Ohio | Department of Education

Ides of ODE

CURRICULUM UPDATES

Revised content standards adopted in five areas
At its June meeting, the State Board of Education adopted several sets of newly revised content standards that were developed over the past two years. Many stakeholders throughout Ohio representing the education, business and professional sectors actively contributed to the revision process for these standards. Their participation informed the process and resulted in instructional guidelines that will better prepare students to contribute to a 21st century global community. Full implementation of these revised standards will take place during the 2014-2015 academic year. ODE's focus will turn now to the creation of a companion model curriculum for each area, with a completion target of summer 2013. The revised standards are:

- **Fine arts** – Four sets of K-12 revised standards were adopted (in dance, drama/theatre, music and visual art) and are posted here, along with participants of the working groups;

- **World languages** – These standards will guide instruction in all languages taught in Ohio's K-12 settings, including modern, classical and American Sign languages. Along with an introductory PowerPoint presentation, these K-12 standards will be posted here in early July.

Three sets of business/financial standards posted here are those in:

- **Financial Literacy**, which will guide the integration of economics and financial literacy instruction within social studies or other middle or high school classes;

- **Entrepreneurship,** which will help K-12 students understand entrepreneurship's role in American economics and identify the personal interests, skills and abilities necessary to become an entrepreneur; and

- **Business Education,** which outlines learning expectations for traditional high school instruction encompassing business law, accounting, international business, business communication, marketing, economics, business management, information technology and 21st century skill development.

Statement issued on appropriate use of language learning software programs
It is the position of ODE that commercially available language learning software programs, as stand-alone options for earning credit, do not adequately address all of the demands of Ohio's world language academic content standards. In support of this position, the state's credit flexibility provision does not allow districts to supplant licensed teachers with commercially available language-learning products for students who pursue credit flexibility options. Language acquisition research indicates that these products are appropriate ONLY as supplemental materials, never as the primary vehicle for language instruction. In addition, the acquisition of language requires a significant level of human interaction for learning to be meaningful, and for proficiency and intercultural competence to develop across all language skill areas and communication modes.

For these reasons, the exclusive use of commercially available language learning products as a replacement for licensed teachers constitutes a misuse of Ohio's credit flexibility provision. Individual students may elect to use such a product to supplement a more well-rounded credit flexibility language-learning plan. In selecting such products, ODE encourages districts to consider the recommendations provided in a guidance document to evaluate the appropriateness of software products and online courses. Please bring this position statement to the attention of district decision-makers as soon as possible. It would be problematic if a district inadvertently allowed students to believe they would be eligible for flexible credit based on the sole use of a software product or online course.

New Web page simplifies access to standards information

ODE has created new and easier-to-navigate Web resources to learn more about the academic content standards and model curriculum. To access these resources, please click here. Or, visit education.ohio.gov and click on *Academic Content Standards* under the *Educators* column at the bottom of the page.

The Academic Content Standards section has links to each content/subject area, and each subject area eventually will offer links to *Resources* (supporting materials), *Transition* (tools) and *Professional Development* (see English language arts and The new Transition Toolkit will assist districts in preparing for full implementation of new standards in 2014-2015. Also included are links to brief instructional videos that help guide users through the transitioning steps.

Ohio Academic Content Standards – Extended (OACS-E) are available online

Following the Ohio Academic Content Standards-Extended (OACS-E) will ensure that students with significant cognitive disabilities are provided with multiple ways to learn and demonstrate knowledge. Professional development on these standards has begun with online modules available through the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) website. Teachers will implement these standards extensions during the 2012-2013 school year. The extended standards will be used to develop a new adaptive on-demand, performance-based alternate assessment, slated for implementation in spring 2013. For more information about the extensions or the new Alternate Assessment, please contact Andrew Hinkle, Office for Exceptional Children, at andrew.hinkle@education.ohio.gov or (614) 644-7304; or Bill Sternberg, Office of Curriculum and Assessment, at bill.sternberg@education.ohio.gov or (614) 466-0223.

ASSESSMENT UPDATES

Online Assessment Pilot (OAP) resources available

More than 35,000 eighth-grade students across Ohio schools and districts participated in the OAP, May 15-25. The OAP provided educators, administrators and students an opportunity to experience what it might be like to participate in online assessments that include technology-enhanced test questions. Information about OAP (including a practice test, tutorials, monthly newsletters, an overview of procedures, technology requirements, schedules and software) is available at the Online Assessment Pilot Portal. Questions regarding the technology, software or websites for the OAP should be directed to the Ohio Help Desk at (888) 944-5001 or ohhelpdesk@air.org.

