

CURRICULUM UPDATES

Common Core State Standards positively compare with standards of top-achieving countries

On May 5, Dr. William Schmidt, co-director of the Education Policy Center (EPC) at Michigan State University, released conclusions from his research that indicate that the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in mathematics, which Ohio and 47 other states and U.S. territories have adopted, potentially can improve student performance if the standards are implemented properly. Schmidt's briefing was presented during an event co-sponsored by Achieve, Chiefs for Change and the Foundation for Excellence in Education.

Schmidt explained that the CCSS for mathematics strongly resemble the standards of the highest-achieving nations. He also found states with standards most like the CCSS for mathematics have higher scores on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). "Their (the standards') consistency with the international benchmark set by top-achieving countries shows that the CCSS are coherent, focused and rigorous, key attributes of math standards from countries that outperform the U.S. on international assessments." To view a video and Schmidt's PowerPoint presentation, click [here](#). For the news release issued concerning the research, click [here](#).

Please watch for upcoming mailing to all Ohio licensed educators

ODE is working to reach all educators across the state with information about improvement initiatives underway, especially Ohio's enhanced educator evaluation system, as well as new assessments and College- and Career-Ready standards. These standards are the Common Core State standards in mathematics and English language arts, as well as Ohio's revised standards in science and social studies.

To help increase awareness, ODE will be sending an oversized postcard later this month to the home address of each licensed educator in Ohio. The postcard will direct them to the agency website that will contain information about the curriculum and evaluation initiatives. ODE is reorganizing its Web offerings for both topics to make them easier to use. To facilitate ongoing communication, the card also will invite recipients to sign up for email newsletters and to join our site for teachers on Facebook.

ODE addresses upcoming changes with Top Tips

You hear this question frequently: *What should educators and school leaders do **right now** to get ready for all of the changes taking place in Ohio education?* To answer this question, ODE has developed a series of Top Tips that offer simple, practical advice for teachers, administrators and school board members who want to get on track today for the big changes set as Ohio transitions to the College- and Career-Ready standards and new assessments in 2014-2015. Please share these suggestions, accessible at toptips.education.ohio.gov, with members of your organization. ODE also invites comments and suggestions at this website.

Am. Sub. Senate Bill 165 is enacted

In March 2012, the Ohio General Assembly passed Am. Sub. Senate Bill 165, which requires the State Board of Education to:

"...incorporate into the social studies standards for grades four to twelve academic content regarding the original texts of the Declaration of Independence, the Northwest Ordinance, the Constitution of the United States and its amendments, with emphasis on the Bill of Rights, and the Ohio Constitution, and their original context."

ODE will need to revise the model curricula and achievement assessments accordingly. This content must be incorporated into the American history and American government courses required for

graduation. This affects the coursework for “students who enter the ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2012.”

The new legislation requires that no later than July 1, 2013, local boards of education 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, which are scheduled to be determined by July 1, 2014. At least 20 percent of the end-of-course examination for American government is to be devoted to the identified documents as well as “historical evidence of the role of documents such as the Federalist Papers and the Anti-Federalist Papers to firmly establish the historical background leading to the establishment of the provisions of the Constitution and Bill of Rights.” The legislation does not stipulate any percentage of content in American history for the end-of-course examination; however, it still must address the historical documents.

High school graduation requirements now will consist of ½ unit each of American history and American government, and two units of social studies. The legislation notes that a “valid educator license for teaching social studies in the applicable grade shall be considered sufficient to teach the additional American history and American government content” now required. ODE is in the process of amending the high school American History and American Government syllabi and model curricula to meet the legislative mandate. Staff members also are reviewing the same for fourth and eighth grade to see if any additional adjustments are necessary.

Draft Ohio early learning and development standards posted for public comment until May 31

Through a collaborative effort, Ohio education leaders have revised and expanded the state’s existing standards for children ages birth to kindergarten entry and are seeking public feedback on the draft standards posted [here](#). The standards have been revised, expanded and aligned at the infant, toddler and pre-kindergarten levels and now include all domains of school readiness: social and emotional development; physical well-being and motor development; approaches toward learning; language and literacy development; and cognition and general knowledge (includes academic content areas of mathematics, science and social studies).

Ohio was required to have *Early Learning and Development Standards in all Essential Domains of School Readiness, Birth to Kindergarten Entry* to qualify for the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant, which was awarded in December. The state’s existing standards were expanded as part of a collaborative effort of state agencies serving young children including ODE, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Mental Health, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities and the Governor’s Office of Health Transformation. The state agencies worked with national experts and writing teams of Ohio-based content experts and stakeholders on the project. The draft standards and feedback survey are posted on both ODE’s [website](#) and [build-ohio.org](#). On these sites, you will access: an introduction explaining the development process and organization of the standards; the draft standards in each domain; and a link to the survey to provide feedback. Please review and submit comments by **May 31**.

New FIP Your School™ Ohio resources for school leaders now available

The *Leading and Coaching Formative Instructional Practices* learning path is now available in the Battelle for Kids’ Ohio Student Progress portal. This learning path, which includes two online learning modules, is a continuation of the *Foundations of Formative Instructional Practices* and is designed specifically for school and district leaders, curriculum directors, instructional coaches and others with leadership or coaching responsibilities.

