

CURRICULUM UPDATES

Schools may benefit from Taiwan's Chinese Visiting Teacher Program

The Chinese Visiting Teacher Program, jointly offered through the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) and Taiwan's Ministry of Education, makes available to Ohio schools and districts K-12 Chinese language teachers for a period of one to three years. Host institutions must pay full salary and benefits commensurate with the visiting teacher's level of educational attainment and teaching experience. ODE sponsors the visiting teachers' J-1 visa under provision of Ohio's memorandum of understanding with Taiwan's Ministry of Education. To participate in the program, prospective host institutions must:

- Secure the local board of education's approval to hire a Chinese language teacher from Taiwan;
- Submit an application and evidence of board approval to the TECO office in Chicago by the Feb. 1, deadline; and
- Ensure that any visiting teacher hired conforms to the requirements of Ohio's Three-Year Visiting International Teacher License (application #21 on this [ODE Web page](#)).

For additional information, including an application and information about the upcoming teacher recruiting trip to Taiwan for administrators committed to hiring teachers through this program in April, contact John Lin, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Chicago, at (312) 616-0805 or johnlin@edutw.org.

Spanish Visiting Teacher Program specifics to be shared via conference call on Jan. 31

To provide quality instruction in Spanish from native speakers of the language, Ohio has a Memorandum of Understanding with Spain that facilitates the placement of visiting Spanish language teachers in Ohio schools. ODE will hold a conference call with schools interested in the program on Thursday, **Jan. 31** from 9 to 11 a.m. Please note the following about the call and upcoming program requirements:

- All interested districts and schools should contact Paula Sondej at paula.sondej@education.ohio.gov about participating in the call. Also, download both the program application and the program contract posted [here](#) in advance of the call. Access the conference call by dialing toll-free: 1(866) 551-1530 and entering this PIN: 4 0 7 2 9 9 1 #.
- Ohio community schools interested in procuring Spanish teachers must have an appropriate official from their sponsoring institution participate in the call and sign off on the application.
- Before the **April 1 deadline for applications and contracts**, the local board of education's approval is required to hire a teacher from Spain. When ODE consultants travel to Spain to interview and choose candidates, they must have solid promises of employment in hand.
- **Renewing districts** must let [Sondej](#) know whether or not their current visiting teachers are planning to return to Ohio next year by **March 1**. They also must complete the program renewal application and contract by **April 1**. See the announcement [here](#) for more details.

College Board-NCSSFL-Hanban Chinese Guest Teacher Program applications due by Jan. 30

The application to host a Chinese Guest Teacher through this program became available on Dec. 18. **All applications must be submitted electronically to the College Board by the Jan. 30 deadline to be considered.** The College Board and ODE jointly administer the program in partnership with the National Council of State Supervisors for Languages and the Chinese Hanban.

This program provides experienced language teachers from mainland China for host schools or districts for a period of one to three years. Because a portion of each guest teacher's salary is subsidized,

participating schools can build Chinese programs efficiently and affordably. To learn more, or request a Chinese guest teacher for the 2013-2014 school year, access the application [here](#). Questions about Chinese language learning or program design may be directed to [Ryan Wertz](#) or [Paula Sondej](#).

Apply for Teaching in Taiwan program by April 5

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

ASSESSMENT UPDATES

Schedule for Spring 2013 Ohio Test of English Language Achievement (OTELA) outlined

Districts that confirmed their participation for the Spring 2013 OTELA during the on-time window received materials on Jan. 7. Note that test administrator materials and student materials were packaged separately and may have arrived in two shipments. 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.

Spring 2013 OAA on-time orders and pre-ID submission window is open

[TIDE](#) will be open **Jan. 21 to Feb. 7** for districts to confirm participation, review and modify pre-loaded quantities of test materials, order special versions and order reporting labels for the Ohio Achievement Assessments (OAA). Quantities for general test booklets will be pre-loaded based on EMIS enrollment data. 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. Districts that confirmed their participation by Feb. 7 will receive materials the week of April 8.

TIDE will be open **Jan. 21 to Feb. 21** for districts to upload pre-ID files or manually enter students' pre-ID information. Pre-ID shipments will arrive the week of April 15.

The Spring 2013 OAA will be administered **April 22 to May 10**. Districts that do not confirm participation during the on-time window will have the opportunity to do so during the additional order window: **April 8 to May 8**. Pre-ID files are not accepted during the additional order window.

Use of Read-Aloud Script for Spring 2013 OAA clarified

OAA students identified as eligible English language learners (ELL) and students with disabilities may have a read-aloud accommodation for the test administration of the reading, mathematics and science tests. Districts are **required** to order the Read-Aloud Script for OAA to provide a standardized read-aloud accommodation with a test administrator. A Form SV test booklet **must not be used** by the test administrator to provide a read-aloud accommodation. The student will use a Form SV test booklet, and the test administrator will administer the read-aloud accommodation with the Read-Aloud Script. The Read-Aloud Script used by the test administrator will match the Form SV used by the student. The English Audio CD remains available for those districts that do **not** provide a read-aloud accommodation administered by a test administrator.

