

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

CURRICULUM UPDATES

Update on Academic Content Standards Revision

During the second week of November, the first drafts of Ohio's revised content standards for Mathematics, Science, English Language Arts and Social Studies will be available on the Ohio Department of Education's Web site for review. Please remember they are **DRAFT** documents, so your feedback continues to be critical to the process.

This work has been informed by legislation (House Bill I), findings from international benchmarking, expert critiques and studies from national organizations, models from learned societies in each content area, and input from educators across Ohio.

As you review the proposed revisions, please focus on the framework and content of the standards, the user friendliness of the document and implications for curriculum, instruction and assessment.

Designed to be Web-based, the standards will be supported by model curricula which will include content statements, instructional strategies and links to instructional resources. Educators are not expected to implement the standards until the standards and model curriculum have been developed and new assessments have been designed. (We anticipate a three-year window for all work to be completed.)

We encourage educators across the state to participate in discussion groups and professional conversations around the standards. We intend to provide a Webcast and a toolkit as resources to support these discussions. Look for an announcement for the date of the Webcast to come soon.

Reviewers will have the opportunity to provide feedback electronically individually or collectively as a reviewing group. Content area organizations also will be host focus groups to foster these conversations and facilitate feedback.

An important reminder – the timeline for this process continues as follows:

Nov – Dec 2009	Posting of the drafts, focus groups, online feedback
Jan – Mar 2010	More editing and revision as a result of the feedback
Apr – June 2010	The State Board of Education resolution and adoption process
June 2010 – Mar 2011	Creation and vetting of model curricula, accompanying instructional strategies and pertinent resources
Mar 2011 – TBA (2012-2013?)	Test item development, field testing and adoption of a new assessment system

Given the timeline, it becomes important that we all pace ourselves throughout this process. It will be more of a distance race than a sprint, with quality of content and practicality for educators high on our priority list. We hope you will join us in creating documents that will guide and promote a high level of teaching and rigorous degree of learning in our state.

Physical Education Academic Content Standards Training Workshops to be held in November

The State Board of Education adopted standards for physical education at its June 2009 meeting. ODE will hold free workshops to help educators learn how to incorporate the standards in their local curriculum on:

- Tuesday, Nov 3, Painesville
- Thursday, Nov. 19, Athens
- Friday, Nov. 20, Cincinnati

Additional workshops will be scheduled throughout the school year.

Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Individuals must register through STARS using a SAFE Account. If you do not have a SAFE account, you can obtain one at <https://safe.ode.state.oh.us/portal/>.

For additional information, visit education.ohio.gov and click on the Events link or contact Lisa Lyle Henry at lisa.henry@ode.state.oh.us.

Math Science Partnership (MSP) Grants

Schools identified as high or medium support by ODE will have the opportunity to apply for the latest round of MSP grants. Schools will partner with STEM university faculty and Educational Service Centers (ESCs) to improve the teaching and learning of science and/or mathematics at each school. Partners will research and identify the specific needs of the individual school and work towards increasing the mathematics and/or science content knowledge of the teachers, developing systems of support for teachers and creating real change in the classroom.

The request for proposals has been posted on the ODE Web site at <http://www.education.ohio.gov/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEDetail.aspx?Page=3&TopicRelationID=1704&Content=75301>.

The goals for this project are:

- to improve student achievement in mathematics and science;
- to increase teacher content knowledge in mathematics and science;
- to develop successful programs that can be used with other schools and partners; and
- to improve connections to the real world in the classroom (relevancy, inquiry and problem-solving skills).

ASSESSMENT UPDATES

Reminder of the Impact of HB 1 on ODE Assessments for the 2009-10 school year

- The Ohio Achievement Tests (OAT) have been renamed the **Ohio Achievement Assessments (OAA)**. The content of the tests has not changed. The change in name will begin with the *Spring 2010* Achievement Assessments.
- Grades 4 and 7 writing and grades 5 and 8 social studies assessments are *suspended for two years*.
- *OGT items will not* be subject to public release beginning with the Spring 2010 OGT administration. As a result, new item-analysis reports will be discontinued.

The bill also calls for development of a new assessment system to replace the current Ohio Graduation Tests with a three-part assessment system:

1. Nationally standardized assessment (science, mathematics and English language arts);
2. Series of end-of-course exams (science, mathematics, English language arts and social studies); and
3. Senior project (student or group of students, assess chosen content and skills).

