



February 2011

A monthly newsletter from the Offices of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

CURRICULUM UPDATES

Survey to help educators with advanced placement courses

Educators who participate in a new five-minute survey can influence the delivery of professional development ODE is planning for teachers who are interested in teaching high school advanced placement (AP) courses. ODE will offer regional workshops this summer in conjunction with the College Board's AP program for both experienced AP teachers as well as teachers who have never taught these courses. The College Board program provides curriculum guidelines for more than 30 college-level courses for high school students.

The survey also will gather information about resources and support districts' need to create and maintain viable AP programs. ODE has hired a full-time AP coordinator under Ohio's Race to the Top grant. In addition to enhancing professional development, the coordinator will build connections among the state's AP teachers, launch new AP courses at selected high schools and create other strategies to increase AP participation.

To access the survey, which will be open through **March 7**, click <u>here</u>. For AP program information and resources, click <u>here</u> or visit <u>education.ohio.gov</u> and search keyword: *AP*. For more information, contact Yolandé Neal at <u>yolande.neal@ode.state.oh.us</u> or (614) 466-2105.

Application deadline for Spanish Visiting Teacher Program is March 21

Schools or districts interested in hiring a native Spanish teacher for the 2011-2012 school year will be interested in the Spanish Visiting Teacher Program, made possible through Ohio's Memorandum of Understanding with Spain's Ministry of Education. Through the program, visiting teachers from Spain can teach Spanish language and culture, as well as other content areas, in Ohio language-immersion settings for up to three years.

The program addresses the shortage of qualified instructors of Spanish in many areas of our state by making available highly qualified visiting teachers. It also promotes strong cross-cultural ties, since many participating Ohio schools and districts have developed cultural exchange programs and "sister school" relationships with Spanish schools.

Interested schools and districts have until **March 21** to submit an application and contract, which will require local board approval. For the application, contract and a PowerPoint presentation about the program and its requirements, please click here. This page also is available by visiting education.ohio.gov, keyword search: Spanish teacher. For more information, please contact Debbie Robinson at (614) 995-0232 or debbie.robinson@ode.state.oh.us.

Model curricula presented to General Assembly and State Board

On Feb. 2, Superintendent Deborah S. Delisle testified before the House and Senate Education Committees on Ohio's model curricula. This legislative update is required before the State Board of Education adopts the model curricula in March. State Board members also received a briefing about the model curricula during the February Board meeting.

Ohio's model curricula will provide clarity and guidance for implementing the revised academic content standards. Next year, Ohio's new model curricula will be part of a Web-based tool that will present information specific to the content area by grade level, grade band and course. It also will provide curricular and instructional strategies and resources for teachers, with a focus on skill-building to help prepare students for postsecondary instruction and the workplace.

Meetings to help in transitioning to revised standards implementation

This spring, ODE – with assistance from Ohio's Educational Service Centers (ESCs) – will take another important step in the long-term transition toward fully implementing Ohio's revised academic content standards in 2014-2015. The Office of Curriculum and Instruction has invited two representatives from all 57 ESCs to an **April 8** event in Columbus, where they will begin collaborative planning and learn about the stages outlined in a transition roadmap covering the next few years. The April session will serve as a model for future meetings that ESC representatives will conduct for district curriculum leaders between April and September. Two to four meetings will be scheduled in each area.

The district transition meetings will feature question-and-answer periods to promote dialogue and provide content for a frequently asked questions (FAQ) document that will help inform educators around the state. In addition, meeting participants will work together to suggest future professional development activities. During open forums, educators will be encouraged to share effective ideas and lessons learned during previous standards transition meetings held last fall and winter.

An advisory committee, comprised of district and ESC curriculum leaders, is providing recommendations for the entire transition process. The committee and ODE envision a collaborative, grassroots transition effort that combines the wisdom of educators statewide with the work going on regionally and nationally. Watch *Ides of ODE* for more details about upcoming local meetings and opportunities for involvement.

Reminder: board resolution for college and career readiness and financial literacy due

A provision of House Bill 1 requires all city, exempted village and local school boards to adopt a resolution addressing financial literacy as well as college and career readiness in grades 7 and/or 8. The resolution and implementation plans must be submitted to ODE within this current school year. Schools must execute their plan elements no later than the 2011-2012 school year.

Information on fulfilling the requirement and related resources can be found on an ODE Web page under the heading Middle Grades Financial Literacy and College and Career Readiness. You will find a syllabus and many resources for teaching financial literacy, as well as a sample board resolution addressing both content areas. College and Career Readiness resources include information to help students and parents understand their options, plan a timeline, begin the financial aid process and make transitions following students' high school graduation. These Web pages also are available at education.ohio.gov, using keywords financial literacy or college and career readiness.