Ohio Performance Assessment Pilot (OPAPP) is recruiting participants

OPAPP 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. Applications and a recorded webinar describing the project are posted here. Questions may be directed to Lauren Monowar-Jones at lauren.monowar-jones@education.ohio.gov.

Chartered nonpublic schools – please respond immediately to the Intent to Participate Survey!

All chartered nonpublic school principals are requested to respond by **June 30** to a survey about Ohio Achievement Assessment (OAA) and Ohio Graduation Test (OGT) participation in 2012-2013, whether participating or not. An initial ODE email was sent to these principals on May 11 with their survey link. The email's subject line was OAA and OGT Participation Input Needed. Please check your inbox and, if needed, your junk or spam folders to locate the email. Due to budget concerns, ODE will not send any hard-copy reminders on this matter. Only electronic survey responses are accepted. If you cannot find the survey email, please contact Christine Kempf at christine.kempf@education.ohio.gov.

Recorded webcast explains how tool will guide transition to new assessments

More than 250 Ohio school district superintendents and district-level technology coordinators participated in a statewide kick-off webcast May 15 for the Technology Readiness Tool, which will help Ohio transition to the Next Generation of Assessments. The tool was created by the two national consortia that are working on these new assessments: the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC), in which Ohio is a governing member, and the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC). Others who are interested may review a recording of the webcast here. Questions about the tool may be directed to the State Resource Coordinator Team at OhioTRT@education.ohio.gov.

Summer 2012 OGT dates and procedures outlined

The Summer 2012 OGT will be administered June 18-July 1. Offering the OGT in the summer is optional for districts. In addition, participating schools and districts do not have to offer all five tests. Districts that confirmed participation and successfully entered Pre-ID data during the April 30-May 4 window had their summer test materials and Pre-ID labels delivered by June 11. Call the OGT Help Desk immediately at 1 (877) 231-7809 (press 2) if any defective Pre-ID labels are discovered, or if there are missing labels for any students whose data was successfully submitted with the Pre-ID file. Also, please check the materials upon receipt to ensure there are sufficient quantities for the number of students who will be testing. The Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) will be open through June 26 for districts to order additional materials and special versions (large-print and Braille test booklets and language translation scripts).

Who can take the summer 2012 OGT?

Summer OGT administrations are for students who have completed grade 10 or above; are in an adult high school program; have completed curriculum requirements for graduation, but who have not passed all required tests; or who are enrolled in state-approved STEM schools. The only students who may participate are those who were classified as grade 10 or above by June 30 of the preceding school year, or students who are below grade 10 but enrolled in state-approved STEM schools. If these students are enrolled in school, they are expected to complete 10 hours of intervention for each subject area in which they will be tested. Students who have completed curriculum requirements for graduation may test without the required 10 hours of intervention.

Procedures outlined for adult non-students who have not passed the OGT

Adults who are no longer enrolled in any Ohio school may take the OGT at any district that is administering the OGT if they have completed all high school requirements and still need to pass one or more of the OGT subject areas. If adult non-students request an OGT administration, districts must make a testing opportunity available to them per Ohio Revised Code 3301.0711(B)(8)(b). These students are to be coded as *OGT Only* in Box L on page 2 of the answer document. The adult will need to present a photo ID and sign a statement that she or he has completed all high school requirements before being allowed to take the OGT.

The section on summer OGT in the Testing Rules Book, page 19, states, "*Districts that decide to offer the summer OGT for their enrolled students are not obligated to allow students from other districts or schools to participate in their summer OGT administration.*" The text refers to students **still enrolled** in a district or school and does not apply to students who have met all curriculum requirements and need only to pass one or more of the OGT subject areas to obtain their high school diploma. These students may test at any school in the state that is administering the OGT. (ORC 3301.0711(B)(8)(b).

Take good care of OGT calculators for future 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. Now that OGTs for spring 2012 are completed, district and building test coordinators should pay attention to the tracking and care of OGT calculators for future test administrations. If a district has malfunctioning calculators, please contact Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) for free replacements.

Spring 2012 OGT rescore and verification request process described

2012 OGT rescore and verification requests may be submitted in TIDE through **June 25**. 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 for each verification request. A purchase order (PO) number is required for each rescore or verification request; results will not be posted until the district's PO is received. District test coordinators will be notified via email when results are available. Districts are responsible for reporting their results to the statewide Educational Management Information System (EMIS) system.

