brighter Future: Ohio's New Learning Standards, a four-minute video that summarizes the state's new education standards and assessments. The video and several of the toolkit items are designed to be used at teacher meetings, family nights, PTA meetings, association conferences and community events to start conversations about how classroom teaching and learning will change.

ODE e-Reader Center growing fast

ODE's e-reader collection continues to grow. We now have available all model curricula for English language arts and social studies in both .epub and .mobi formats that allow users to download these documents free to most popular e-readers. The first four science model curricula also are available now, with new documents being added weekly. See the files here.

Free tuition for an online AP course available for eligible students

Ohio public or private high school students may apply now for a one-time waiver of the fee for an online Advance Placement course through ilearnOhio. This is an excellent option for schools that are not currently offering AP courses to provide this opportunity to students. To be eligible, students must attend an Ohio high school or be homeschooled with an Ohio school of residence. The home district or school submits the waiver application and agrees that the student will receive credit for successful completion of the course. More information on the program and waiver fee applications can be found here.

Created by the Ohio General Assembly to provide access to high-quality distance learning courses, ilearnOhio is administered by the Ohio Resource Center within the College of Education and Human Ecology at The Ohio State University and under the direction of the Ohio Board of Regents.

Advanced Placement mentors needed

ODE is seeking participants in the Advanced Placement Network Mentor Program. The goal of the program is to support the professional growth of new AP teachers by pairing them with veteran AP teachers. To participate in this stipend program, mentors must have at least three years of experience

teaching AP courses and agree to: provide one-on-one assistance to mentees through a minimum of two site visits and other methods of communication; share best practices with the AP Teacher Network; and commit to a full school year of service with the mentee. Applications must be received by noon Thursday, **Sept. 6**. More information and application submission requirements are available here (see link in the first paragraph). For more information contact Yolande Berger.

Physical education evaluation training workshops to be held this fall

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 ODE workshops:

- Thursday, Sept. 20 at the Brown County Educational Service Center;
- Monday, Oct. 1 at Delaware Area Career Center South Campus; or
- Friday, Oct. 12 at the East Central Ohio Educational Service Center New Philadelphia.

Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Individuals must register through STARS by first accessing (or creating) their <u>SAFE</u> accounts. Additional workshops will be offered throughout fall. For more information, see the calendar link at <u>education.ohio.gov</u> or contact Lisa Lyle Henry at <u>lisa.henry@education.ohio.gov</u>.

ASSESSMENT UPDATES

PARCC releases draft college ready policies and descriptors for public review and comment through Sept. 21

Ohio has joined the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) for the creation of the new state assessments in English and mathematics. PARCC has released <u>two draft policies</u> related to the new assessments:

- 1. The PARCC policy for making college-ready determinations in English language arts/literacy and mathematics: and
- 2. Draft policy-level performance-level descriptors (PLDs) and general content-level PLDs for the PARCC assessments.

These policies and descriptors are key to determining the performance expectations students must meet in English language arts and mathematics for each grade level to demonstrate their degree of readiness for entry-level, credit-bearing college courses. It is important that these readiness descriptors, currently identified as Levels 1-5, are meaningful measures that teachers, parents and students can be used to gauge their readiness for the rigors of college.

PARCC is requesting public feedback about the policies, which will be incorporated into the final recommendation to be presented to its Governing Board. Ohio is a member state on that Board. District-level comments will be very important as the Governing Board considers final adoption of the performance-level descriptors this fall.

School districts are encouraged to provide comments and suggestions for making the policies and descriptors as user-friendly as possible to PARRC no later than **Sept. 21**. The online Ohio-specific survey is available by clicking here.

OAA on-time order window closes soon

Districts may review orders for the Fall Grade 3 Reading OAA, as well as submit the PreID file layout until the window closes in <u>TIDE</u> on **Aug. 22**. Districts should review their enrollment numbers to accurately order the OAA, including the special versions (Braille, large print and English audio CDs) needed.

