

## CURRICULUM UPDATES

### ***Model Curriculum effort seeks input from visual and performing arts educators***

ODE invites K-12 teachers of dance, drama/theatre, music and visual arts to join discussions about the development of model curriculum resources to support Ohio's 2012 arts learning standards.

Arts educators can give their input on the best instructional practices and classroom applications to help implement the standards. Discussions will take place on **Mon., Nov. 19** from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Blue Ash Elementary, University of Cincinnati, 9541 Plainfield Road, Cincinnati, OH 45236; and **Thurs., Dec. 13** from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Trumbull County Educational Service Center (Conference Center), 6000 Youngstown-Warren Rd, Niles, OH 44446. To attend either meeting, please RSVP to Nancy Pistone at [nancy.pistone@education.ohio.gov](mailto:nancy.pistone@education.ohio.gov) or to Bill Nyerges at [artsrevisionohio@aol.com](mailto:artsrevisionohio@aol.com).

### ***Physical education evaluation training workshop is Dec. 10***

The final workshop will be held Monday, Dec. 10 to discuss the new physical education evaluation measure related to health and wellness that will appear on Local and State Report Cards for 2012-2013. State law identifies four components that will be included – benchmark evaluation, body mass index (BMI), physical activity and compliance with the 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. Workshop space is limited and pre-registration is required. Individuals must register through STARS by first accessing (or creating) a [SAFE](#) account. For more information, see the calendar link at the top left of [education.ohio.gov](http://education.ohio.gov) or contact Lisa Lyle Henry at [lisa.henry@education.ohio.gov](mailto:lisa.henry@education.ohio.gov).

### ***Applications for National Consortium for Teaching about Asia seminar requested by Nov. 28***

The National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (NCTA) is an 11-week seminar series that provides grade 6-12 teachers with the knowledge, resources and expert guidance needed to incorporate or enhance curriculum about East Asia in their classrooms. By enrolling in Ohio's NCTA series, teachers will learn about the wealth of information and experiences available about China, Japan and Korea right here in Ohio. In addition to the knowledge that will be gained about East Asia, participants will receive the following benefits upon completion of program requirements: \$500 personal stipend for their time and completed lesson plans; \$200 worth of seminar texts and resources; \$300 resource grant to purchase Asia-related textbooks, films and other supplies for their school; an option to purchase graduate credit; and continuing education unit certificate.

The Ohio State University's East Asian Studies Center, the coordinator for NCTA programs for Ohio, will offer the 2013 seminar series on the Delaware campus of Columbus State Community College. Ohio Wesleyan University's Anne Sokolsky will teach the series, which will be held from 5-8 p.m. on Thursdays from Jan. 17 to March 28. Visit the [NCTA](#) website to apply; applications received by **Nov. 30** will receive priority.

### ***Educational Seminars Program provides fully-funded international professional development***

The Educational Seminars Program provides short-term professional development opportunities to teachers and administrators from around the world for short-term reciprocal exchange programs and one-way professional development programs. The American Councils for International Education administers

this program, which is funded by the U.S. Department of State for educators here and abroad. Participating countries for 2013-14 include Brazil (three-week reciprocal exchange) and India (five-week, one-way program). All seminars provide airfare, training, travel health care, living costs and hosting costs if applicable. For more information, please visit the program [website](#) and direct any questions to [edseminars@americancouncils.org](mailto:edseminars@americancouncils.org). The program application deadlines are **Jan. 7** (India) and **April 1** (Brazil).

### ***Teachers of Critical Languages Program applications now available***

K-12 schools in the U.S. that are interested in hosting a Chinese or Arabic exchange teacher through the Teachers of Critical Languages Program (TCLP) during the 2013-2014 school year may access the online application [here](#). Applications are welcome from K-12 public and private schools of any level and are due by **Jan. 23**. Prospective host schools and districts are encouraged to articulate their visions for their existing world language programs on the application. TCLP welcomes comments and questions.

TCLP is a program of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. It is designed to expand schools' abilities to teach Chinese and Arabic by placing experienced teachers from China and Egypt in American K-12 schools for an academic year of teaching Mandarin or Arabic language and culture. TCLP provides participants with structured benefits to facilitate the development of host schools' critical language programs:

- Teachers receive living expenses, health care, roundtrip airfare, ongoing and extensive methodological training, and professional development funds.
- Host schools can apply for Critical Language project grants ranging from \$500 to \$5,000 to support language-learning projects (separate application now available).
- Designated mentors of TCLP exchange teachers receive monthly honoraria.
- TCLP staff maintains regular communication with participating teachers and schools, conducts in-person school visits and provides ongoing program support.