Spring 2013 AASCD schedule reviewed

The on-time order and Pre-ID submission window for the Spring 2013 Alternate Assessment for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities (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 from **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 July 19.

For assistance with the link to the [AASCD site](#) and [TIDE](#) site, contact the Ohio Help Desk at 1-877-231-7809 (press 2) or OHHelpDesk@air.org. For general questions regarding AASCD, contact Andrew Hinkle, Office for Exceptional Children, at (614) 644-7304 or andrew.hinkle@education.ohio.gov.

Please note spring 2013 Ohio Graduation Test (OGT) dates

Districts that confirmed their participation by Jan. 11 will receive materials on Feb. 25. The Spring 2013 OGT will be administered **March 11 to March 24**. Districts that do not confirm participation during the on-time window may do so during the additional order window: **Feb. 19 to March 19**.

When may adult “non-students” take the OGT?

Districts often are contacted by adult “non-students” about taking the OGT. The term “non-student” is used here to mean a student who is no longer enrolled in any Ohio school, but still needs to pass one or more of the OGT subject areas. If non-students have completed all other high school requirements, they may contact any district that is administering the OGT about taking the test. If adult non-students request an OGT administration, districts must make the testing opportunity available to them per ORC 3301.0711(8)(b). These students are to be coded as grade 14 (OGT Only). The adult will need to present a photo ID and sign a statement that she or he has completed all high school requirements before she or he will be allowed to take the OGT.

Procedures for Fall 2012 OGT rescoring and verifications outlined

[TIDE](#) will accept Fall 2012 OGT rescore and verification requests through **Feb. 6**. 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. The purchase order number is required for each rescore or verification request. The district test 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. The test coordinator can access the results through TIDE by clicking *Appeals*. Printed results will not be sent to the district.

The Ohio online reporting system and the state EMIS system are **NOT** linked. Districts are responsible for reporting their results to the statewide EMIS system. Therefore, if a district knows that a student’s name is misspelled or that a student mistakenly answered some questions in a subject the student had already passed, the district can simply correct this information before it is reported to EMIS. With the policy of charging \$25 for each verification request, districts should keep in mind that there is no reason to submit a verification request if the district already knows what the response will be.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Ohio Educational Technology Conference is Feb. 11-13

The Ohio Educational Technology Conference (OETC), the nation’s third largest state educational technology conference, will be held in Columbus Feb. 11-13. The conference will enable 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 using new technology in the classroom. This year, conference sessions have been organized according to the needs of different groups, allowing participants to customize their conference experience. For more information about the OETC, please visit the conference [website](#). To register, please click [here](#).

Technology and engineering annual conference to be held March 7-9

The annual conference of the [International Technology & Engineering Educators Association \(ITEEA\)](#) will be held in Columbus on March 7-9. With the conference theme of *Improving Technology and Engineering Education for All Students: A Plan of Action*, the program will cover these 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, exhibit hall and the association's 75th anniversary celebration on Thursday night. Discounts are available for those who register by Feb. 1. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

INFOhio offers free classroom webinars

All INFOhio webinar sessions are held from 3:30 to 4:30 pm. If that time is inconvenient, webinars are archived for later viewing, and you can still earn a certificate of attendance for CEU credit by answering a few questions afterward. To register for an upcoming session or to view a previous one, visit this INFOhio [Web page](#). Upcoming sessions include:

- **Jan. 24 – Digital Badging for Learning in Libraries** – Collecting online badges as signs of acquired skills is an emerging concept in education. Cloth badges on sashes, kerchiefs or vests badges defined scouting and gave scouts a way of displaying their skills. How can moving that practice online transform learning? A team from the University of Michigan School of Information joins INFOhio in discussing this question.
- **Feb. 7 – Curation: Trends, Tools and Teaching** with Emily Colpi, Library Media Specialist, Mariemont City Schools. The word “curation” is hot right now in the worlds of tech and business, but most teachers and students know little about what this term means and how it can be used in learning. Participants will learn why curation is an important 21st century skill and how it can help in teaching critical thinking skills. They also will look at sample curation pieces and discuss what to consider before assigning a curation project. Special emphasis will be on using curation to assess student learning.

Online newspaper collection contains activities for the classroom

[NewsBank](#), a collection of digital newspapers offered free to schools through INFOhio, is a great way to incorporate current events, text complexity and research techniques into the classroom. The *News Headlines/Activities* section presents top stories in politics, science, sports and culture from around the world along with related activities based on Common Core State Standards. The *Hot Topics* section poses questions about current stories of interest and suggests search terms to help students explore on their own. Look for both sections in the top left corner of the [NewsBank](#) home page.

Thought of the month

“The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically... Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education.” – *Martin Luther King, Jr.*

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To subscribe to the *Ides of ODE* as a test coordinator, click [here](#).

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