

## CURRICULUM UPDATES

### ***Input from arts educators sought***

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) invites K-12 teachers of dance, drama/theatre, music and visual arts to join a discussion about the development of model curriculum resources to support Ohio's recently updated arts learning standards. Arts educators can give their input on the best instructional practices and classroom applications to help implement the standards.

The focused discussion will take place from 4-6 p.m. on Tuesday, **Jan. 15** at the Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County, 5811 Canal Road, Valley View, Ohio 44125. Space is limited. Please RSVP by **Jan. 11** to Nancy Pistone at [nancy.pistone@education.ohio.gov](mailto:nancy.pistone@education.ohio.gov) or Bill Nyerges at [artsrevisionohio@aol.com](mailto:artsrevisionohio@aol.com). Watch for additional opportunities to participate in the arts model curriculum development in 2013.

### ***Use formative instructional practices to unlock new standards***

The first step of effective formative instructional practice is creating and using clear learning targets. As schools transition to Ohio's new learning standards, teachers are preparing by working together to deconstruct new standards into clear learning targets that will inform instruction and assessment.

To help teachers deepen their understanding of new standards and see how Ohio's Model Curriculum supports this learning, FIP Your School® has a series of online modules that provide exemplars and practice deconstructing standards, creating and classifying learning targets, and organizing the targets into logical progressions for learning.

### ***Now available on the [Ohio Student Progress Portal](#):***

- ***Creating Clear Learning Targets in Mathematics*** learning path contains online modules specific to elementary school, middle school, and high school.
- ***ELA High School: FIP in Action*** module goes inside Mrs. Vasquez's high school English language arts (ELA) classroom to help teachers understand how to use formative instructional practices to create clear learning targets, collect and respond to evidence of student learning, and how to best engage and include students as active owners of their individual learning. This module contains four segments and is available.

FIP Your School online learning resources, including the recently published *Creating Clear Learning Targets in ELA* and the *Creating Clear Learning Targets in Social Studies* learning paths, also are available on the [Ohio Student Progress Portal](#) at no cost to educators. Visit [www.FIPYourSchoolOhio.org](http://www.FIPYourSchoolOhio.org) for module access instructions and additional information.

### ***Updates made to [Ohio's New Learning Standards in K-12 Social Studies](#)***

Minor adjustments were made recently to the social studies K-8 content standards and the high school course syllabi documents. Pre-kindergarten was removed from the K-8 document and the new title, *Ohio's New Learning Standards*, was added. (The pre-kindergarten content is included in the draft of

Ohio's early learning content standards.) The June 2012 high school course syllabi document also was adjusted to reflect the new name of the standards.

### ***Webinar to unpack Ohio's New Learning Standards for K-12 World Languages***

This webinar from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, **Jan. 16** is designed to introduce Ohio's New Learning Standards for K-12 World Languages to interested stakeholders including world language teachers, curriculum directors and other district decision-makers who are responsible for their full implementation by the 2014-2015 academic year.

Ryan Wertz and Paula Sondej, ODE world language consultants, will engage webinar participants in focused learning around the new standards. Topics to be covered are:

- An overview of the revision process;
- Highlights of the new standards;
- A comparison of the old and new standards;
- A look at the new standards' focus on communicative language proficiency and the heightened requirement for target language use in the world language classroom;
- The relationship of the new world language standards to the literacy standards in the Common Core English language arts standards;
- The relationship between the learning standards and the new Ohio's Teacher Evaluation System (OTES); and
- Recommendations for implementation.

Please note that the information in this webinar was previously shared through a series of regional workshops throughout the state in Fall 2012.

Registration is through the STARS system, which will require each registrant to access his or her existing [SAFE account](#), or create an account at this same SAFE link. To register and access additional information on STARS, use keywords: *World Language*. Participants will be eligible to receive two professional development contact hours; an email address must be provided on STARS for contact hours to be awarded.

**Important:** Please print and have available a copy of the K-12 version of the new learning standards for your reference during the webinar. They can be accessed [here](#).

