



Community School E-Newsletter

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Content Standards Adopted

On June 7, the State Board of Education adopted the [Common Core State Standards](#) in mathematics and English language arts as well as revisions to Ohio's academic content standards in science and social studies. The standards will be effective when newly aligned assessments are implemented in several years.

Center for School Options and Finance

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The Common Core State Standards provide students with a consistent set of expectations for learning in mathematics and English language arts. These standards were informed by thousands of educators nationwide, with Ohio assembling feedback groups that submitted more collective comments than any other state. Ohio's education community also was instrumental in revising its academic content standards in science and social studies. The material is better organized by topic and theme, the language is streamlined to reduce redundancy and make the content more manageable, and key concepts and skills are better articulated across the grades so that students at each level can acquire them in a developmentally appropriate manner.

To access the standards, click [here](#) or visit education.ohio.gov and use the link under the heading *Educators* at bottom left.

Teachers Invited to Learn from Each Other at Summer Team Meetings

Revising the standards was the first step in refining Ohio's Comprehensive Educational System. The next step begins this summer with statewide [Model Curriculum Teacher Team Meetings](#), scheduled July 12 to Aug. 17. Please be sure your teachers know about this opportunity to learn from their colleagues, while contributing instructional strategies and resources for the Model Curriculum. Each participant will

receive a certificate for three contact hours of professional development (PD) for submission to his or her local PD committee. For meeting schedules by region and registration details, click [here](#) or visit education.ohio.gov and search for keywords: *Model Curriculum*.

Bank Offers Financing for Charter Schools

JPMorgan Chase & Co. has announced a \$325 million effort to support building, expanding and renovating charter school facilities. According to a company [press release](#), Chase will give \$50 million in grants to community-development financial institutions to support charter schools. It also will provide \$175 million in debt financing and about \$100 million in new markets tax-credit equity for charters. The grant program is aimed at schools that have a strong academic track record and at established charter operators who want to launch new schools.

Significant Revisions Made to Background Check Requirements

House Bill (HB) 1 changed certain background check requirements for licensed educators in Ohio effective Jan. 1, 2010. As a result, fewer checks are needed for many educators who hold multiple

credentials, or for those who hold only credentials of fewer than five years' duration. In addition, all educator criminal background checks are now on five-year cycles. Major changes are:

- An educator who is *renewing* a license or permit, has lived continuously in Ohio for the previous five years *and* has a state Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation (BCI) background check on file with ODE will need to complete *only* an FBI criminal background check once every five years. (Previously, the law required BCI and FBI checks whenever licenses or permits were renewed.)
- Educators who are renewing licenses or permits and who *have not lived continuously* in the state for the past five years will need to complete both BCI and FBI background checks once every five years.
- An educator with *multiple licenses* needs to submit the required background check only when he or she is applying for renewal of the license or permit that is of the *longest duration*.
- Educators who hold *eight-year professional certificates, permanent certificates or non-tax certificates* are still required to submit the required background checks once every five years. Certificate holders who have lived continuously in Ohio for those five years, however, will need to submit only FBI background checks.
- *Initial applicants* seeking their first educator licenses must complete both BCI and FBI criminal background checks. These checks need to be less than 365 days old to be considered valid for licensing purposes.
- Educators who currently hold licenses or permits and are applying for initial licenses in a different field need only to have FBI background checks that are less than five years old if they have lived continuously in Ohio for the previous five years. If they do not meet the residency requirement, they must have *both* BCI and FBI background checks that are less than five years old.

For more information about educator licensure, click [here](#). For answers to frequently asked questions, click [here](#).

School Finance Updates

Note: For answers to questions regarding the three School Finance Updates below, contact Karla Manter at karla.manter@ode.state.oh.us or (614) 466-0070.

EMAD Deadline is Friday

The deadline for selecting students in the Education Monetary Assistance Distribution (EMAD) system is Friday, June 25.

Revised SOES Profile Procedures Explained

As you may know, procedures were revised this year to allow **existing** community schools to enter profile information directly into the School Options Enrollment System (SOES). This task can be performed only by the financial contact or another person at the school who has administrative privileges in SOES.

The SOES system opened on Thursday, June 10. Community schools are now required to enter their school calendars, along with their profiles, and will have until July 11 to complete the process. The profile can be accessed in SOES by clicking on *Entity* and *Profile Entry*. SOES contacts should have received an e-mail on June 10 with additional directions.

During the week of July 12-16, profile information entered into SOES by community schools before the July 11 deadline will be forwarded to school sponsors for approval. Sponsors will receive the information via electronic survey. If the sponsor approves all the information provided by the community school, the school's student rollover from the prior year will occur within a week of sponsor approval. If the sponsor finds some of the information provided by the community school to be incorrect, the community school/sponsor must submit a corrected hard-copy version of the profile to ODE.

