

## CURRICULUM UPDATES

### ***Educators can now contribute to the Model Curriculum***

ODE has created and posted a form for educators to use in sending ideas that support Ohio's 2010 academic content standards. Suggestions for instructional strategies, materials or resources, and examples of successful classroom projects or investigations are welcome. The form can be found [here](#).

### ***Please join in a Facebook conversation for educators***

[Ohio Teachers' Homeroom](#), the new Facebook page for educators from the Ohio Department of Education, is off to an exciting start. Within weeks of its launch, the page already has hundreds of fans and is receiving submissions from around Ohio. ODE invites you to "Like" the page so you can receive regular updates when news is posted. Ohio Teachers' Homeroom will be another way for educators to connect and present ideas, so please share the page with friends and colleagues. ODE welcomes news and ideas, including:

- Lesson planning resources;
- Events, conferences, webinars or PD opportunities; and
- Teaching and learning topics that might stir conversation among Facebook readers.

### ***Application deadline for Spanish Visiting Teacher Program is April 1***

Do you anticipate the need for Spanish teachers during the 2012-2013 school year or beyond? Would you like to expose your students to a native speaker and cultural expert, or staff a Spanish language immersion program? Does your community support rich cross-cultural learning experiences as a means of preparing students for college and career in today's global society? If your answer to any of these questions is yes, the Spanish Visiting Teacher Program may be just the answer.

Ohio has a Memorandum of Understanding with Spain that facilitates the placement of visiting Spanish language teachers in Ohio schools. All interested districts and schools should download both the program application and the contract [here](#) to better understand the program requirements. If you have questions or need additional clarification of the requirements, please contact ODE World Languages Consultant Wertz at (614) 728-4630 or [ryan.wertz@education.ohio.gov](mailto:ryan.wertz@education.ohio.gov).

***Application and contract deadline is April 1.*** If you decide to utilize the program, it is imperative that you secure the approval of your local board of education to hire a teacher from Spain before the April 1 deadline. When Wertz travels to Spain to interview and secure a candidate for you, he must go with a solid promise of employment in hand. **Renewing Districts:** Please download and complete the program renewal application and contract by **April 1**. If you have not already done so, check with your current visiting teacher as soon as possible to see if he or she is planning to return to Ohio next year and let Ryan Wertz know of your guest teacher's intention.

### ***Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) April Draft Review***

Ohio is one of the lead states in developing the NGSS, a process that began in September. The first public draft of the NGSS document is scheduled for release in April. Once the public review dates have been determined, ODE will publicize the information along with links to the public survey for collection of the review data. The NGSS is based upon [A National Framework for K-12 Science Education](#). To prepare for the review of the NGSS draft document, it is essential to become familiar with the framework so that the draft NGSS review comments will align.

ODE encourages all interested science educators and professional scientists or engineers to review this important framework document. For more information regarding the NGSS and the review process, please visit the [Next Generation Science Standards](#) website.

### ***Ohio Math Science Partnership proposals due April 4***

The Office of Curriculum and Assessment has re-posted the Math Science Partnership (MSP) request for proposals, which will be due **April 4**. The purpose of Ohio MSP is twofold. First, it will increase the subject matter knowledge and teaching skills of mathematics and science teachers. The second emphasis is on professional development of mathematics and science teachers as a career-long process.

More information and details can be found [here](#). Questions may be directed to Linda McKean at [linda.mckean@education.ohio.gov](mailto:linda.mckean@education.ohio.gov).

### ***Guidance for educators of English Language Learners posted***

ODE's English Language Learner (ELL) consultants, with the assistance of the Ohio ELL Advisory Committee, have developed the document titled *Information and Guidelines from the Lau Resource Center*, which is available [here](#). This resource provides definitions of terms, as well as guidance on a range of topics related to the education of ELLs.

## **ASSESSMENT UPDATES**

### ***Chartered nonpublic schools need to update OEDS-R information by April 24***

A link to an online survey regarding the 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 e-mail addresses and other school information for principals are listed correctly. Chartered nonpublic school administrators should work with their OEDS-R administrators to verify and update the principal and school information in this system by **April 24** to ensure they receive this important ODE communication. 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.

If you do not know the name of your OEDS-R administrator, login into your [SAFE](#) account, or create an account. You will see a link titled "Show my current OEDSR roles/access" in the top box at right. Clicking that link will take you to the page where you can view your OEDS-R roles and search for your OEDS-R administrator by IRN or organization name.