### ***Learn about the Spanish Visiting Teacher Program during Jan. 31 webinar***

Do you anticipate the need for Spanish teachers during the 2013-2014 school year or beyond? Would you like to expose your students to a native speaker and cultural expert? Are you trying to staff a Spanish language immersion program? If so, the Spanish Visiting Teacher Program may be the answer.

ODE will hold a conference call with interested schools from 9-11 a.m. on Thursday, **Jan. 31** to explain how the program works. Ohio community schools interested in procuring Spanish teachers must have an appropriate official from their sponsoring institution participate on the call and sign off on the application.

To express your interest in the call, contact Paula Sondej at [paula.sondej@education.ohio.gov](mailto:paula.sondej@education.ohio.gov). In January, download both the program application and the program contract from the [Spanish Visiting Teacher Program Web page](#) on the ODE website before the conference call. To participate, dial toll-free: 1 (866) 551-1530 and use the participant PIN: 4 0 7 2 9 9 1 #.

**April 1** is the program application and contract deadline for new *and* renewing program participants, although renewing districts are asked to notify ODE by **March 1** about their interest in continuing the program next year by contacting Paula Sondej at [paula.Sondej@education.ohio.gov](mailto:paula.Sondej@education.ohio.gov). Please note that local board approval of contracts is required by April 1 because ODE consultants, who will interview and secure visiting teachers for Ohio schools, must go with solid employment promises in hand. For more details, see the program [Web page](#) or contact Paula Sondej.

### ***College Board-NCSSFL Chinese Guest Teacher Program application available beginning Dec. 18***

The Chinese Guest Teacher Program, jointly administered by the College Board and the ODE (in partnership with the National Council of State Supervisors for Languages), is designed to help U.S. schools develop Chinese language and culture study programs and to promote international exchange between the United States and China. Key benefits to Ohio schools and students include:

- Host schools can start or expand a Chinese language program at a reasonable cost.
- Schools can lay the foundation for offering a well-articulated Chinese program over time.
- Students can learn authentic Chinese language and interact with a native Chinese speaker.
- Chinese guest teachers can serve as cultural resources in other subject areas.

The program provides experienced language teachers from mainland China for host schools or districts for a period of one to three years. Because the program subsidizes a portion of each guest teacher's salary, it also provides schools with the opportunity to build Chinese programs efficiently and affordably.

If you would like more information about this program, or if your school or district is planning to request a Chinese guest teacher for 2013-2014, please visit the [program's website](#). The application, which will be available beginning Tuesday, Dec. 18, must be submitted directly to the College Board by no later than **Jan. 30**. If you have general questions about this program, Chinese language learning or program design, contact [Ryan Wertz](#) or [Paula Sondej](#).

## **ASSESSMENT UPDATES**

### ***Ohio Achievement Assessment (OAA) Grade 3 Reading***

There is some confusion that the proficient score for the OAA grade 3 reading test has changed. The proficient level for the grade 3 reading OAA is 400 and **has not changed**. For school year 2012-2013, the score of 390 on the grade 3 reading OAA is used to determine if the student should be *retained or promoted* to grade 4 and is based on the Third Grade Reading Guarantee. For school year 2013-2014, the score used to determine promotion or retention will be 392.

### ***Spring 2013 OGT TIDE window for on-time orders and pre-ID submission announced***

The [Test Information Distribution Engine](#) (TIDE) will be open from **Jan. 2-11** for districts to verify their contact information, confirm participation and upload Pre-ID files. During that time, they also may manually enter students' Pre-ID information, review and modify pre-loaded quantities of test materials, order special versions and order reporting labels. Quantities for test booklets, answer documents and English audio CDs will be pre-loaded based on Spring 2012 reported counts. Please ensure that the quantities of materials in TIDE reflect actual district or school need. To ensure timely order approval and sufficient statewide quantities, do not order quantities in excess of student enrollment. The comment box available in TIDE allows district test coordinators to communicate to ODE the justification for their increased quantities. Districts that confirm their participation by Jan. 11 will receive materials on Feb. 25.

