



Community School E- Newsletter

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Center for School Options and Finance

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Licensure for special education teachers and intervention specialists

Ohio's vision for Community School students with disabilities is that each student receive services from special education teachers and intervention specialists who meet licensure standards consistent with traditional public schools' special education teachers and intervention specialists.

Ohio Revised Code 3323.11, which was amended by H.B. 119 effective September 2007, clarified and prompted an analysis of special education licensure requirements for community schools. The analysis revealed that while Ohio community school law allows some flexibility in meeting teacher licensure requirements, community school law does not exempt community schools from meeting the special education requirements in ORC 3323.

The Community School Special Education Licensure plan will provide a framework to phase-in licensure requirements over four years to provide teachers ample opportunity to meet the requirements without disrupting current programs. Please see the *Community School Special Education Licensure FAQs* on the Community School Web site for details.

New e-mail account for Annual Report

The Office of Community Schools has created a new e-mail account for the Sponsor Annual Report: sponsorcompliance@ode.state.oh.us. Please submit your annual sponsor report, including school annual reports, to this account. Only reports sent to sponsorcompliance@ode.state.oh.us will be considered as finalized submissions. Annual Reports are due to sponsors and parents of enrolled students on or before Oct. 31, 2008. Community School Annual Sponsor Reports are due to the Office of Community Schools on or before Nov. 30, 2008. For questions, contact Karlyn Geis at Karlyn.Geis@ode.state.oh.us.

Final Fall Special Education Conference

The final Fall Special Education Conference will be held Nov. 20, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Delaware Area Career Center. The conference will focus on Compliance IDEA, IEP Design and Placement. To register, contact LeeAuna Taylor, Office of Community Schools, at LeeAuna.Taylor@ode.state.oh.us.

One-day Community School Transportation Training

A one-day Community School Transportation Training will be provided by Robert Harmon of ODE's Office of Pupil Transportation on Nov. 4 at the Department of Administrative Services facility at 4200 Surface Rd. in Columbus. The training is to assist community school and sponsor transportation personnel to understand the requirements for pupil transportation, how to become compliant and requirements for transporting students.

A conference agenda and registration form are available on the OCS Web site. For conference registration questions, please contact LeeAuna Taylor, Office of Community Schools, at LeeAuna.Taylor@ode.state.oh.us or at (614) 995-3618.

2008 Sponsor Performance Review (SPR)

The Sponsor Performance Review (SPR) is a study of a community school sponsor's level of compliance with its obligations under Rule and law.

The latest round of the SPR has begun and includes 15 sponsors, divided into two cohorts, with whom ODE has sponsorship agreements, and one sponsor who has volunteered to participate in the study, Lucas County Educational Service Center. The 11 sponsors that comprise Cohort I are in the third (or performance) year of the study. Cohort II is in its second (or baseline year). Future cohorts will be comprised of sponsors whose contracts are soon to expire, whose performance may be in question, or who have not been evaluated in recent iterations of the SPR.

Data collection for SPR of 2008 will end in early December. The analysis of the data, along with a written report, will be made available in February 2009. For questions concerning the SPR, please contact Steve Tate at steve.tate@ode.state.oh.us.

Ohio Performance Assessment

In 2007, ODE received funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the William Hewlett Foundation to pilot performance-based assessments for students in 11th- and 12th-grade English, mathematics and science classes. Envisioned as part of Ohio's new generation of assessments, they will provide measures of 21st Century skills and content mastery, and be directly related to the college-ready expectations articulated by the Ohio Board of Regents.

The framework for using performance-based assessments is founded on the belief that if Ohio is to create a system that meets world-class standards, it will require assessments that both call for higher-order performances of understanding and support teaching and learning methods which enable students to meet these new standards. The multiple-measures approach to assessing student learning made available through the use of performance-based assessments allows for the testing of a greater array of standards than traditional, standardized tests and potentially could provide the means to signal the attainment of the knowledge and skills necessary to be successful beyond high school.

For information on the Performance-based Assessment, contact Chris Downey at (614) 387-2201.

Deadline for Entry-Year Teachers and Praxis III is Nov. 15

Beginning teachers holding two-year provisional licenses who plan to transition to a five-year professional license have until Nov. 15 to register for Ohio's Entry-Year Teacher Program and participate in the state performance assessment, currently Praxis III.

Ohio Administrative Code requires schools and districts to provide their beginning teachers with an entry-year program and a mentor. The structure of the entry-year program, including mentor selection requirements, is determined by the local school or district. ODE provides guidelines and a rubric for entry year programs that can be used as a framework for schools to design their entry year program and mentor requirements. These guidelines are available at www.ode.state.oh.us and searching *Entry Year Teacher Overview*.

For more assistance, please contact Sue Rieger, state consultant for the Entry Year Teacher Program, at Susan.rieger@ode.state.oh.us (614) 728-7727 (desk), 1-877-644-6338 (toll-free)

Important FY 2009 Dates

The Community School Operations FY 2009 Annual Timeline is now available by searching for *Community School Timeline* on the ODE Web site. The following dates and events are a sample of the type of timeline date reminders available:

November 2008:

- CSADM/SOES: Monthly reporting on the 15th of every month.
- Sponsor's Annual Report: **(Due Nov. 30)**
- Entry Year Licensure **(Deadline Nov. 15)**

If you have questions regarding the timeline, please contact LeeAuna Taylor in the Office of Community Schools at leeauna.taylor@ode.state.oh.us or (614) 466-7058.

An archive of previous Community School Newsletters can be found at:

<http://www.ode.state.oh.us/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEPrimary.aspx?page=2&TopicRelationID=1004>.