### ***Race to the Top LEAs may apply for formative assessment pilot***

Race to the Top middle schools (grades 5-8) that are interested in learning more about formative assessment may apply for the Formative Assessment in Middle Schools (FAMS) pilot project. Participants will learn how to develop and implement formative processes in the content areas of English language arts and mathematics, with content aligned to the Common Core State Standards. This pilot focuses on using formative assessment practices to improve instruction and learning, including the formation of a community of practice within the school. Coaches (provided by ODE) are an integral part of the FAMS support system. Applications for schools and coaches for FAMS Cohorts 2 and 3, which begin in fall 2012 and end in spring 2014, are posted on the [FAMS Web page](#). Middle schools interested in participating in Cohorts 2 and 3 have until noon on **March 30** to submit their applications; selected schools will be notified by **May 10**. For additional information, please contact Karen Daugherty at [karen.daugherty@education.ohio.gov](mailto:karen.daugherty@education.ohio.gov).

### ***Schedule for spring 2012 Ohio Graduation Tests (OGT) provided***

The OGT test window will end on **March 25**. The week of **March 19** is to be used for makeup testing. There will be an automatic pickup on **March 19** of scorable answer documents for public districts with only one testing school, as well as for all nonpublic, community and joint vocational schools. Public districts with more than one testing school will have an automatic pickup on **March 20**. Downloadable data files with test results for all students whose answer documents were returned to Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) by March 26 will be posted to the [OOARS website](#) on **May 14**. Printed score reports will be delivered to districts and interactive data will be posted online by **May 24**. The Spring 2012 OGT invalidations window will be open in TIDE **March 12-April 12**. The record-change window will be open **April 26-30**. During the second record change window, districts may review their students' demographic information and make any necessary corrections (e.g., spelling of name, birth date). The OGT program does not make any updates to student demographic information after results are reported.



### ***Social Studies Online Assessment Pilot to begin soon***

In May 2012, ODE will offer an opportunity for educators, administrators and students in Ohio schools to participate in an online assessment pilot that will use Grade 8 social studies content. Participation in the Social Studies Online Pilot program will be limited to schools that have participated in the Spring 2012 OAA administration and Grade 8 students who have a Statewide Student Identifier (SSID) number.

Information related to implementing the online assessment pilot program will be collected and used by ODE to inform the development of Ohio's next generation of assessments. Additional details related to the online assessment pilot, including an overview of procedures, technology requirements and schedules, will be made available at an online portal on April 16. Details on the portal location will be announced. Pilot information to be distributed, which will be in various formats, will use the logo above. 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).

### ***Important dates for OAA Spring 2012 outlined***

The OAA spring 2012 administration test window will begin **April 23** and end **May 11**. The first two weeks of the test window will be used for the initial administration of the OAA and the week of May 7 is to be used **only** for make-up testing. Districts may choose any date to start their test administration within the first two weeks of the test window, as long as the initial administration is completed no later than **May 4**. Districts with enrollments of fewer than 2,500 will have completed, scorable tests picked up on **May 4** (these districts should not schedule testing on May 4). Districts with enrollments between 2,500 and 7,000 will have a pickup on **May 7**, and districts with enrollments larger than 7,000 will have a pickup on **May 8**. Any districts that have a building(s) designated as *Early Return* will have completed, scorable tests picked up on May 4.

### ***Please remember OAA Spring 2012 Read-Aloud Script procedures***

OAA students who may have a read-aloud accommodation for the test administration of the reading, mathematics and science tests are those who are identified as English Language Learners (ELL), as well as students with disabilities who have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan with this accommodation so noted. For the spring 2012 OAA administration, the test administrator, or whoever is providing the read-aloud accommodation, **must** use the Read-Aloud Script while the student uses a Form SV test booklet. The Read-Aloud Script used by the test administrator will match the Form SV used by the student. The reason that test administrators are to use the Read-Aloud Script rather than the Form SV booklet is *to prevent these administrators from inadvertently reading aloud the reading passages* in the Form SV to students – which is **not allowed**. When this situation occurs, the tests must be invalidated. The English Audio CD remains available For those districts that do **not** provide a read-aloud accommodation by a human reader.

### ***Here' where to find information on alternative pathway eligibility for a diploma***

Ohio Revised Code Section 3313.615 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 determines whether a student qualifies 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 grade conversion scale, forms, a fictional student scenario sample and more information about this process are available [here](#) on the ODE website. Questions may be directed to ODE at 1 (877) 644-6338; ask for a staff member who can assist with Alternative Pathway information.

### ***Alternate Assessment for Students with Disabilities (AASWD) test results are coming soon***

AASWD results will be posted online through [OOARS](#) **April 30** and student score reports will be delivered to districts by **May 7**. Interactive data will be posted online to OOARS on **May 14**. AASWD rescore and

verification requests can be entered in [TIDE](#) from **April 30-May 29**. There will be a \$25 charge for each rescore that does not result in a score change or a \$25 charge for each verification.