New Alternate Assessment for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities introduced

Ohio's new Alternate Assessment for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities (AASCD) will be administered for the first time in spring 2013. The testing window will run from **Feb. 25 to March 29**. The AASCD marks a change in Ohio's alternate assessment, which previously consisted of a portfolio-based collection of evidence.

The AASCD is aligned to Ohio's Academic Content Standards—Extended (OACS-E) and is designed to allow students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in an appropriately rigorous assessment. The AASCD will be administered by grade band (grades 3-5, grades 6-8 and high school students taking the OGT).

All students will be assessed in English language arts and mathematics. In addition, students in grades 5 and 8 will be assessed in science. Students taking the OGT-AASCD also will be assessed in science and social studies. Ohio's Academic Content Standards–Extended (OACS-E) can be found here and sample tasks for the new alternate assessment can be found <a href=here. You also can find each resource by visiting education.ohio.gov and searching with the respective acronym. More information about the new assessment will be distributed in the upcoming months. For questions regarding the AASCD, contact Andrew Hinkle, Office for Exceptional Children, at (614) 644-7304 or andrew.hinkle@education.ohio.gov.

Please note summer 2012 OGT rescore and verification process

TIDE will accept Summer 2012 OGT rescore and verification requests made from **Aug. 6 to Sept. 27**. Requests for rescores 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. To enter a rescore/verification request in TIDE, click [Create Appeals] on the TIDE home page. Purchase orders for OGT rescores and verifications should be payable to Data Recognition Corporation and faxed to (866) 377-1249 or mailed to Ohio Customer Service, Data Recognition Corporation, 13490 Bass Lake Road, Maple Grove, MN 55311. A purchase order number is required for each rescore or verification request. The district testing coordinator will be notified via email when the 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. The vendor and ODE will not update EMIS with on-time results or appeals results. Districts are responsible for reporting their results to the statewide EMIS system.

Ohio Administrative Code changes posted for district review

The rules for state assessments are being reviewed and revised, in accordance with Ohio law that requires Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) rules to be reviewed on a five-year cycle. At the State Board of Education's Achievement Committee meeting in June 2012, the Office of Curriculum and Assessment presented proposed revisions to the OAC testing rules. A requirement in the rules change process is to provide stakeholders who might be affected by the changes in rule (district superintendents, principals, testing and curriculum staff) a chance to review and provide feedback. Please review the list of rules changes posted here. If you disagree with any of the proposed changes, please send your comments to Paula Mahaley at paula.mahaley@education.ohio.gov.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Professional learning series focuses on Moving Standards into Instruction

Teachers throughout Ohio are looking at how Ohio's new learning standards will change classroom teaching in the 2013-2014 school year. To support this shift in instruction, ODE is offering four training sessions for curriculum and instruction supervisors, professional development facilitators and other district leaders on how to implement the shifts at the district and classroom levels.

Participants will learn about the common instructional shifts expected for all subject areas and types of learners, as well as shifts within specific subjects. They also will take away modules they can use to facilitate implementation in their districts; examine examples of model classroom units based on the instructional shifts; and join fellow educators in designing their own high-quality instruction.

Information, including an overview of the series and details about the four trainings are available <u>here</u>. To register for the regional sessions, see the dates, times and locations by accessing or creating your SAFE account <u>here</u>, and accessing the STARS system.

Free training and resources to help in reaching and sustaining average grade level in reading

Reading Recovery is a targeted approach to school reform that provides intensive intervention in reading and writing for the lowest performing first-grade children. Research on nearly 2 million children has demonstrated than in 12 to 20 weeks, 75 percent of children receiving full Reading Recovery programs move from the bottom of the class (lowest 20 percent) to the average of class performance. Research also has demonstrated that a large majority of these children sustain average achievement in third grade and beyond.

All schools in Ohio can receive free training and materials for Reading Recovery teachers using i3 grant funds awarded to The Ohio State University. To find out more about i3 grant opportunities, click here or for more information about Reading Recovery, click here. Questions may be directed to Dr. Lea M. McGee at mcGee.148@osu.edu.