OGT half-length practice tests may be ordered now

TIDE will be open through June 28 for OGT half-length practice test orders. The tests can be used to prepare students for the OGT. The half-length practice tests include these special versions: Braille, large print and English audio CDs. There is no charge for these practice tests, which will be shipped in September only to districts that request them through TIDE. Additional half-length practice test orders may be placed in TIDE from Sept. 7 to Oct. 5.

Note: Districts that are required to administer the full-length practice tests must download and print the full-length versions available here on the ODE website.

OAA Spring 2012 results available
Electronic files that contain score results for the Spring 2012 OAA will be made available June 15 on the Ohio Online Assessment Reporting System (OOARS) website. Test coordinators have been given login and password information to access these data. Printed score reports will be distributed by June 29.

A variety of additional electronic reports, rosters and functions (content standard rosters, frequency distributions, longitudinal test records, re-rostering and PDF report generation) also will be available through OOARS as interactive data on June 29. Late batch downloadable data will be posted on OOARS on June 25 and Breach Form downloadable data will be available on July 5.

OAA Spring 2012 rescore and verification requests may be submitted
District test coordinators may submit verifications and rescore requests through TIDE from June 15-July 15 for the OAA. A password is required to enter the system. The 30-day process has two time periods related to the return of results:

- Requests submitted **June 15-22** will have results posted no later than **July 11.** This time period is the **only** window that ensures enough time for **Local Report Card and EMIS** year-end reporting.

- Requests submitted **June 23-July 15** will have results posted within 30 days of the online submission date. Results **may not** be available in time for year-end EMIS reporting and inclusion in Report Card calculations.

Please note that there is a $25 charge for each rescore request that results in no score change; there is a $25 charge for each verification request. A purchase order is required at the time the rescore or verification request is submitted.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Seven Ohio educators now teaching in Taiwan
Two new Ohio teachers will spend a year living and teaching English in Taiwan. Kari Hess, a third-grade teacher at Loveland Elementary School in Cincinnati, and Amanda Krebs, an eighth-grade language arts teacher at Edgewood Middle School in Wooster, will be joining other selected U.S. teachers for this unique opportunity. This is the seventh year of ODE's partnership with Taiwan's Ministry of Education. Five other teachers also will continue to teach in Taiwan. For more information on the program, contact Dwight Groce at dwight.groce@education.ohio.gov.

Registration ends soon for Engineering by Design Summer Institutes scheduled in Columbus
From July 30 to Aug. 3, the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association's (ITEEA's) STEM Center for Teaching and Learning will host two Engineering by Design (EbD) Summer Institutes in Columbus. Teachers trained as EbD™ coaches will run the five-day institute, which will include courses in Invention and Innovation for Grade 7 and Technological Design for Grades 10-12. The institute also will describe the use of ebDonline™ and the development of EbD student assessments. Last day to register is **June 30**. For more information on the summer institutes and to register, click here. Questions may be directed to Mike Miller at MMiller@worthington.k12.oh.us.

Strengthen Your Core Workshop/Connect for Success conference scheduled
Join INFOhio at the Battelle for Kids Strengthen Your Core Workshop on June 26 p.m. and at the Connect for Success Conference on June 27-29. Participants will spend June 26 building their understanding of the Common Core State Standards. Then they will spend three days with innovative educators from across the state in sharing ideas and inspiration on education's most timely topics. INFOHio will share no-cost resources for educators and conduct a session on incorporating those resources in a rigorous program of study.

INFOhio offers boot camp on the Common Core for librarians
Save the dates of Aug. 6-8 for INFOhio's first-ever virtual conference titled *No Sweat Boot Camp on the Common Core for Librarians!* Join in online to "work out" with new tools to help meet the demands of the

Common Core. Participants can earn up to 15 contact hours or one hour of graduate credit toward professional development requirements. The boot camp is offered at no charge to Ohio school librarians. Look for registration information and session times and titles here in early July.

Free access to online resources available to Ohio schools through 2012-2013
The Libraries Connect Ohio program of the State Library of Ohio will use a $2,471,481 federal grant to purchase the Ohio Web Library core set of online resources and publications for the next state fiscal year, beginning July 1. This means that through INFOhio, next school year all Ohio preK-12 schools will continue to have free access online to full-text magazines and journals, reference materials, newspapers, art, tutorials, test preparation materials, online courses, and career exploration and job search tools. The federal grant was made possible by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Complete information and a list of resources are available on the INFOhio website.

Thought of the month
"Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one." – *Malcolm S. Forbes*

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