Fifty industry partners to present at Ohio Economic-Education Summit IV

Presenters from 50 organizations and businesses are on the agenda for the Ohio Economic-Education Summit IV, **Feb. 21-23** at the Hyatt Regency in Columbus. Speakers will include Superintendent of Public Instruction Deborah S. Delisle as well as business leaders from organizations such as BioOhio, McGraw-Hill, Procter & Gamble, NetJets, Edison Welding Institute, Global Wind Network, Ohio Manufacturing Institute and General Electric. Additional ODE speakers include Stan Heffner, associate superintendent for curriculum and assessment; Kathy Shibley, director, Office for Career-Technical Education; and Constance Barsky, science initiative administrator. The summit is designed to forge partnerships for continued alignment between education and economic development. Please consider joining us at this event, where you may learn more about the fields of advanced energy, aerospace/propulsion, agriculture bioproducts, biomedicine, logistics and materials science. For more information and to register, please click here or visit education.ohio.gov and click on the link at center.

College Board/Hanban-NCSSFL Chinese Guest Teacher Program deadline is today

The Chinese Guest Teacher Program, jointly administered by the College Board and ODE (in partnership with the National Council of State Supervisors for Languages), is designed to help U.S. schools develop Chinese language and culture study programs and to promote international exchange between the United States and China. Key benefits to Ohio schools and students include:

- Host schools can start or expand Chinese language programs at a reasonable cost;
- Schools can lay the foundation for offering a well-articulated Chinese program over time;
- Students can learn authentic Chinese language and interact with native Chinese speakers;
- Chinese guest teachers can serve as cultural resources in other subject areas.

The program provides an experienced language teacher from mainland China for the host school or district for one to three years. Because the program subsidizes a portion of each guest teacher's salary, it also provides schools with the opportunity to build their Chinese programs efficiently and affordably.

For more information or to request a Chinese guest teacher for the 2011-2012 school year, please visit the College Board <u>website</u>. All application materials must be submitted directly to the College Board as soon as possible. The deadline originally was **Feb. 15**, but late submissions will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Direct any questions to Ryan Wertz at (614) 728-4630 or ryan.wertz@ode.state.oh.us.

Exchange programs with Taiwan offer teachers and schools opportunities

Educators in Ohio and Taiwan have opportunities for cross-cultural exchanges in two distinct programs made possible through agreements ODE has with Taiwan's Ministry of Education and the Taiwan Economic and Cultural Office:

- The Visiting Chinese Teacher from Taiwan Program partners schools with qualified instructors of Mandarin Chinese. Ohio superintendents (or their designees) who are committed to using this program to fill K-12 Chinese teaching positions for the 2011-2012 school year are invited to participate in a trip to Taiwan from April 2-11. The deadline for applications, which must be sent to ODE and the Taiwan Economic and Cultural Office, is Sunday, **Feb. 20**.
 - During the trip, administrators will personally interview and hire highly qualified Taiwanese teachers; learn first-hand about Taiwan's educational system and teacher training programs; and develop concrete measures to implement sister-school relationships. Prospective travelers will need approval by their local boards of education to offer Chinese language programming during the 2011-2012 school year. Taiwan's Ministry of Education will reimburse travelers' expenses for roundtrip airfare and accommodations. For more information about costs and qualifications, click here. Please direct any questions about the program to Ryan Wertz at (614) 728-4630 or ryan.wertz@ode.state.oh.us.
- Through the *Teaching in Taiwan Program*, new and experienced elementary and middle school teachers may apply to teach English while living in Taiwan for the 2011-2012 school year. The application deadline is Friday, **April 1**. For more information, please click here or contact Dwight Groce at dwight.groce@ode.state.oh.us or (614) 387-3200.

The Web pages for these programs also are available by visiting <u>education.ohio.gov</u> and searching for *Foreign Languages*.

ASSESSMENT

Despite calamity days, OGT and OAA to be administered on schedule

The inclement weather and use of numerous calamity days across the state of Ohio this winter has many districts adjusting school calendars and altering plans. The OGT and OAA will be administered as planned on **March 14 to 27** and **April 25 to May 13** respectively. Timelines for the completion and return of AASWD and OTELA also will remain unchanged.

ODE appreciates the hardships districts are encountering with winter weather. Unfortunately, scoring and reporting timelines are compressed to ensure results are delivered to districts in a timely manner. Scheduled administration dates must be maintained to facilitate district planning for graduation, summer intervention and EMIS reporting.