The Spring 2013 Ohio Graduation Test (OGT) will be administered **March 11-24**. Districts that do not confirm participation during the on-time window will have the opportunity to do so during the additional order window: **Feb. 19 to March 19**.

***Please remember procedures for diagnostic assessments***

Districts and community schools should have administered to all kindergarten through grade 3 students a **reading** diagnostic by **Sept. 30, 2012**. Students who transfer to a district or a building within the district must be administered a reading diagnostic assessment within 30 days after the date of transfer. If the student has been previously administered a reading diagnostic assessment this school year, a school may use those *on-track/not on-track* results. If a student transfers in with no reading diagnostic result from the previous district or building, the new district or new building must give the *same* reading diagnostic assessment that was administered by Sept. 30 for the purposes of the Third Grade Reading Guarantee.

The writing and mathematics diagnostic assessments are required to be administered to all students in grades 1 and 2 and may be administered at any time during the school year. Districts that met AYP last year may choose to use ODE's diagnostics, or they may choose a comparable diagnostic if they submit a waiver application and it is approved. (Information about the flexibility waiver application is presented in the following article.) Districts that did not meet AYP last year must use the ODE-developed diagnostic assessments. Students who transfer to a district or a building within the district must be administered a mathematics and writing diagnostic assessment within 30 days after the date of transfer unless the student has been previously administered a mathematics and/or writing diagnostic assessment this school year, in which case those results may be used.

Intervention is required for those students who score at the level of *not on-track* on the reading, writing and mathematics diagnostic assessments. The diagnostic results for all three subjects will be submitted to EMIS at the end of the school year.

Please note there are no special versions for the state-developed diagnostic assessments such as Braille, large print, audio CDs, etc. The intent of the diagnostic assessments is to determine students' strengths and weaknesses and provide intervention.

A Diagnostic Guidance Document is available on Web pages titled [Diagnostic Assessments Related Materials](#) and the [Third Grade Reading Guarantee](#). Please review this document for information on administering the diagnostic assessments and direct any questions to Paula Mahaley at (614) 466-0217 or [paula.mahaley@education.ohio.gov](mailto:paula.mahaley@education.ohio.gov).

***Flexibility with diagnostic assessments and AYP explained***

Districts are required to administer ODE's diagnostic assessment for reading, writing and mathematics to all students in grades 1 and 2 per Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 3301.0715.

In the past, districts that met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in the previous school year were given the flexibility to use other diagnostic assessments instead of the official ODE assessments. This flexibility was removed right before the 2012-2013 school year. Some districts, however, already had arranged for non-ODE diagnostic assessments that better align with the district's curriculum and assessment framework. To accommodate these districts, ODE is exercising its authority to grant flexibility for one year. Flexibility automatically has been given to districts for the reading diagnostic assessment as a result of the Third Grade Reading Guarantee (per ORC 3313.608) and no waiver is required. For the 2012-2013 school year **only**, districts may receive flexibility for the mathematics and writing diagnostic assessments by applying for a waiver.

The waiver application will initiate an Innovative Education Pilot Program within the district that will allow the same flexibility previously granted in legislation. Once approved, a district may use whichever writing and mathematics diagnostic assessment they deem appropriate for the 2012-2013 school year. To receive this flexibly, a district must have:

- Met AYP in the 2011-2012 school year based on preliminary or final data released by ODE; and
- The support and signature of the district's:
  - President of the Board of Education;
  - Superintendent;
  - Teachers' Employee Representative (only if the district has one).

Districts interested in the flexibility granted by this waiver must submit the completed application by **Feb. 1**. Districts will receive a response from ODE within three weeks of submission. If all the previously listed conditions are met, applications will be approved quickly for the entire 2012-2013 school year.

Districts can find the waiver application form and an FAQ document [here](#) under the *Resources for Districts* heading. The completed application may be sent via email in a PDF file to [thirdgradequarantee@education.ohio.gov](mailto:thirdgradequarantee@education.ohio.gov), or via fax to (614) 995-5568. Any questions on this application also should be sent to the email address above.