**Ohio Test of English Language Acquisition (OTELA) 2011 results available in May**

OTELA results will be available to districts online as downloadable data on **May 9**; printed reports will be available on **May 17**. The OTELA 2012 manuals have been posted [here](#). OTELA verification requests can be entered in TIDE from **May 9-June 6**. There will be a \$25 charge for each verification.

**Ohio was awarded an Early Learning Challenge Grant**

Ohio has been awarded almost \$70 million from the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant. The grant will be used to improve the quality of programs that serve high-needs children from ages birth to 5 years and to carefully measure the results of programs in alignment with Governor John Kasich's goals of creating better metrics and coordination among agencies that serve young people. The application development was led by the Governor's office and prepared through a partnership of ODE, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and the Ohio Business Roundtable.

**Please review K-3 diagnostic assessment requirements**

Reminder: **All districts**, regardless of AYP status, must administer at least once annually a diagnostic assessment to: all Grade 1-2 students in reading, mathematics and writing; Grade 3 students in writing for buildings in School Improvement; and at the kindergarten level, only transfer students. Please note: if you have not administered diagnostic assessments this year, there is only a short time left to do so before the end of the school year. The Kindergarten Readiness Assessment – Literacy (KRA-L) does **NOT** take the place of the diagnostic assessments; it is an entirely different assessment that is administered *in addition* to diagnostic assessments.

Districts that made adequate yearly progress (AYP) last year may choose the diagnostic assessments to be administered. Those districts that did not make AYP last year must use the state-developed diagnostic assessments. The district AYP status is used for diagnostic purposes at all district buildings. The state-developed diagnostic kits were sent several years ago to all grades K-3 classrooms to administer the reading, mathematics and writing diagnostic assessments.

For districts that added **new classrooms** or built a **new school**, K-3 Diagnostic Kits are available. Unfortunately, the Office of Curriculum Assessment does not have enough diagnostic kits to replace those kits that districts may have misplaced or discarded (thinking that, because they made AYP, they would not need the state-developed diagnostic assessments). Those districts will need to print the diagnostic assessments on the [ODE website](#) and purchase the manipulatives needed.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**Start Ready, Graduate Ready regional forums offered**

The State Board of Education, the Ohio Educational Service Center Association (ESC), the Ohio School Boards Association and the Ohio Department of Education invite you to attend a regional **Start Ready, Graduate Ready** evening forum to learn more about Ohio's college and career-ready standards and the new state tests for social studies, English language arts, mathematics and science that will be used, starting with the 2014-2015 school year. During each two-hour meeting, which will be held from 6-8 p.m., participants will take a deeper look at the changes coming and what you can do now to prepare. Register now by emailing your name, organization, phone number and email address to the contact for the forum you will attend.

Date	Location	Contact
March 20	Montgomery County ESC	<a href="mailto:marti.baker@mcesc.org">marti.baker@mcesc.org</a>
March 22	ESC of Central Ohio	<a href="mailto:elaine.organ@escoco.org">elaine.organ@escoco.org</a>
March 26	North Point ESC	<a href="mailto:trobenson@npesc.org">trobenson@npesc.org</a>
March 29	Athens-Meigs ESC, at Athens High School	<a href="mailto:91_azeigler@seovec.org">91_azeigler@seovec.org</a>
April 2	Stark County ESC, at RG Drage Career Technical Ctr.	<a href="mailto:lori.timms@email.sparcc.org">lori.timms@email.sparcc.org</a>
April 4	Allen County ESC, at Elida High School	(no pre-registration required)
April 5	North Central Ohio ESC	<a href="mailto:pd@ncoesc.org">pd@ncoesc.org</a>
April 11	Butler County ESC	<a href="mailto:seifertj@bcesc.org">seifertj@bcesc.org</a>

April 16	Lake Erie West ESC	<a href="mailto:erobinson@eslakeeriewest.org">erobinson@eslakeeriewest.org</a>
April 19	Mid-Ohio ESC	<a href="mailto:moesc@moesc.net">moesc@moesc.net</a>
April 23	Southern Ohio ESC	<a href="mailto:so_rcochran@mveca.org">so_rcochran@mveca.org</a>
April 30	ESC of Cuyahoga County, held at Dr. Harry E. Eastridge Professional Development Center	<a href="mailto:Bonnie.berschiner@esc-cc.org">Bonnie.berschiner@esc-cc.org</a>

***FIP Your School Ohio offers professional development on formative instructional practices (FIP)***

- **What is FIP Your School Ohio?** Powered by Race to the Top (RttT), this program provides professional development resources that support RttT application area C3, *Personalize Learning through Formative Instruction*. The program also aligns with Ohio’s professional development standards.
- **Get Involved with FIP Your School Ohio** – Participating LEAs are supported by FIP specialists who are dedicated to training local facilitators and helping implement formative instructional practices schoolwide. Teacher teams will utilize online learning modules developed by Battelle for Kids to learn about FIP and its application as they transition to Ohio’s new and revised standards.
- **Regional information sessions** – District leadership and transformation teams are encouraged to attend an information session to learn how their LEA can join *FIP Your School Ohio* and access related resources. These sessions are offered multiple times each month in every region. Visit [www.FIPYourSchoolOhio.org](http://www.FIPYourSchoolOhio.org) for dates and locations. Sign into your SAFE account and register in STARS using keyword: *FIP*.