OAA spring test administration offers flexibility within specified guidelines

In recent years, districts have gained more flexibility in scheduling grades 3-8 test administration within the specified window for the spring Ohio Achievement Assessments (OAA). This flexibility is particularly helpful because breaks for Easter (Sunday, April 24), Passover (which ends on Tuesday, April 26) and some spring breaks may affect district test schedules. The spring 2011 OAA test administration period will begin April 25 and end May 13. Districts may use the weeks of April 25 and May 2 for initial administration. The week of May 9 may be used for make-up testing, but not for initial administration.

With Passover ending during the first week of the test window, districts may start testing on Wednesday, April 27, or any day thereafter, as long as testing is completed before the end of the initial administration period on May 6 *and* in time for the district's designated pick-up deadline for test results. There are no more than three tests (reading, mathematics and science) to be administered, depending on the grade level. No matter which day testing begins, districts will have multiple days to complete initial administration.

Some districts may remember the days when the test window was very prescriptive (e.g., the OAA reading test had to be given on a Monday). This is no longer true. Districts can begin the testing on any day during the test window as long as they begin with the reading assessment, followed by mathematics and science – a sequence outlined in the No Child Left Behind Act.

It is important to remember that districts *cannot* use the week of May 9 for initial administration. Doing so would make it impossible to meet designated deadlines for pick-up of scorable materials and the return of test results in June would be jeopardized. The test pick-up deadlines, which have been communicated to district test coordinators, are May 6, May 9 and May 10, depending upon the size of the district.

Please direct any questions to the Office of Assessment at (614) 466-0223.

Remember to test OGT calculators

Districts that have had significant growth in their student population since last year and require additional calculators can order them in TIDE during the additional order window (**Feb. 22 to March 22**). All orders for additional calculators will be subject to ODE approval. Please remember to test calculators for proper functioning before the Ohio Graduation Tests (OGT) window. DRC will arrange to replace any broken calculators. If replacements are needed, contact DRC at (877) 231-7809, *option 1*. Please do not discard broken calculators unless advised to do so by DRC.

OTELA 2011 dates are in progress

The Ohio Test of English Language Acquisition (OTELA) 2011 test administration window for all K-12 grade bands is **Jan. 17 to March 11**. OTELA test materials were delivered to districts the week of Jan. 10. Districts may place orders for additional materials **Jan. 10 through March 10**. There will be no modification of, or extension to, the OTELA test window. The return date of test materials is **March 14**. Any tests shipped after March 14 will **not be scored**. OTELA results will be available to districts online as downloadable data on May 11; paper reports will be available on May 19.

Send in Alternate Assessment for Students with Disabilities (AASWD) materials

Districts received AASWD materials for both the OAA and the OGT the week of Jan. 10. The last day to return Collections of Evidence (COE) for scoring is **March 4**. Please send the COE to the correct vendor: *OGT-AASWD COEs* (*white binder*) must be returned to **DRC**, and OAA-AASWD COEs (black binder) must be returned to **Pearson**.

Districts are to discard leftover COE student answer documents and binders from last year, and use the current year's materials for the 2011 administration. An additional ordering window for materials is open now through **March 4**. The AASWD pre-processing record change window is open now through **March 16**.

English language learner term adopted

In the past, the Offices of Curriculum and Assessment have used the words *limited English proficient* (*LEP*) in referring to students who speak a language other than English and may have difficulty speaking, reading or writing English. These offices are now adopting the term *English language learners* (*ELLs*) for these students because it is more widely used in the education field.

NAEP 2009 science results released Jan. 25

According to the Jan. 25 release of National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 2009 science assessment results, Ohio's fourth- and eighth-grade students continue to perform better than many across the country.

The percentage of these students performing at or above the proficient level in science is higher than the nation's public school students. According to NAEP, the term proficient represents solid academic performance, with students at this level demonstrating competency over challenging subject matter. Of Ohio's fourth-grade students, 41 percent performed at or above proficient, compared to 32 percent nationally. Of Ohio's eighth-grade students, 37 percent performed at or above proficient, compared to 29 percent nationally.

"I am pleased that our students performed well in the NAEP science tests," said Deborah S. Delisle, superintendent of public instruction. "While Ohio's students have demonstrated proficiency at higher levels than many of their counterparts across the country, we must continue to provide rigorous courses to challenge our students to gain essential content and technical skills."