### ***Important dates for Spring 2013 OTELA outlined***

On-time materials will be sent the week of Jan. 7 to districts that confirmed participation during the on-time window for the Ohio Test of English Language Acquisition (OTELA). Districts that did not confirm participation during the on-time window will have the opportunity to do so during the additional order window: **Jan. 7 to March 6**. To ensure timely order approval and sufficient statewide quantities, do not order quantities in excess of the number of students testing.

Pre-ID files are not accepted during the additional order window. The Spring 2013 OTELA for K-12 will be administered **Jan. 14 to March 8**. There will be no modification of or extension to the OTELA test window. The return date of test materials is **March 11**. Any tests shipped after March 11 **will not** be scored. OTELA results will be available electronically on May 8, and printed reports will be available May 16.

### ***Grant for developing new English language proficiency assessment awarded***

Ohio, in a consortium with 12 other states, has been awarded a federal Enhanced Assessment Grant (EAG) for \$6.6 million to develop an English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA). The new assessment eventually will replace the member states' current ELPA (which in Ohio is the Ohio Test of English Language Acquisition). The consortium is titled ELPA 21, or English Language Proficiency Assessment 21<sup>st</sup> Century. With Oregon as the lead state, ELPA 21's member states also include Arkansas, California, Florida, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Nebraska, South Carolina, Tennessee, Washington and West Virginia. The grant timeline states the new assessment is expected to be operational in school year 2016-2017.

The grant requires the consortium to develop English language proficiency standards before the development process of the ELPA may begin. All member states, including Ohio, have existing English language proficiency standards, but they do not correspond to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) required by the grant. The ELPA 21 has begun the process of developing ELP standards that correspond to the CCSS, and has a target of December 2013 as the completion date. To aid in the development, California has given permission for the ELPA 21 to use its recently developed and adopted state English Language Development standards as a basis for the development of the new ELP

standards. More details will be shared as they are made available. Please direct questions or comments to [Paula Mahaley](#), [Dan Fleck](#) or [Abdinur Mohamud](#) in the Office of Curriculum and Assessment at (614) 466-0223.

### ***SSTs to conduct test administrator training for the AASCD***

For the 2012-2013 school year, [State Support Teams \(SSTs\)](#) will be providing test administrator training on the new Alternate Assessment for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities (AASCD). In addition, school districts have the option of providing their own trainers and training sessions.

Test administrators will administer the assessment to students and record student scores. Second raters will observe the assessment and independently score the student's responses. Scores submitted by the test administrator will be reported to districts, whereas the second rater's scores will be used to study the reliability and validity of scoring across the state and will not be reported to the districts.

Most training sessions for the new Alternate Assessment will be held in January. District test coordinators and educators whose students will be taking the AASCD in spring 2013 are encouraged to speak with their local SST to learn more about the assessment and how to receive test administrator training. Test coordinators and educators also are advised to review the *AASCD Test Coordinator's Manual* and the *AASCD Directions for Administration Manual*, which are posted [here](#).

### ***Requirements for Spring 2013 Alternate Assessment second raters described***

The state of Ohio requires that approximately 10 percent of students in the statewide Alternate Assessment-tested population have another trained test administrator, referred to as the second rater, who will observe the administration and independently score the student's responses in all tested content areas. Each district should expect to have at least one student who requires a second rater. If a student is selected to receive a second rating, every content area that the student is administered must have a second rater. Districts are required to review the list of students who have been selected for a second rating, identify qualified personnel to serve as second raters and create user accounts for them. They also must ensure that all second ratings are conducted and that the corresponding scores are entered in the Data Entry Interface.

Second rater assignments for the Spring 2013 Alternate Assessment administration are now available in [TIDE](#) for the AASCD. To view a list of students requiring a second rater, log into TIDE, navigate to the "View/Edit Students" tab under "Student Information," and search all schools and grades. Students assigned a second rater will have "Yes" in the Second Rater column.