New FIP Your School Ohio resources now available

<u>FIP Your School Ohio</u> is pleased to announce two new tools to support professional learning of formative instructional practices.

- Why FIP Your School? Animated Video Click on the video screen and learn more about how
 classroom activities are the key to student success. This video can be used with a variety of
 audiences, including teachers, administrators and parents, to explain how and why FIP Your
 School is working to advance the use of formative instructional practices across the state.
- Facilitating Formative Instructional Practices Guide: This guide, which accompanies the Foundations of Formative Instructional Practices online modules, is designed for FIP facilitators, professional development coordinators, teacher leaders and others who have leadership or coaching responsibilities. The guide will help focus teachers' collaborative time on learning about formative instructional practices and putting them into action. It includes teacher team agendas, participant handouts, detailed answer keys and tips for facilitators. The three main sections are aimed at ensuring teachers have met the learning targets of each module; facilitating reflection and discussion about teacher practice; and helping teachers set goals and take action based on what they've learned from each module.

Two new FIP Your School modules coming in fall 2012

Please watch the <u>FIP Your School Ohio</u> website for additional training opportunities, online learning modules and other facilitation materials. In addition to the two online learning paths already available, two additional sets of online learning modules will be available this fall:

- Creating Clear Learning Targets Modules These four modules will give teachers additional
 instruction and practice for deconstructing standards, creating and classifying learning targets,
 and organizing targets into logical progressions for learning. The modules will use Ohio's new
 standards in all exemplars, including the Common Core State Standards in mathematics and
 English language arts, as well as science and social studies. These tools will be organized into
 grade-level segments for elementary school, middle school and high school.
- Formative Instructional Practices in Action Modules These two modules are designed to show how the four core components of formative instructional practices work together in classroom scenarios. There will be two content specific modules: English language arts and mathematics.

Teachers sought for participation in Performance Assessment Pilot (OPAPP)

ODE is seeking teachers to take part in a new phase of the Ohio Performance Assessment Pilot Project (OPAPP). The Phase 4 study will focus on testing of online professional development modules that can

be accessed either in the teacher's classroom or their homes. Participants will learn how to:

- Give feedback in the context of the learning task;
- Develop strategies for re-engaging students to improve their work products;
- Write learning tasks;
- Align assessment tasks with learning tasks;
- · Score tasks.

The program has a limited number of openings for high school teachers in the areas of English language arts (grades 9 through 11), Algebra I, Algebra II, geometry, trigonometry/pre-calculus, chemistry, physical science/earth science, biology, physics, U.S. government, world history, economics, U.S. history, agricultural science, business, and family and consumer science. This cohort will NOT be limited to Race to the Top LEAs.

Districts will be provided funds to reimburse teachers for travel to Columbus in either May or December 2013 for scorer training and scoring of the assessments. To secure a place in the study, please contact Lauren Monowar-Jones at Lauren.Monowar-Jones@education.ohio.gov. For more information about OPAPP, click here and scroll down to the Video Newsletters to see what teachers say about how OPAPP is transforming their classrooms.

Power Up for 2012-2013 with INFOhio

Rigor, text complexity, research, and college and career readiness are just a few of the concepts central to the Common Core. INFOhio offers you thousands of free resources to incorporate them into the classroom. Whether you need video, peer-reviewed journal articles, a framework for teaching research skills, or advice from fellow educators, you'll find that and more at infohio.org. Take five minutes to watch this overview video to learn more about the resources available to all Ohio educators and students.

Please note INFOhio's password change for 2012-13

The username and password needed to access INFOhio resources from home has changed for the 2012-2013 school year. You do not need the username or password to access INFOhio within a school building. Because of licensing agreements with the database publishers, we cannot share the password electronically, but your media specialist or ITC provider will be able to help you. Or, you can request it online. Please pass the information on to all teachers, students and parents in your district.

Thought of the month

"Life is a succession of lessons, which must be lived to be understood." - Ralph Waldo Emerson

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To subscribe to the *Ides of ODE* as a test coordinator, click <u>here</u>. To subscribe to the *Ides of ODE* as a curriculum director, click here.