The Ides of ODE Monthly Information from the Offices of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment June 2009

CURRICULUM UPDATES

The Standards Revision Process

The revision of Ohio's Academic Content Standards in English language arts, mathematics, science and social studies will officially kick off on June 18 when Stan Heffner, Associate Superintendent of the Center of Curriculum and Assessment, and content specialists in the Office of Curriculum and Assessment meet with representatives of education organizations to discuss the revision process.

Stakeholder input will continue on June 30 when ODE meets with teachers and curriculum specialists to draw upon their first-hand knowledge of Ohio's academic content standards. E-mail invitations have been sent to selected participants who represent various grade levels, district types, regions and demographics of the state. Even though many teachers and curriculum specialists applied to attend this meeting, it was not possible to accommodate everyone because of space limitations.

Throughout the standards revision process, additional opportunities for input will be offered throughout the state. Information from the June 30 meeting will be posted by July 10 on ODE's Web site at www.education.ohio.gov, keyword: revision, along with a brief survey that will allow interested individuals to share their thoughts now, at the beginning of this process. In addition, all are encouraged to attend focus groups and to provide additional online feedback this fall.

Advisory teams and working groups for each content area will begin their work in July and continue through September. The goal is to have draft standards posted on ODE's Web site by early November so that focus groups, online feedback and national expert review can occur during the months of November and December. A chart summarizing stakeholder group involvement in the standards revision process also can be found on ODE's Web site at www.education.ohio.gov, keyword: revision.

Ohio Performance Assessment Pilot Project Update

The Office of Curriculum and Instruction and the Office of Assessment have continued their work on the Ohio Performance Assessment Pilot Project. The project's goal is to explore the possible utilization of curriculum-embedded performance assessments as a component of the state's next generation of assessments.

From February through April, teachers, administrators and support staff representing 15 school sites have engaged in five days of training and professional development led by Ohio Department of Education and Stanford University content consultants, and hosted by the ESC of Central Ohio whose staff has been welcoming and efficient. Participating mathematics, science and English-language arts teachers have taken part in a step-by-step approach for performance task development.

To date, the teachers have articulated performance outcomes that reflect subject specific content and skills necessary for college and/or careers and have begun creating corresponding performance tasks. Meanwhile, administrators and support staff have taken part in discussions and training on how best to assist teachers who are implementing performance assessments, emphasizing accommodations for special population students.

Other activities currently underway or soon to commence include:

- Revising the rubrics for scientific inquiry and the associated performance outcomes based on feedback from the teachers in the participating schools;
- Finalizing performance tasks to be utilized by Pilot Project teachers;
- Participation by coaches in a five-day professional development session in August that includes finalizing the performance tasks;
- Collaboration between the coaches, ODE, ESCCO and SRN staff in developing professional development for participating teachers in the fall which will help them administer the performance tasks in their respective classrooms; and
- Task implementation training for scheduled participants in September or October prior to employing the performance assessments in their classrooms during the 2009-2010 school year.

Schools and districts participating in the pilot project are:

- Ashtabula County Educational Service Center for the Consortium of Ashtabula County Schools
 (Ashtabula Area City Schools, Buckeye Local Schools, Conneaut Area City Schools, Geneva Area City
 Schools, Grand Valley Local Schools, Jefferson Area Local Schools, Pymatuning Valley Local Schools);
- Buchtel High School, East High School, Ellet High School, Firestone High School, Garfield High School, Kenmore High School and North High School (Akron Public Schools);
- Canton South High School (Canton Local Schools);
- Eastland Career Center and Fairfield Career Center (Eastland-Fairfield Career and Technical Schools);
- Fairview High School (Fairview Park City Schools);
- Federal Hocking High School (Federal Hocking Local Schools);
- Lakewood High School (Lakewood City Schools);
- Lima Senior High School of Multiple Intelligence and Lima Senior High Progressive Academy (Lima City Schools);
- Medina Senior High School (Medina City Schools);
- Miami Valley Career Technology Center (Miami Valley Career Technology Center);
- National Trail High School (National Trail Local School District);
- North Union High School (North Union Local School District);
- Pickerington High School Central, Pickerington High School North (Pickerington Local School District)
- Shawnee High School (Clark-Shawnee Local School District); and
- The STEM Consortium of Reynoldsburg High School (Reynoldsburg City School District), Gahanna Lincoln High School (Gahanna Lincoln Schools), The Metro High School (Ed Council Foundation) and Whitehall Yearling High School (Whitehall City School District).