These three parts will be used to comprise a composite score for graduation. The Department is working on the details and a timeline for this transition to take place. **For the current year (2009-2010), there is no change to the OGT assessment schedule.**

Please continue to monitor the ODE Web site and future editions of the *Ides of ODE* for additional information about these and other changes as details become available.

Clarification on Diagnostic Assessment Availability

Diagnostic Assessments are available on the ODE Web site. As a cost-savings measure, ODE will no longer print additional Diagnostic Kits. However, ODE has Diagnostic Kits for *new buildings* and *new classrooms* and will continue to distribute kits while current supplies last. Those districts that have **already received** the kits **will not receive duplicate kits**. The manipulatives in the kit will not be replaced, but districts may purchase them at teacher stores or wherever available.

Ohio Statewide Assessment Program Rules Book for 2009-10

The Ohio Statewide Assessment Program Rules Book was posted to the ODE Web site on September 29, 2009. The Rules Book has been revised and is in a new format (no longer a question/answer format) with grouping of topics under headings to facilitate use. If there are changes or edits to the rules book during the school year, a change page will be posted on the ODE Rules Book Web page.

Updated Power Point Presentations

In past years, ODE has posted the PowerPoint presentations from the fall regional meetings on the ODE Web site under professional development. ODE is in the process of updating the PowerPoint presentations from last year's regional meetings and will be posting updated versions to the ODE Web site by the end of October. The PowerPoint presentations will update changes to the assessment program and include important dates and contact information.

Alternate Assessment for Students with Disabilities (AASWD)

District test coordinators will enter enrollments and submit Pre-ID files through TIDE November 2-December 4 for both the OAA and OGT AASWD. Binder kits will be sent to districts the week of January 11. AASWD Administration Manuals have been posted on ODE's Web site at education.ohio.gov, keyword search: *alternate assessments*. Educators wishing to receive training on administering the AASWD should contact their region's State Support Team.

NAEP Updates

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 2009 state and national results for grades four and eight mathematics was released on October 14. Ohio schools chosen for NAEP 2010, which will yield national results only, have been notified of their selection. NAEP 2010 assessments will run from January 25 through March 5, 2010.

NAEP, often referred to as The Nation's Report Card, is the only nationally representative and continuous assessment of what students across the country know and are able to do in various subjects. In 2010, there will be operational and computer-based tests, as well as some pilots.

Some schools at grade four, eight and 12 will be taking paper-pencil tests (operational) in U.S. history, civics and geography. In addition, grade four students will be assessed in mathematics and writing, and grade eight students will be assessed in mathematics.

Some schools will participate in a computer-based writing pilot at grades eight and 12.

Christine Kempf, ODE's NAEP coordinator, has produced an Ohio-specific comparison document for NAEP and Ohio's tests. For more information about NAEP or to access the comparison document, visit education.ohio.gov, keyword search: *NAEP* or e-mail christine.kempf@ode.state.oh.us.

374 Students Earn Diplomas Employing the Alternative Pathway

Statewide, 374 students who graduated in the class of 2009 earned a diploma by employing the alternative pathway. Under Ohio Revised Code (ORC) §3313.615, students can graduate by passing four of the five OGT **if** they meet **all** of the criteria for the alternative pathway. The criteria with explanations can be found at education.ohio.gov, keyword search: *Alternative Pathway*.

Requests for Exception to 1% Cap on Alternate Assessments

The U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) has restricted Ohio to limit the count of proficient or higher scores on the alternate assessment to 1 percent of its statewide tested population. This means that for the 2009-2010 school year and beyond, most LEAs will be restricted to this cap.

Unless otherwise directed by the USDOE, ODE's Office of Accountability plans to accept requests for exception to the cap only from LEAs with special circumstances (i.e., those having a small tested population of approximately 1,000 tested students and those that draw a disproportionate number of families of students with

the most severe cognitive disabilities). However, under the current restriction, there is no guarantee even these LEAs will receive their requested number of students.

To assist LEAs that are using the alternate assessment for greater than 1 percent of their total tested student population, Ohio will continue to work with the USDOE to explore potential flexibility in the federal restrictions. Based on past requests for flexibility, it is unlikely that the USDOE will grant any state exceptions to the cap.