For more information, please visit [www.FIPYourSchoolOhio.org](http://www.FIPYourSchoolOhio.org) or email [FIPOhio@ode.state.oh.us](mailto:FIPOhio@ode.state.oh.us).

***Physical education evaluation training workshops scheduled through May***

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:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Location</b>
Wednesday, March 21	SE	Muskingum Valley ESC
Thursday, March 22	NW	ESC of Lake Erie West
Friday, March 23	SW	Clark County ESC
Monday, March 26	NE	Medina County ESC
Monday, March 26	SE	Fairfield County ESC
Thursday, March 29	SW	Warren County ESC
Friday, April 13	SE	Ohio University-Athens
Tuesday, April 17	SW	Ross-Pike ESC
Wednesday, April 18	SE	Muskingum Valley ESC
Thursday, April 19	NE	Kent State University–Trumbull Campus
Friday, April 20	SE	University of Rio Grande
Tuesday, April 24	SW	Southern Ohio ESC
Wednesday, May 9	S	South Pointe BOE

Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Registration for the workshops opens one month before each event. Individuals must register through STARS by first accessing (or creating) their [SAFE](#) accounts. Additional workshops will be offered throughout spring 2012. 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).

***Ohio Geographic Alliance to offer a summer professional development program***

The Ohio Geographic Alliance, in collaboration with ODE, the Ohio Resource Center and the Ohio Council of Social Studies, is pleased to announce that it will be offering a series of one-day workshops for Ohio teachers during the second and third weeks of June. Separate identical workshops will be held at

locations to be determined in the Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati metropolitan areas on one of the following dates: June 13, 18 or 20.

The workshops will be targeted to fifth- and sixth-grade teachers and aligned with the content standards of the new model curriculum for social studies of the eastern and western hemispheres. Each workshop will include: an overview of the place of geography in the new standards; a content presentation connected to the standards; breakout sessions for small group demonstrations and discussions of curriculum activities.

The workshops will be free, but attendance will be limited to 100 teachers at each location. Lunch will be provided and contact-hour credit will be available. To express interest in attending one of the three workshops, educators should send the following information by **April 10** to [ohioga@osu.edu](mailto:ohioga@osu.edu): name, school district, grade level, email address, telephone number, preferred location (Columbus, Cincinnati or Cleveland) and preferred date: (June 13, 18 or 20). Interested teachers will be sent registration material in advance of the workshops.

### ***Gain new insights from colleagues on the Ohio Advanced Placement Teacher Network***

Educators will find helpful information available through the ODE-sponsored advanced placement (AP) [website](#). Through this site, educators share best practices, professional development workshop dates, exam preparation tips and more. With more than 500 members, this site is steadily attracting more AP teachers, curriculum directors, gifted coordinators and administrators who are looking for ways to strengthen their professional growth and engage in meaningful dialogue with colleagues. Register on the site to join in on the dialogue.

### ***Speaker available to help districts with advanced placement access and plans***

Yolandé Berger, ODE's AP network coordinator, is available to make presentations about equitable access for students to AP classes and help schools create action plans to build or expand their AP program. Contact Berger at (614) 466-2105 or [yolandé.berger@education.ohio.gov](mailto:yolandé.berger@education.ohio.gov).

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

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

March 22 – *GO! INFOhio: Ask! Act! Achieve! Research Step by Step*;

March 29 – *Beyond the DIALOGUE: Using INFOhio and Web2.0 for Research Projects*.

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

### ***New INFOhio website helps students with research projects***

Research projects can be overwhelming for middle and high school students who are just learning inquiry skills. That's where INFOhio's new site *GO! INFOhio: Ask! Act! Achieve!* comes in. Although built around the Common Core's English language arts strands of writing and research, the site applies to research in any subject area. It suggests forms, electronic resources and reliable websites to help students focus on just one step of a project at a time, and stay on track from start to finish. For more information and to review the comprehensive Teacher's Guide, click [here](#).

### ***Camp OFLA to offer summer language camp for Grades 4-8 this summer***

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 8<sup>th</sup>-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, scholarships, 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).

**Thought of the month**

*“Education is not filling a pail but the lighting of a fire.”* – William Butler Yeats

**Jim Wright**, Director  
Office of Curriculum & Assessment  
[james.wright@ode.state.oh.us](mailto:james.wright@ode.state.oh.us)

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