State Board of Education Adopts Physical Education Standards

On June 8, the State Board of Education adopted benchmarks and indicators to complete the academic content standards development process for physical education. Previously, the board had adopted the six standards of the National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE). Together, these standards, benchmarks and indicators are now Ohio's Academic Content Standards for Physical Education. This resource is available for districts to use in the development of local curriculum by clicking herea/by/scal/education.ohio.gov, keywords: physical/education.ohio.gov, keywords: <a href="https://exa

2009 International Education Grants

In the fall of 2008, the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation awarded a grant to the Ohio Department of Education to implement work outlined in the draft *Strategic Plan for International Education in Ohio*. A portion of that money was designated to award \$2,000 grants to public schools for international education projects. The following schools will receive grants in 2009.

Canton South High School, Canton Local School District

Canton South High School will expand its global access to the world through providing distance learning connections that allow students to interact with peers and adults around the world. Through embracing this 21st century technology, students will communicate internationally to build understanding of other cultures, history and geography, and to learn to value diversity.

Drake Elementary, Strongsville City Schools

The art, music and physical education teachers will collaborate with the content area teachers K-6 to immerse students into the culture of a different continent each year. The immersion begins in the arts and includes all academic content areas as dovetailed with the standards. The school has already developed strong community support for the program.

Perrysburg Exempted Village School District

The district will organize and implement a *Diversity Summit* which will allow students to see and experience relationships between themselves, the community and the world. This event will allow students to witness, first hand, the diversity within the community, and help them celebrate it as well. By using an approach which goes beyond traditional classroom learning, it will be possible to create a foundation fostering desire by students to continue to build their understanding of international issues and navigate the complex and dynamic web such issues represent.

Ross High School, Ross Local School District

International Awareness in Literature and Art (IALA) will involve English and visual arts crafts students in the study of global family culture from chosen countries. The crafts students will design and create an accompanying craft for each country. The project will involve students in the utilization of research skills, collaboration, personal responsibility, technology integration and communication to become globally aware. A culminating project will be a multi-media presentation and representation of students' crafts at CONZaft, an annual art and music celebration at Ross High School.

Wauseon High School, Wauseon Exempted Village Schools

An international study abroad program offered through the Wauseon Agricultural Education Department at Wauseon Exempted Village Schools will allow students to experience a world-class, interdisciplinary international experience that will provide agricultural and cultural lessons. Participation in global agriculture and service learning experience will allow for cutting-edge experiential learning. Students also will have the opportunity to develop a better understanding of cultural perspectives and analyze the physical, economic and political characteristics of a different region of the world.

Fine Arts - The Nation's Report Card: 2008 Arts - Music and Visual Arts at Grade 8

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 2008 arts assessment was released on June 15, 2009. *The Nation's Report Card: 2008 Arts* examines the performance of eighth-graders in music and visual arts. The 2008 NAEP arts assessment measured students' knowledge and skills in the arts by asking them to observe, describe, analyze and evaluate existing works of music and visual art and to create and perform original works. For more information on the assessment and to view results from the 1997 arts assessment, visit http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/arts/.

NAEP is administered by the National Center for Education Statistics within the Institute of Education Sciences.

ASSESSMENT UPDATES

OGT and OAT Modified Testing Schedule Form

You can now complete a form to request a modified testing schedule for OGT and OAT. The form is located on the ODE Web site at www.education.ohio.gov by clicking on *Testing*, then on *Documents and Forms*. The form is designed to simplify the process for schools requiring modified testing dates due to Board Policy conflicts with the legislated assessment testing dates.

Back to the Future for OAT Subscores

The definition of "mid-range" of student performance by academic content standard for the OAT is *Back to the Future*. It is not really back to the future. Over the past two years, the Office of Assessment has become aware that some schools are trying to interpret the classification on the OAT academic content standards of *Near Proficient* as though the classification was *Proficient*. Then schools wondered why students classified as *Near Proficient* in all strands were judged *Below Proficient* on the overall test instead of *Proficient*.

ODE has decided that the definition of mid-range of student performance by the academic content standard for the OAT needs to revert back to the way it was before the Spring 2007 test administration. This change should better align the reported data on the standards with interpretation in the field.

There are two good reasons for this decision. First, it will make the definition of the mid-range for the OAT exactly the same as that used for the OGT since the first operational administration of the OGT. Second, reversion to the old definition (as used before 2007 for the OAT) will make student performance on the overall test and performance by the academic content standard more consistent. When the change was made in 2007, the intention was to indicate that performance classification on the academic content standards is more tenuous than the classification on the overall test due to the limited number of points at each standard.