In Module 6: Leading Formative Instructional Practices (FIP), participants will learn about:

- Planning for change and promoting a systemic approach.
- Creating a balanced assessment system employing FIP.
- Sustaining FIP with the appropriate conditions, structures and processes.
- Implementing quality FIP by modeling and supporting practices that permeate the entire school community.

By completing Module 7: Coaching Formative Instructional Practices, participants will know how to:

- Plan for change and promote a systemic approach to FIP.
- Leverage blended learning and professional learning teams.
- Sustain the implementation of FIP.
- Provide teachers effective feedback.
- Employ resources and strategies.

For more information about the formative instructional practices online learning modules and how to get involved with FIP Your School, visit the project's [website](#).

Information on new gifted performance indicator posted

As you may know, the State Board of Education recently adopted an indicator for gifted performance that will appear on Local Report Cards. The indicator will include a measure reflecting the level of services provided to gifted students and a measure reflecting the performance of certain gifted students on the Ohio Achievement Assessments and the Ohio Graduation Tests. For more information, please click [here](#).

Gifted funding FAQ and list of allowable expenditures available

Please remember that for FY2012 and FY2013, each district must spend no less than its FY2009 gifted unit amount on services to students identified as gifted. Your district also must spend no less than its FY2009 supplemental identification amount on gifted identification. In addition, if an ESC received gifted unit funding for services to your district in FY2009 and your district has not maintained these services, another step is necessary. If this is the case, your district also must spend an amount equivalent to the funding received by the ESC in FY2009 for staff providing those services.

Please note that the FY2009 gifted unit, supplemental identification and ESC amounts are currently listed on your district's Bridge report under Disclosure Items. For more information, see the Gifted Funding FAQ and Gifted Allowable Expenditures documents available [here](#) (see the *Final Enacted Version* heading).

ASSESSMENT UPDATES

High school teachers invited to webinar about Ohio Performance Assessment Pilot (OPAPP)

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. The professional development for this cohort will be delivered online. The only travel required for participating teachers is a trip to Columbus for scoring.

A webinar describing the project and more specifics about Cohort 4 will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, **May 23**. To access the webinar, please click [here](#) and log on as a participant. The Web login is 130271542 and the participant PIN is 8118310. To dial in and hear the audio, call 1-800-551-1530 and use the same participant PIN, just add # at the end of the number. More details about OPAPP and the Cohort 4 application are available [here](#) or by contacting Lauren Monowar-Jones at lauren.monowar-jones@education.ohio.gov

Online Assessment Pilot is underway

Eighth-grade students in more than 250 Ohio school districts began online testing on May 15 through the Online Assessment Pilot (OAP) the Office of Curriculum and Assessment is conducting. The OAP is providing educators, administrators and students with an opportunity to experience what it will be like to participate in online assessments that include technology-enhanced test questions. The OAP will continue through May 25. To view more information about OAP (including a practice test, tutorials, monthly newsletters, an overview of procedures, technology requirements, schedules and software), please click [here](#). Please direct any questions to Denny Wagoner at (614) 466-0223 or dennis.wagoner@education.ohio.gov.

Technology Readiness Tool opens May 21

More than 250 Ohio school district superintendents and district-level technology coordinators participated on May 15 in a statewide kick-off webcast for the Technology Readiness Tool, which will be available on Monday, May 21. The tool was created by the two national consortia that are working on the Next Generation of Assessments: the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

(PARCC), with which Ohio is aligned, and the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC). Others who are interested may review a recording of the [webcast](#), which explains what the tool is and how it will help Ohio transition to the assessments. If you have any questions about the tool, please contact the State Resource Coordinator Team at OhioTRT@education.ohio.gov.

Here's the schedule for spring 2012 OTELA results and verifications

The Ohio Test of English Language Acquisition (OTELA) results were available to districts online as downloadable data in OOARS on **May 9**. Student score reports were delivered to districts by **May 17**. Interactive data will be posted in OOARS on **May 24**. The Test Information Distribution Engine ([TIDE](#)) will be open **May 9 to June 6** for districts to submit verification requests. There will be a \$25 charge for each verification. Purchase orders for OTELA verifications should be payable to American Institutes for Research and faxed to (614) 220-9012 or mailed to American Institutes for Research, attn: Connie Scarborough-Burks, 41 South High Street, Suite 2425, Columbus, OH 43215. A purchase order (PO) number is required for each verification request. District test coordinators (DTCs) will be notified via email when results are available. Note that results will not be posted until the district's PO is received and that printed results will not be sent to the district. DTCs can access results through [TIDE](#) by clicking on [Appeals](#). There are no rescues for OTELA.

Results of Spring 2012 OGT are available and verification process is described

Spring 2012 OGT results for all students who answer documents were returned to Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) by March 26 were posted in the [Ohio Online Assessment Reporting System](#) (OOARS) on **May 14**. Printed score reports will be delivered to districts and interactive data will be posted in OOARS by **May 24**.