Please note that **new** schools, rather than using this new electronic process, must complete the paper SOES Profile found on the [SOES Corner](#) Web page.

Year-End Closing Dates Outlined

The end of the fiscal year is approaching fast. Please keep the following in mind:

- The FY 2010 database closes on July 16.
- It is important that any existing fatal errors be resolved by the time SOES closes for the fiscal year on July 16.
- Instructions on preparing for the student data rollover can be found on the [SOES Corner](#) website.

IDEA Updates

Special Education Leadership Events Scheduled for Sept. 20-21

Registration is now open for three events in September that will focus on serving students with disabilities. All events will stress the theme *Inclusion Works* and will be held at the Greater Columbus Convention Center:

- **Pre-conference sessions** – Monday, Sept. 20, 8 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. – Choose from three options: 1) a panel discussion with district personnel describing their special education profiles and monitoring plans, followed by four breakout sessions about panel topics; 2) a master session on *Including Students with Special Needs*; or 3) a master session on *Intervention and Connection*. ODE is cosponsoring this event with the Ohio Association of Pupil Services Administrators.
- **ODE's Fourth Annual Special Education Leadership Conference** – Monday, Sept. 20, 1 to 7 p.m., and Tuesday, Sept. 21, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Monday's schedule includes a general session with ODE leadership, including Superintendent Deb Delisle, and a networking reception sponsored by the Council for Exceptional Children-Ohio. On Tuesday, more than 50 breakout sessions will feature topics such as: co-teaching in inclusive classrooms; establishing schoolwide systems of support; and understanding how the Core Curriculum, revised academic content standards and credit flexibility relate to students with disabilities.
- **Principal's Academy** – Sept. 20, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. – This program for building and district administrators will focus on acquiring skills and tools needed for inspiring inclusive practices. Wendy Murazski and Ervin Knezek, education leaders who have presented many similar sessions for principals in Texas, will conduct the academy. The event is cosponsored by ODE, the Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators and the Ohio Association of Secondary Administrators.

For more details and to register for the preconference and conference, click [here](#), and for the Principal's Academy, click [here](#).

Ohio School Improvement Institute Call for Presenters Due July 7

Community school educators are invited to submit online proposals for 60-minute presentations at the eleventh annual Ohio School Improvement Institute for high school and middle grade educators. The deadline for proposals is June 30. The conference will be held Nov. 18-19 at the Columbus Renaissance Hotel. ODE is one of seven cosponsors of this event. To review a list of possible topics related to the conference's thematic areas and to submit a proposal, click [here](#).

Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Updates

ODE Would Like to Hear About Senior Projects

ODE is gathering information about existing senior projects in Ohio to inform recommendations for implementing the House Bill 1 graduation requirement for senior projects. If your school or district has an existing senior project program, whether it is part of a graduation requirement or not, please contact Virginia Ressa at virginia.ressa@ode.state.oh.us or (614) 728-6920.

NACSA Launches New Website

The National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) has unveiled a new website at QualityCharters.org. It describes the association's services, including grant programs, an annual leadership conference, publication and policy resources, and support for members with board development and strategic planning.

OCS Updates

Important FY2010 dates posted in annual timeline

The Community School Operations FY2010 Annual Timeline is available [here](#) or by visiting education.ohio.gov and searching for: *Community School Timeline*. The timeline offers reminders of dates and events such as:

- **Ohio Achievement Assessment: June 15** – Electronic data files were ready for download from the [ODE Statewide Testing](#) website. **June 30** – Hard-copy reports are due in districts and interactive data will be available. For more information, contact the Office of Assessment at (614) 466-0223.
- **FY 2011 Public Charter School Program (PCSP) and Dissemination Grants:** These grants begin **July 1, 2010**, and end **June 30, 2011**. All expenditures will require a final budget that has been approved. Initial 10 percent project cash request disbursements will be made automatically in FY 2011 if the original budget does not need to be revised. See the fiscal guidance documents [here](#) for more information, or visit education.ohio.gov and search for keyword: *PCSP*. You also may contact Susan Moss at (614) 644-3573.
- **July 15 – Foundation payment dates** – Payments to community schools are made no later than the 10th business day of each month. The 10th business day next month is July 15.

Community School Highlights

***American Idol* Roots – Toledo School Prepares Students for Arts, College and Careers**

The Toledo School for the Arts (TSA) provides promising examples of how career-technical education (more precisely known as workforce development programs) can work successfully in a community school. A new Web feature about TSA (where *American Idol*'s Crystal Bowersox attended), describes how the school prepares students by combining performing arts with mathematics, technology, science, social studies and business education. To view the full story, click [here](#) or on the front page link at education.ohio.gov.

Note: An archive of previous Community School E-Newsletters is available by clicking [here](#).