NAEP – also known as the Nation's Report Card – is the only nationally representative measure of student academic achievement. The NAEP 2009 results in mathematics and reading, released previously, also showed that Ohio fared well above the national average on these measures. For the NAEP website, click here-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news-national-news

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

INFOhio offers professional development webinar on STEM

The webinar titled *Supporting STEM Education with Secondary Students* from 3:30 to 4:15 p.m. on **Feb. 17** describes the *STEM Initiative* and why it is important to support in the classroom. This free INFOhio webinar will help demystify the buzzwords and help leverage STEM resources to make lessons more inquiry-based and student-driven. Learn how INFOhio tools and resources can help with integrating STEM into the curriculum. This webinar relates to *INFOhio's 21st Century Learning Commons Essential Things 11, 14, 15, 16 and 20.* For information about this free webinar series, visit the <u>Learn With INFOhio Web page</u>. Connect to this webinar <u>here</u>.

Supreme Court Historical Society offers summer program

Street Law, Inc. and the U.S. Supreme Court Historical Society will sponsor two sessions of the annual Supreme Court Summer Institute from June 16-21 and June 23-28. The institute is open to secondary social studies teachers and supervisors, who will spend five days on Capitol Hill and inside the Supreme Court building learning about the court and its past and current cases. Participants will gain insights on teaching about these topics from Supreme Court litigators and educators. They also will hear the justices announce final decisions and attend a private court reception. For more information and to apply online before the **March 14** deadline, please click here.

Foreign language camp to be held June 12-18

The Ohio Foreign Language Association (OFLA) will offer Camp OFLA 2011 on **June 12-18** for budding linguists who will enter grades 4-6 next fall. Campers may choose from Arabic, Chinese, French, German or Spanish for a week of language immersion and cultural fun. Ohio teachers of these languages will lead the camp with assistance from university and high school advanced language students. Activities include language learning, ethnic cooking, dancing, singing, sports, arts and crafts, campfires 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, please visit the Camp OFLA website or contact Lucas Hoffman at lucashoffman22@gmail.com.

Selective application process open for East Asia summer institute

The Program for Teaching East Asia at the University of Colorado will hold a summer institute for secondary educators titled 21st-Century China: Global Issues, Classroom Applications from July 17-22 at the university's Boulder campus. All major costs of participation are covered by a grant from the Freeman Foundation for teachers selected to participate.

Applications are accepted on a rolling admission basis until the institute is filled or on **March 4**. For more information, click here or contact Catherine Ishida at (303) 735-5122 or catherine.ishida@Colorado.edu.

EdSteps launches Work Collection for Creativity

EdSteps is currently seeking submissions to its Work Collection for Creativity, a grassroots effort to provide educators with a practical means of appreciating, understanding and assessing creativity in partnership with their students. The collection is part of a larger project by EdSteps to develop a Webbased resource for teaching and assessment in five skill areas, including creativity, that are typically difficult and costly to assess. Ultimately, the site will present a public library of student work samples presented in a continuum from emerging to accomplished work. EdSteps is led by the Council of Chief State School Officers and funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

For the Collection for Creativity, EdSteps welcomes work samples by teachers and other adults, as well as students of all ability levels from Pre-K through graduate school. Works may be in any form, genre or media – including writing, videos, images or graphics – in any subject area. An educator or student may submit works one at a time or in batches if a free online account is created. Work samples will not include author names or schools, but must be submitted with parental permission if the works were created by minors. Please visit www.edsteps.org and select the submit work option to upload work samples online. If electronic submission is not feasible, please request mailing instructions from EdSteps at (202) 336-7032 or e-mailhelp@edsteps.org. Educators also may volunteer to review work samples for inclusion on the EdSteps website. For more information on EdSteps, please contact info@edsteps.org.

INFOhio offers professional journals for teachers and administrators

Struggling to keep up with professional reading? INFOhio's education journals can help. EBSCOhost's Professional Search keeps educators current with access to 550 high-quality journals, including more than 350 peer-reviewed titles and thousands of articles from the Educational Resource Information Center. The collection is searchable by author, title, keyword and by browsing the complete title list. Examples of titles include: *Curriculum Administrator, Education, Education Digest, Educational Leadership, High School Journal, Journal of Education, Learning Disability Quarterly, Phi Delta Kappan and Reading Teacher.* To access EBSCOhost, find out how to login to INFOhio's electronic resources.

The Search and Journal Alerts offer busy educators other helpful features. This service notifies the requester through e-mail when there is an update to a search topic or journal. INFOhio provides easy alert set-up <u>directions</u> and more training about keeping up with professional reading in the 21st Century Learning Commons Essential Thing #4.

<u>Join</u> the Learning Commons to learn how to keep up professionally with INFOhio. Usernames and passwords for home use of INFOhio resources are available from local school library media centers. Educators also may complete the username and password request form or contact central@infohio.org

Thought of the month

"The important thing is not to stop questioning." – Albert Einstein

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To subscribe to the *Ides of ODE* as a test coordinator, click <u>here</u>. To subscribe to the *Ides of ODE* as a curriculum director, click <u>here</u>.