### ***Schedule outlined for Spring 2013 AASCD***

The on-time order and Pre-ID submission window for the Spring 2013 AASCD closed Nov. 30. **Districts that confirmed their participation and entered Pre-ID data and teacher and student counts will receive materials on Feb. 11.** District test coordinators will have the opportunity to register new students in TIDE **Feb. 11 to March 29**, and confirm participation and order additional materials **Feb. 11 to March 27**. The Spring 2013 AASCD will be administered **Feb. 25 to March 29**. There will be no modification of or extension to the AASCD administration window. All scores must be submitted in the Data Entry Interface (DEI) by **March 29**. The return date of non-scorable materials is April 5. AASCD results will be available electronically on June 15, and printed reports will be available on July 19.

Frequently asked questions about second raters and more information about how to access second rater assignments in TIDE can be found in the *Second Rater Fact Sheet and Guidance* document on the Test Coordinator Resources page of the Alternate Assessment [Portal](#).

***Please check technical capabilities for Spring 2013 Alternate Assessment System***

If your district will be administering the Spring 2013 Alternate Assessment, please note that the online Data Entry Interface requires the use of the Firefox browser. Districts should ensure that the Firefox browser is installed on any computers that test administrators will be using to enter Alternate Assessment scores before the test window start date of Feb. 25. More information on supported Firefox browsers and other system requirements are available in the [AASCD Technology Requirements](#) document on the Test Coordinator Resources page of the Alternate Assessment [Portal](#).

***Learn more about Spring 2013 Alternate Assessment user accounts***

Test coordinators whose districts will be administering the Spring 2013 Alternate Assessment are highly encouraged to review the [User Role Matrix](#) and the [TIDE User Management Guidance](#) documents available on the Alternate Assessment [Portal](#). These documents offer information on the levels of access available to different user roles for Alternate Assessment systems and provide guidance for district test coordinators on adding Alternate Assessment user accounts. As a reminder, district test coordinators are responsible for setting up user accounts for their schools or delegating this responsibility. All test administrator and second rater accounts must be established in advance of the Alternate Assessment administration window, which opens Feb. 25.

***Answers provided for PARCC mathematics questions***

In response to many inquiries about the implementing the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessments for mathematics, the Office of Curriculum and Assessment will address several issues below. The FAQ document for mathematics also will be revised during the next several weeks.

**Q. What PARCC End-of-Course exams will Ohio be using?**

- A. ODE expects to permit districts to select either of the two sequences of End-of-Course exams. These two sequences would be:
  - 1. Traditional sequence of exams
    - a. Algebra I
    - b. Geometry
    - c. Algebra II
  - 2. Integrated sequence of exams
    - a. Math I
    - b. Math II
    - c. Math III

**Q. What if we are not following either of these sequences?**

- A. Districts will need to identify one of the two sequences of End-of-Course exams to use with their curriculum.

**Q. What assessments will make up the summative assessments?**

- A. Both the grades 3-8 End-of-Year and the End-of-Course exams will be composed of two components:

1. Performance-Based Assessment – ODE anticipates that this assessment will have a testing window that is near the three-fourths point of the school year. This will include both machine and hand-scored questions.
2. End-of-Year – the testing window for this component will be as close to the end-of-year as possible and will be machine-scored only.

**Q. If a student takes a high school course in the middle grades, what exam are students required to take?**

A. In this situation, the current expectation is that the student would take the appropriate End-of-Course high school exam instead of the middle school grade-level End-of-Year exam.

**Q. Anything new that we should know about?**

- A. Yes, PARCC has recently updated or posted the following:
1. [Model Content Frameworks for Mathematics](#)
  2. [PARCC Calculator Policy](#)
  3. [PARCC Mathematics Reference Sheets](#)

Please visit the [PARCC website](#) for more information. Additional questions, please email Brian Roget at [brian.roget@education.ohio.gov](mailto:brian.roget@education.ohio.gov).

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### ***Year Two of Ohio My Voice has begun***

All Ohio schools serving students in grades 6-12 have an opportunity to participate, at no cost, in the Ohio My Voice project to survey their students regarding their experiences at school. The students' answers can provide valuable information to school leaders and teachers to help them foster engagement-based learning environments yielding improved academic performance and success for the students and the community school.