IMPORTANT: TCLP teachers are limited to a one-year stay in the U.S. and may not initiate programs or create curricula. Please contact TCLP with any questions or comments at (202) 833-7522 or [tclp@americancouncils.org](mailto:tclp@americancouncils.org).

### ***College Board-NCSSFL-Hanban Consortium offers Chinese Guest Teacher Program***

The Chinese Guest Teacher Program is administered jointly in Ohio by the College Board and ODE (in partnership with the National Council of State Supervisors for Languages and the Chinese Hanban). The program is designed to help schools in the United States develop Chinese language and culture programs and to promote international exchange between the U. S. and China. Highly qualified language teachers from mainland China are provided for the host school or district, with each teacher permitted to stay for up to three years. The Chinese guest teachers can serve as cultural resources in other subject areas, and they offer students the opportunity to learn authentic Chinese language and interact with a native Chinese speaker. The program subsidizes a portion of each guest teacher's salary, providing U.S. schools with the opportunity to build their Chinese programs efficiently and affordably.

The Guest Teacher Program will be accepting applications soon for the 2013-2014 school year. For more information about this program, visit the College Board's Chinese Language and Culture Initiatives [website](#). If your school or district is planning to request a Chinese guest teacher for the 2013-2014 school year, or if you would like to receive notification when the 2013-2014 application is available, please contact [guestteacher@collegeboard.org](mailto:guestteacher@collegeboard.org). Please direct questions about designing and implementing these programs to Ryan Wertz at (614) 728-4630 or [ryan.wertz@education.ohio.gov](mailto:ryan.wertz@education.ohio.gov), or Paula Sondej at (614) 387-0491 or [Paula.Sondej@education.ohio.gov](mailto:Paula.Sondej@education.ohio.gov).

### ***ODE's efforts spotlighted in national social media guidebook***

Ohio's use of social media channels as an outreach tool is featured in a new report from the Reform Support Network, [Building Enduring Race to the Top Education Reforms: Using Social Media to Engage With and Communicate to Key Stakeholders](#). The guide discusses ODE's separate Facebook pages targeted to families, [Ohio Families & Education](#), and teachers, [Ohio Teachers' Homeroom](#), as well as the success of the fast-growing Twitter account, [OH Education](#), in reaching teachers and administrators.

These social media channels are a great way to stay up-to-date on the latest Ohio education news and share local news with more than 10,000 combined users.

## **ASSESSMENT UPDATES**

### ***Ohio Assessment Systems portal provides access to multiple systems***

District test coordinators now can link to all [Ohio Assessment Systems](#) from one new portal at <http://oh.portal.airast.org>. Please bookmark this URL, which links to:

- The Ohio Alternate Assessment Portal;
- The Ohio Achievement Assessments (OAA), Ohio Graduation Tests (OGT) and the Ohio Test of English Language Acquisition (OTELA) sites in TIDE; and
- The OAA, OGT and OTELA Reporting Site (SUCCESS or the Ohio Online Assessment Reporting System [OOARS]).

Within the Ohio Alternate Assessment Portal, users will have access to TIDE for the Alternate Assessment, as well as a variety of resources including user guides and fact sheets. Test coordinators are encouraged to review the materials available on the portal to ensure they are familiar with the new Alternate Assessment for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities (AASCD).

### ***Please be aware of Spring 2013 Alternate Assessment password, order window***

On Oct. 31, all district test coordinators should have received an email from the Ohio Help Desk with their user account information to access TIDE for the Alternate Assessment. The user account email contains a secure link that expires in 72 hours. If your link has expired, please go to [TIDE](#) for AASCD, enter your username (email address), and click the [*Request Password*] link. This will prompt another email containing a new secure link, which also will expire in 72 hours.

If you did not receive an email with your user account information, please contact the Help Desk at [OHHelpDesk@air.org](mailto:OHHelpDesk@air.org) or call (877) 231-7809. Please note that usernames and passwords for OAA, OGT and OTELA TIDE **cannot** be used to access TIDE for the Ohio Alternate Assessment.

The Spring 2013 AASCD On-Time Order and Pre-ID window will be open through **Nov. 30**. Districts that will be administering the alternate assessment must verify their contact information (including their shipping address, confirm participation and pre-ID students). They also must enter information on the number of students and teachers who will be participating by **Nov. 30**. District test coordinators can access TIDE through the [Ohio Alternate Assessment Portal](#) or directly at <https://oh.tide.airast.org>.

### ***Plans for test administrator training for the Alternate Assessment announced***

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.

As announced in the August Ides newsletter, the AASCD marks a change in Ohio's alternate assessment, which previously consisted of a portfolio-based collection of evidence. The AASCD is aligned to [Ohio's Academic Content Standards – Extended](#) and is designed to allow students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in an appropriately rigorous assessment. Due to the new alternate assessment design, training is required for test administrators and second raters. Note that training for the *extended standards* is separate from, and not a prerequisite for, training for the AASCD.