[TIDE](#) will accept spring 2012 OGT rescore and verification requests from **May 14 to June 25**. Requests for rescues 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. DTCs will be notified via email when results are available.

OOARS will be updated at the end of the rescore/verification window if there is a change in a student's test score after a rescore. However, no information in the online reporting system will be updated based on a verification request, and new score reports will not be issued after verifications. OOARS and the state EMIS system are **NOT** linked. Districts are responsible for reporting their results to the statewide EMIS system.

Spring 2012 AASWD rescore and verification process described

AASWD rescore and verification requests can be entered in [TIDE](#) through **May 29**. Requests are 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. A purchase order number is required for each appeal submission. Note that results will not be posted until the district's purchase order is received. DTCs will be notified via email when the rescore or verification results are available. Printed results will not be sent to the district.

Note: Please do not file a verification request for a student who receives an NSA (Non-scorable Assessment). An NSA **is a score** and is not equivalent to a DNA (Did Not Attempt). When requesting an appeal in [TIDE](#) for students who received an NSA, use the rescore option. Do not use the DNA or any other verification options.

Please note Alternative Pathway Eligibility for a Diploma criteria

Section 3313.615 of the Ohio Revised Code 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 evaluates student qualifications 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 of Education conversion scale for grades, forms, a fictional student scenario sample and more information about this process are

available [here](#) or by visiting education.ohio.gov and searching keywords: *Alternative Pathway to a Diploma*. Questions also can be directed to ODE at (877) 644-6338.

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

All chartered nonpublic school principals are requested to respond to a survey by **June 15** about OAA and OGT participation in 2012-2013, whether participating or not. An ODE email was sent to these principals on May 11 with the 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.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Applications for 2012 Chinese Bridge Delegation are due June 15

School and district leaders are invited to apply for participation in the College Board's 2012 Chinese Bridge Delegation, which will be held **Nov. 7-15** in China, to help participants start or strengthen Chinese programs and partnerships. The week-long trip will include tours of K-12 schools, cultural activities, educational workshops and interactions with Chinese educators.

Superintendents, principals, curriculum directors, world language supervisors and other educational leaders with oversight of foreign language learning are invited to apply. Educators from institutions already offering Chinese language and culture programs also may apply, but previous Chinese Bridge Delegation participants may not. Delegates must pay a \$900 nonrefundable registration fee and are responsible for travel insurance, as well as costs and arrangements for domestic travel to a designated U.S. departure hub. Delegates are provided free international round-trip airfare, accommodations, food and in-country travel expenses while in China. The application deadline is **June 15**. For additional information and to complete the application form, click [here](#) or contact k12chinese@collegeboard.org.

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. For more information, please contact Mike Miller at MMiller@worthington.k12.oh.us. For more information on the summer institutes and to register, click [here](#).

First Freedom Student Competition for 2012-2013 announced

The First Freedom Student Competition is a national essay and video contest offering all Grade 9-12 students an opportunity to compete for \$2,500 awards as they examine the First Amendment as well as the history of religious freedom in American democracy and the world today. The upcoming school year's topic, guidelines, student flyer and classroom poster can be found [here](#) (click on the red button, center column). The competition is open to students in the United States and U.S. territories, and to American schools and American home-schooled students worldwide. Registration deadline for next year's competition is **Nov. 12**.

Ohio Innovative Learning Environments conference to be held July 30 to Aug. 3

At this five-day conference in Hilliard, educators will learn from more than two dozen expert keynote speakers and more than 100 breakout sessions addressing the theme, *Bridging the Knowing-Doing Gap of Innovative Practice*. Featured presenters will include Will Richardson, co-founder of the Powerful Learning Practice professional development program and author of three books on using Web-based technologies in education; David Conley, chief executive officer of the Educational Policy Improvement Center and founder/director of the Center for Educational Policy Research; and Kristin Kipp, 2011 national online teacher of the year;

Conference strands will be based on inquiry-based instruction and assessment; transformative leadership; global education; college, career and community connections; and technology-enhanced learning. Teacher stipends, contact hours for continuing education and graduate credit options are

available. The conference is co-sponsored by ODE, the Ohio Network for Education Transformation, Ohio STEM Learning Network, Hilliard City Schools and the Educational Service Center of Central Ohio. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

INFOhio offers online summer professional development options

Ohio educators can earn graduate credit hours with INFOhio's *21 Essential Things for 21st Century Learning*. The 21 self-contained online modules cover new techniques for incorporating Web 2.0 tools and inquiry learning in the classroom. There are several options for earning credit. For more information, please visit the [Learning Commons](#) and click *Credit/CEUs*.

INFOhio is open for summer school

INFOhio's online research resources, streaming videos and eBook Collection don't take a summer vacation. All the experiments, diagrams, animations, journal articles and primary sources students rely on during the school year are still available for them during summer school on the INFOhio [website](#).

Take 5 to get more from INFOhio

Make sure your faculty, staff and students are getting all they can from INFOhio's free resources. Take five minutes to watch our new [What Is INFOhio](#) video to learn about the digital resources, test-taking help, Core Curriculum support and professional development opportunities available through INFOhio.

Thought of the month

"Experience is the name so many people give to their mistakes." – Oscar Wilde

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