To clarify, the restriction is on the count of proficient or higher scores on the alternate assessment that can be used for accountability purposes. The restriction is not on the number of alternate assessments that can be administered. Once an LEA exceeds the cap on the scores that can be used for accountability purposes, the remaining scores will be reassigned (i.e., changed from proficient, accelerated or advanced to basic). A random process identifies which scores will be reassigned at the district level and the reassigned scores then will be attributed to the building the student attends.

For more information, please contact the Office of Accountability at (614) 728-4510.

Social Studies standards revision moves forward

Am. Sub. H.B. 1 requires revision of Ohio's academic content standards in social studies and other subjects by June 30, 2010.

Proposed revisions include reduced breadth, increased depth and the combination of process and content standards. The number of standards will decrease to four: government, economics, geography and history. Benchmarks and grade-level indicators are being replaced with themes, topics and content statements.

Strong instruction in the social studies throughout grades K-12 will ensure a sound transition from one set of standards to the next and prepare students for future state assessments. More importantly, with a strong social studies background, today's students are more apt to be successful in tomorrow's global workforce.

For more information about the standards revision process for social studies, English language arts, mathematics and science, visit ODE's Web site at education.ohio.gov, keyword search: *revision*.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, RESOURCES AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

How to Order Copies of Ohio's Academic Content Standards for New Teachers

To place your orders for copies of Ohio's K-12 Academic Content Standards, please contact Karen Pascal at the Ohio Department of Education at karen.paschal@ode.state.oh.us or (614) 387-0146.

When you contact her, please have ready the **exact** number of each **type** of content standards you are requesting and the **mailing address** to which you would like to have them sent.

21st Century Learning – Transforming Education

This grant focuses on Professional Development and Student Learning. Through sustained, collaborative, job-embedded professional development, teachers will experience new models and strategies for teaching and learning. Using technology and social networking, teachers will become facilitators and co-learners and create 21st century, technology-enabled learning environments in which students will meet or exceed the state academic content standards and develop 21st century skills.

Additional information can be found at <http://www.eteach.ohio.gov/go/arra>.

EETT – Synchronous Interactive Distance Learning Pilot

The EETT Synchronous Interactive Distance Learning Pilot Project will provide interactive distance learning Advanced Placement (AP) courses and foreign language courses to eligible Ohio public high schools. It will connect students and instructors through real-time communication and provide funding to enable schools to meet or exceed the state academic content standards adopted by the State Board of Education and College Board.

Additional information can be found at <http://www.eteach.ohio.gov/synchronous-interactive-distance-learning-/program-overview-.dot>.

Funding Available for eLearning Professional Development Modules

ODE worked with eRead at the University of Akron to develop online professional development courses and resources for K-12 literacy educators and parents. The elearning modules represent comprehensive professional development for educators. The modules help educators develop skills that are sustainable, ongoing and focused on student achievement. Educators can build a strong foundation in the Five Essentials, Early Language Learning, Differentiation, English learners, Adolescent Literacy, Scaffolding, High Yield Strategies or Assess Plan Teach. There also are modules on School Leadership and Instructional Coaching. All modules promote a blended, face-to-face online high-quality professional development experience led by an experienced facilitator. In addition, the State Support Teams (SSTs) are providing funding to support the implementation of the modules. If you are interested in learning more about the modules, access www.eReadOhio.org and/or contact Lori Vargo, (330) 972-7708 or LVargo@uakron.edu. If you are interested in funding to support this elearning effort, contact your regional SST.

Workshops for School Wellness Teams, Health Educators, Physical Educators, Curriculum Coordinators, School Nurses, Guidance Counselors and Administrators

October 26th, 2009 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Health Education Curriculum Analysis Tool (HECAT)

The Health Education Curriculum Analysis Tool (HECAT) can help school districts, schools and others conduct a clear, complete and consistent analysis of health education curricula based on the National Health Education Standards and CDC's Characteristics of Effective Health Education Curricula. The HECAT results can help schools select or develop appropriate and effective health education curricula and improve the delivery of health education. The HECAT can be customized to meet local community needs and conform to the curriculum requirements of the state or school district. Through this training, participants will learn how to identify gaps in current curricula and select or develop appropriate and effective health education curricula based on the needs of the students and improve the delivery of health education.

The \$15 fee for this workshop includes coffee, tea, soda, water and food. HECAT manuals will be provided.