Operation Extend Defunded for Summer

Because of budget cuts during this fiscal year, there will be no funding for Operation Extend this summer. Should funding be included in the biennium budget bill now pending in the Ohio Senate, notification will be provided in a future *Ides of ODE* article, located on the Web site at www.education.ohio.gov, keyword search: *Ides*. Questions may be directed to the GED Office at (614) 387-0935.

Ohio Online Assessment Reporting System and LRC

Through the Ohio Online Assessment Reporting System (OOARS), https://reports.success-ode-state-oh-us.info, also accessed through the Success Web site, http://portal.success-ode-state-oh-us.info, districts may view and export summary reports on how their districts, schools or students performed overall and within each subject content standard. Administrators and teachers are reminded that information contained in these reports may not match information in the district's LRC. Please be cautious using information in OOARS when considering your district's LRC.

The information in OOARS may not match the district's LRC because of a number of factors.

- The OOARS report includes all students tested in the district. Students who were not continuously enrolled, and therefore would not be included in the LRC, are also included in the data.
- Reports in OOARS are only for a specific administration. Local Report Card data may combine multiple administrations, such as grade 3 reading (fall and spring) or grade 11 OGT cumulative results.
- Local Report Card data is collected through EMIS submission from districts. OOARS data is generated
 from the pre-ID label data AND from information bubbled on the demographic pages of answer
 documents. Therefore, some missing or inaccurate data could exist due to error whereas the EMIS data
 from districts is subjected to multiple rounds of validation before public release.
- Unique for the IEP group, reports in OOARS do not combine the regular test results with the AASWD results. The Local Report Card data does combine the two. This could result in a significant difference for this group of students between the two reports.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, RESOURCES, AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

OASCD summer conference June 22, 2009

Plan to attend the summer conference, *Educating the Whole Child/Supporting Student Success*, sponsored by the Ohio Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. The conference provides an excellent opportunity for participants to hear an in-depth overview of the Supporting Success Report presented to Governor Strickland from the Ohio Public-Private Collaborative Commission in August 2008.

The session provides many examples of recommendations from the commission to support all students in successfully completing the Ohio Core (Extended Learning Opportunities, Dropout Recovery, 21st Century After School Programs, College Awareness for Elementary Students and Their Parents, and many more).

For additional information regarding registration, visit the Ohio ASCD Web page at http://www.ohioascd.com. Contact Michael Ross at (937) 996-4211 or ohioascd@embarqmail.com for conference information or multiple copies of brochures.

INFOhio Summer Learning Resources

INFOhio offers students, teachers and parents various electronic resources that provide summer learning experiences. For K-5 students, <u>World Book Kids</u> has activities, such as *Make It* for hands-on activities, *Think It* for analytical exercises and games and *Be It* activities that improve career awareness.

<u>World Book Student</u> offers trivia quizzes for grades 6-8 to utilize for team challenges and *Surf the Ages* for a 21st century look at history. Students looking for e-books can find a wide variety at <u>World Book Advanced</u>, which includes thousands of fiction and non-fiction e-books and selections in seven languages. Also included are works of literary criticisms linked to either author information or the title of the book.

For those wishing to explore a foreign language, INFOhio provides <u>Enciclopedia Estudiantil Hallazgos</u> and <u>Hispánica Saber for Spanish and L'Encyclopédie Découverte for French.</u>

Usernames and passwords for at home use of INFOhio are available from your local school library media center. You also can complete the username and password request form to request a username and password at http://www.infohio.org/ER/unpwrequestform.asp.

Great Teachers Make Great Schools: 2009 Teacher Conference August 9-11, 2009

Battelle for Kids is pleased to announce its first conference just for teachers: *Great Teachers Make Great Schools: 2009 Teacher Conference*. Hosted with support from the Ohio Federation of Teachers and the Ohio Education Association, this 2½-day statewide conference is designed to provide teachers with empowering information and strategies, to recognize exemplary achievement and progress results, to provide networking and sharing opportunities, and to discuss issues and reforms impacting teachers today.

To learn more, visit www.BattelleforKids.org/Go/TeacherConference or call (614) 481-3141.

Does your school need to provide its teachers with reading/literacy professional development?

The Office of Literacy worked with eRead at the University of Akron to develop online professional development courses and resources for K-12 literacy educators and parents. In school-based study groups led by experienced elearning facilitators, teachers work together to use online materials and attend face-to-face meetings as they learn research-based instructional strategies. Online professional development engages teachers in new and innovative ways and prepares them for greater success in the classroom, yielding long-term benefits. If you are interested in learning more, visit www.eReadOhio.org or contact Lori Vargo, eRead Ohio, at (330) -972-7708 or LVargo@uakron.edu.

Thought of the Month

"Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself." John Dewey

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