Test administrators will administer the AASCD 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, whereas the second rater's scores will be used to study the reliability and validity of scoring across the state. The sample of students selected for second ratings will be available to districts in January. Districts will be responsible for identifying personnel to serve as second raters and making sure second raters are trained.

Most trainings sessions for the new alternate assessment will be held in January 2013. 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 can be found [here](#) on the ODE website and through the [Ohio Alternate Assessment Portal](#).

### **Process for accessing OAA results of fall assessments summarized**

The downloadable results for the October 2012 Grade 3 Reading OAA will be made available to districts on **Nov. 16**. The printed results will be sent to the district the week of **Nov. 26** and the interactive data is available online **Dec. 4**.

OAA results are accessed through the secure OOARS through the new portal at <http://oh.portal.airast.org>. From this portal, click on the graphic labeled *OAA, OGT and OTELA Reporting*. Once on the OOARS page, click on the icon *Educator's Workroom*. To access the downloadable student data file, after logging in, on the left side of the screen in the section titled *Download Student Data Files*, click the icon for the test you wish to access. Select the appropriate administration from the *Administration* drop-down menu. From the *Batch Type* drop-down menu, select *General* for on-time results. The data are available in .csv and .txt versions.

To access interactive data, on the right side of the screen, click a test name to access a list of available administrations. Select a grade and then a subject to access available reports.

The district/school should **review the results as soon as possible** after receipt to determine if there are missing scores, scores that may have been switched between two students or other situations. The district test coordinator (DTC) should submit a request for a verification for possible problems with individual student results through [TIDE](#) by **Dec. 16**. The district/school should contact the American Institutes for Research (AIR) Ohio Help Desk at (888) 944-5001 or [ohhelpdesk@air.org](mailto:ohhelpdesk@air.org) if the entire district/school results were not received. Please note rescoring is not available for the October Grade 3 Reading OAA.

### **Fall 2012 OGT results slated for Dec. 10**

Downloadable data files with test results for all students whose answer documents were returned to DRC by Nov. 9 will be posted online **Dec. 10**. Printed score reports will be delivered to districts **Jan. 4**, and interactive data will be available online **Jan. 7**.

OGT results can be accessed through OOARS at <http://oh.portal.airast.org> by clicking on the graphic labeled *OAA, OGT and OTELA Reporting*. Once on the OOARS page, click on the icon *Educator's Workroom*. To access the downloadable student data file, after logging in, on the left side of the screen in the section titled *Download Student Data Files*, click the icon for the test you wish to access. Select the appropriate administration from the *Administration* drop-down menu. From the *Batch Type* drop-down menu, select *General* for on-time results. The data are available in .csv and .txt versions.

To access interactive data, on the right side of the screen, click a test name to access a list of available administrations. Select a grade and then a subject to access available reports.

### ***Selected districts to be chosen for spring 2013 K-3 diagnostics field test opportunity***

During the 2012-2013 school year, ODE will be asking districts to participate in the development of next generation assessments. One such opportunity is the development of new Ohio diagnostics assessments for reading (K-3), writing (K-3) and mathematics (K-2). When finalized, the new diagnostics will provide districts with diagnostic screening measures that can be administered at the start of the school year to identify whether a student is *on-track* to achieve proficiency for a given grade/subject, as well as diagnostic tests that may be used later in the year to assess student progress. Starting with the 2013-2014 school year, the new diagnostic instruments will assess the full depth and breadth of the Common Core State Standards in English language arts and mathematics as part of the suite of Ohio's New Learning Standards, which will replace the current standards.

In November, select districts will be notified of an opportunity for their schools to participate in the March 2013 Ohio K-3 Diagnostics Field Test. The administration of the field test will allow ODE to identify the difficulty level of items and determine whether the items are grade-level appropriate for the diagnostic instruments. Districts selected are highly encouraged to participate to ensure the sample is representative of the state's student population. Further, the spring 2013 Ohio Diagnostics Field Test will provide an opportunity for educators to learn more about the next generation of diagnostics based on Common Core State Standards.

For questions about the spring 2013 Ohio K-3 Diagnostics Field Test, please contact Paula Mahaley in ODE's Office of Curriculum and Assessment at (614) 466-0223.