November 2nd, 2009 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

School Health Index (SHI)

The School Health Index (SHI) is a self-assessment and planning guide developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that enables schools to:

- Identify the strengths and weaknesses of their school health promotion policies and programs;
- Develop an action plan for improving student health; and
- Involve teachers, parents, students and the community in improving school policies, programs and services.

Promoting healthy and safe behaviors among students is an important part of the fundamental mission of schools, which is to provide young people with the knowledge and skills they need to become healthy and productive adults. Improving student health and safety can:

- Increase students' capacity to learn;
- Reduce absenteeism; and
- Improve physical fitness and mental alertness.

Through this training, participants will be introduced to model policies and practices derived from CDC's research-based guidelines for school health programs and practices that are deemed most effective in improving youth health-risk behaviors.

The \$20 fee for this workshop includes a continental breakfast, box lunch and beverages. School Health Index manuals will be provided.

November 6th, 2009 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Physical Education Health Analysis Tool (PECAT)

The Physical Education Curriculum Analysis Tool (PECAT) is an assessment tool for examining school physical education curricula. The PECAT can help school districts conduct a clear, complete and consistent analysis of

physical education curricula based on Ohio Physical Education Standards and CDC's Guidelines for Effective Physical Activity programs. Through this training, participants will learn how to select or develop appropriate and effective physical education curricula and improve the delivery of physical education.

The \$20 fee for this workshop includes a continental breakfast, box lunch and beverages. PECAT manuals will be provided.

Please complete the registration form on Survey Monkey at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=QutV5VTi9tZ09_2b_2f2VCihtQ_3d_3d (you may have to cut this link and paste it into your browser) print a copy and mail to:

Sandy Hood
Ohio Department of Education
Office of Health, Safety and Nutrition
25 S. Front St. –Mail Stop 303
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Make checks payable to Treasurer State of Ohio/ODE

All three workshops will be held at the State Library of Ohio located at 274 E. First Avenue, Columbus, Ohio. Space is limited to 50 participants.

December 2-10, 2009

2009 Chinese Bridge Delegation: Taking the Next Step

To help education decision-makers strengthen and expand their Chinese language and culture programs, the College Board and Hanban (Hanban/Confucius Institute Headquarters) are pleased to announce the 2009 Chinese Bridge Delegation: Taking the Next Step – a one-week education trip hosted by Hanban. Moving beyond initial exploration of Chinese language and culture, this new program is tailored to the needs of institutions now teaching Chinese, with a focus on in-depth school visits and educational workshops.

- **Eligible Participants:** District and school leaders and other decision-makers with oversight of foreign language learning, including participants in past Chinese Bridge Delegations.
- **Participant Cost:** \$450, plus transportation fees to hub city for international departure.

Please note that participants in previous Chinese Bridge Delegations are welcome and teams are encouraged to apply.

The deadline to apply is **October 19**. To apply, visit www.collegeboard.com/chinesebridge. For additional information, contact k12chinese@collegeboard.org.

Making the Global Connection: Linking Students and China in the 21st Century

ODE's Office of Curriculum and Instruction, The Ohio State University K-12 Chinese Flagship Program, and the Ohio Association of Teachers of Chinese (OATC) are pleased to announce the fourth annual symposium for district and school decision-makers and Chinese language teachers interested in developing, expanding or sustaining Mandarin Chinese language programs.

The event will take place on Tuesday, December 15, 2009. It will be held in Columbus on the campus of The Ohio State University in the Mendenhall Laboratory Building (building #054 on the OSU campus map), located at 125 S. Oval Mall, Columbus, OH 43210. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. next door in the lobby of Hagerty Hall (building #037), located at 1775 College Rd., Columbus, OH 43210. The symposium will begin promptly at 9 a.m. and will conclude at 2 p.m.

The event will begin with a short plenary session for all participants. Ellis Yan, CEO of Ohio-based TCP, Inc., will provide the keynote address. His remarks will provide a business perspective on the relationship between Ohio's economy and the study of Chinese language and culture. Afterwards, participants will attend one of three breakout sessions:

- Track A will address the needs of schools seeking information and options for initiating and staffing K-12 Chinese programs. Information about the ODE-College Board Chinese Guest Teacher Program will be provided.

- Track B will address the needs of schools with established Chinese programs. Please note that this session has been completely reworked for this year's symposium and will provide new information and resource possibilities for those who attend.
- Track C will provide professional development and networking opportunities for classroom teachers of Chinese.

The symposium will conclude with a networking session that will be designed to allow schools and districts to share what they are doing programmatically and what resources they are using.