Check out the [Year One Report](#), which features results from more than 53,000 Ohio students who took part in the *My Voice: My School Survey* in 2011-2012. Excerpts include:

- 94 percent of Ohio students believe they can be successful;
- 89 percent say going to college is important for their future; and
- Only 44 percent say students have a voice in decision-making at school.

The Ohio My Voice initiative is a partnership of the Pearson Foundation, the Quaglia Institute for Student Aspirations (QISA) and ODE. Through a grant, the My Voice™ Student Aspirations Survey, Grades 6-12, is available one time at no cost to all Ohio schools through the Race to the Top (RttT) grant for both RttT and non-RttT districts.

To learn more about the Ohio My Voice initiative and to register your school today for the grade 6-12 survey, please visit [the My Voice website](#). Questions may be directed to Melissa Thompson, at (614) 728-6698 or [melissa.thompson@education.ohio.gov](mailto:melissa.thompson@education.ohio.gov).

### **Registration opens for ITEEA's 75th Annual Conference and Anniversary Celebration**

This year, the annual conference of the [International Technology & Engineering Educators Association \(ITEEA\)](#) will be held in Columbus on **March 7-9**. The conference theme is *Improving Technology and Engineering Education for All Students: A Plan of Action*.

The programs will be presented in five strands: Strategic Leadership for a Strong Education, Earlier and Increased Exposure to Technological Literacy, Solutions for Producing Quality Teaching, Improving What is Taught and Learned, and Delivering Instruction in a Virtual Age. Registration includes admission to the opening general sessions, professional development learning sessions and exhibit hall. It also includes the 75th anniversary celebration on Thursday night. Discounts are available for those who register before Feb. 1. For more information about the conference or to register, click [here](#).

### **Register now for Ohio Educational Technology Conference**

The Ohio Educational Technology Conference (OETC), which will be held **Feb. 11-13** in Columbus, will enable Ohio educators to:

- Attend sessions and workshops designed to enhance the teaching experience;
- Learn about the latest educational technology, tools and techniques;
- Get hands-on experience with products and services; and
- Share experiences with utilizing new technology in the classroom.

This year, the conference website offers tools to customize the conference experience for three groups: administrators and teachers, technical coordinators, and higher education professionals. For more information visit the conference [website](#). To register, please click [here](#).

### **Winter Ohio ASCD conference is Jan. 10**

The Winter Conference for the Ohio Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (Ohio ASCD), which will be held on Jan. 10 in Columbus, will feature the theme *Journey to 2014: Implementing Rigor, Relevance and Relationships in Ohio Classrooms*. Topics planned include preparing students for the 21st century; accountability and data teams; increasing student achievement through technology and blended learning; and motivating students through higher expectations and rigorous academics. Keynote speakers will be:

- Linda Jordan, Bill Daggett's International Center for Leadership in Education;
- Linda Romano, Advantacore School Improvement Solutions;
- Roger Minier, NWOET EdTech Agency; and
- Dan Stacy, Ohio Department of Education.

Online registration is available on the Ohio [ASCD website](#) or by calling (937) 996-4211.

### **Check out upcoming INFOhio webinar**

To help educators earn continuing education units, INFOhio offers free webinars. Upcoming sessions include:

- Jan. 10 – *Explore the Top Picks from the American Association of School Librarian's 2012 Top 25 Websites for Teaching and Learning*.
- Jan. 24 – *Digital Badging for Learning* – Collecting online badges as signs of acquired skills is an emerging concept in education.

As with all INFOhio webinars, these sessions will take place 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, please visit the [INFOhio website](#).

***Squeeze in professional development during winter break***

Did you know that all of INFOhio's hour-long webinars are archived? So if you missed the October session on Blended Learning, eTech's new Internet safety course in November, or December's English language arts PARCC preview, the recordings are available online. And you can still earn a Certificate of Attendance. To view the complete list of archived webinars, including all those from 2011-2012, please visit the [INFOhio website](#).

***Thought of the Month***

Wishing you Happy Holidays from all of us at the Ohio Department of Education!

**Jim Wright**, Director  
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