### ***Please remember procedures for revised diagnostic assessments***

Districts and community schools should have administered a **reading** diagnostic to all kindergarten through grade 3 students by **Sept. 30**. Any student who transfers into the district, or to a different building within the district, must be administered, within 30 days after the date of transfer, each applicable diagnostic assessment if it was not administered by the previous district or previous building. If a student transfers in with no reading diagnostic from the previous district or building, the new district or new building must give the **same** reading diagnostic assessment that it administered by Sept. 30 for the purposes of the Third-Grade Reading Guarantee. If a student transfers in with a reading diagnostic assessment administered for the Third-Grade Reading Guarantee, no matter how long ago during the **current year**, the receiving district or building may use that diagnostic assessment's plus the *on-track/not on-track* results.

The writing and mathematics diagnostic assessments are required and may be administered at any time during the school year. Districts that met adequate yearly progress (AYP) last year may choose which diagnostic assessment to administer; districts that did not meet AYP last year must use the ODE-developed mathematics and writing diagnostic assessments. Students who transfer to a different building within the district or to another district must be administered a mathematics and writing diagnostic assessment within 30 days after the date of transfer.

Intervention is required for those students whose score is *not on-track*. The reading, writing and mathematics diagnostic results 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).

### ***Rules Book is posted***

The *Rules Book*, dated Sept. 27, 2012, has been posted on the ODE website. Districts should refer to the *Rules Book* for questions on the statewide assessments. There will be only one posting this year; however, any changes or corrections will be posted on the same page with the Rules Book. Access the *Rules Book* [here](#) or visit [education.ohio.gov](http://education.ohio.gov) and search keywords: *rules book*. Please direct any questions on the *Rules Book* to Paula Mahaley at [paula.mahaley@education.ohio.gov](mailto:paula.mahaley@education.ohio.gov).

### ***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.

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

### ***Nov. 20 webinar focuses on non-traditional options for earning Ohio high school credits***

School counselors and administrators are invited a credit flexibility webinar on Tuesday, **Nov. 20** from 10-11 a.m. Tom Rutan, associate director of ODE's Office of Curriculum and Instruction, will discuss the credit flexibility option for students to earn high school credits in non-traditional ways. He also will review the recommended elements of a quality student credit flexibility plan and explain available resources. Registration is free, but participants must register through [STARS](#) to get instructions to access the webinar. The keyword search is *credit flexibility*.

### **Changes announced for ODE's Professional Learning Series**

Please be advised that ODE has cancelled the follow-up Professional Learning Series sessions scheduled for Nov. 26-Dec. 6, but will replace the in-person sessions with learning supports. Feedback from the first round of sessions on the instructional shifts needed for Ohio's New Learning Standards indicated additional resources and Web-based professional learning opportunities would be more beneficial. Thank you for your continued participation and feedback on our professional learning work.

### **Register now for Health Education Curriculum Analysis Tool (HECAT) workshop**

Health and physical education teachers, school nurses, school administrators and district coordinators can learn about HECAT at a workshop on Dec. 10 at Wright State University Student Union near Dayton. The self-assessment and planning guide was developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and helps schools conduct clear, complete and consistent analyses of physical education curricula, based on national physical education standards.

The full-day workshop is sponsored by the Buckeye Healthy Schools Alliance. Space is limited and registration is required. The registration deadline is **Dec. 3**. To register, click [here](#).

### **INFOhio to offer free classroom webinar on Internet safety**

INFOhio offers free webinars your faculty and staff can use to earn CEUs. The next session, *eTech Ohio's New Internet Safety Course Explained*, will be held Tuesday, **Nov. 27**. As with all INFOhio webinars, this session will be conducted from 3:30-4:30 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, click [here](#).

### **Free digital resources to support the Third Grade Reading Guarantee**

INFOhio's digital resource collection, available to all schools at no charge, offers many tools to help students meet the requirements of the Third Grade Reading Guarantee. Among them are the [Early World of Learning](#) and [Searchasaurus](#). The Early World of Learning offers students in grades K-3 narrated stories, interactive reading games, leveled reading practice and an online encyclopedia. Searchasaurus helps students in K-3 practice reading and searching skills. It also allows for Lexile-level searching, which lets educators target articles specifically to the needs of the student.

### **High school teachers sought for pilot on building student research skills**

The team at INFOhio is seeking high school educators to test an online course that will help their students develop the research skills needed in college and careers. In exchange for the early-bird use of the new course, *Research 4 Success* (R4S), testers are asked to spend 5-10 hours either reviewing the course content or using the course with students during a research project. There is no student minimum number for those conducting a test; a test could consist of one student. Course testing will start in late November and continue for several months. Results will be collected through online surveys, focus groups or phone interviews. If you are interested, please review the [survey](#) for more information and to sign up.

### **Thought of the month**

*"Let us remember that, as much has been given us, much will be expected from us, and that true homage comes from the heart as well as from the lips, and shows itself in deeds."* – Theodore Roosevelt

**Jim Wright**, Director  
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