Superintendents, principals, curriculum coordinators, foreign language coordinators and K-12 Chinese language teachers are all encouraged to attend this event to learn more about Chinese language programming in Ohio.

There is no cost to attend the symposium, although parking will be the responsibility of participants. Please note that light snacks will be available during a brief break between sessions at the noon hour, but a formal break for lunch is not included in this year's program. Participants are welcome to brownbag their own lunches if they wish. A map and list of nearby restaurants where participants may want to eat immediately following the conference will be included in each participant's conference packet.

Participants will need to pre-register. Conference attendance will be limited to the first 220 registrants. Registration will open on Sunday, November 1, 2009, and will close on Friday, December 4, 2009. For more information or to register for the event, participants should visit ODE's Web site at education.ohio.gov, keyword search: *Chinese*. Follow the links for *Making the Global Connection: Linking Students and China in the 21st Century* until you are provided with a link to the registration Web site. Please remember that the active registration link will not appear until November 1.

If you have questions about this event or require assistance with registration once the link becomes active, please contact Teresa Cole at teresa.cole@ode.state.oh.us or (614) 387-2215.

2010-2011 National Security Language Initiative for Youth Student Scholarships Summer 2010 Sub-Grant Opportunities sponsored by the U.S. Department of State

December 4 deadline for student programs.

November 16 deadline for program RFPs.

Spread the word among your high school students that merit-based scholarships are available to study overseas for summer, semester and academic year programs in Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), Hindi, Korean, Persian (Farsi), Russian and Turkish. You never know who might be interested in pursuing a critical language and we know that learning a third language is easier after study of a second.

- Applicants must be U.S. citizens currently enrolled in high school or have just graduated and be between the ages of 15 and 18 at the start of the program.
- Minimum GPA of 2.5 (on a 4.0 scale) is required.

The U.S. Department of State and American Councils seek broad diversity, including but not limited to ethnicity, race, gender, religion, geographic location and disabilities.

Interested students should visit <http://www.nsliforyouth.org>, where they can complete the online application. The deadline is December 4, 2009.

Consider enhancing an existing critical languages program through a second opportunity. Your school, school system and/or local university can apply for a sub-grantee award to organize and implement six- to eight-week overseas intensive language programs to take place in summer 2010. View the Request for Proposal (RFP) at http://www.americancouncils.org/news/8b/National_Security_Language_Institute_for_Youth_2010_Subgrantee_Competition/.

The submission deadline for proposals is November 16, 2009. If after reading the RFP you have questions, please contact American Councils at (866) 790-2086.

October 23 Deadline for Registration for Ohio's Second International Summit for Education

Ohio's Second International Summit for Education will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on October 30, 2009, at the Ohio Historical Society, 1982 Velma Avenue in Columbus, Ohio.

Join other educators to:

- Learn about the seven elements of globally oriented schools;
- Meet Ohio educators who have exciting programs in their schools and organizations;
- Gain a greater understanding of Ohio's international benchmarking work; and
- Discover resources for internationalizing across the curriculum.

Registration is open until October 23, 2009, with a limited number of spaces still available. The registration fee of \$25 includes lunch and parking. For more information, click [here](#) or contact donna.nesbitt@ode.state.oh.us. To register, click [here](#).

INFOhio Professional Development Opportunities

INFOhio's interactive video conference professional development workshops are designed for teachers, librarians, curriculum coordinators, guidance counselors and technology coordinators. Librarians are encouraged to organize a group of participants with computers at their sites, as there are hands-on activities in most of these presentations. CEU certificates are provided.

The next session is on **October 19, 2009, from 3:30-4:30 p.m.** The topic is *INFOhio's Core Collection and a Thanksgiving WebQuest*. Learn how to use INFOhio's Core Collection of Electronic Resources to support research-based activities and student collaboration correlated to Ohio's Academic Content Standards. Educators attending this session will gain insights and strategies to use the *Thanksgiving Means More Than Giving Thanks WebQuest* for Grades 3-6 and will learn how to apply Web-based lesson plans to other grade levels.

For additional information, follow this link to INFOhio's Professional Development information at <http://www.infohio.org/Educator/training.html>.

Thought of the Month

"Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail." Anon

Denny Thompson (denny.thompson@ode.state.oh.us) and James Wright (james.wright@ode.state.oh.us)
Offices of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment