

Feb. 9, 2009

Good morning.

I hope you found the weekend to be relaxing. This is a hectic time of year as we head into these next few months. This time of year always seems to be divided between two years: a new school year and the one we are still trying to execute. Between planning for budgets, staffing, and programmatic evaluations, the work increases significantly (not that it isn't heavy already!). Please be sure to take some time to visit one of your classrooms. The students will remind you of why the long hours are worth it!

ODE has been very busy this week following the announcement of the Governor's educational reform package. We are at the very beginning stages of securing more details and assessing how our organizational structure and staffing might need to be modified to assist districts with resources and support during this transition into new programs and requirements. Please know that most of the details, especially the timeframe for transitioning into the many educational components, including the change of the graduation requirements, have not yet been determined. I will communicate with you about the details and work in which ODE is involved with the Governor's educational reform. Your voices are also important to this transition. We will be seeking your input through a variety of avenues, so please stay tuned!

On Wednesday, I will be testifying before the legislature on the education budget. I am certain that many of the questions will center on the education reform package. So, for me, this weekend was spent brushing up on laws, our financial analysis, the reform package, and the various programs and their respective data. In next week's message, I will share my thoughts about this process.

State Board holds monthly meeting

The State Board of Education is holding its monthly meeting today and tomorrow at the Ohio School for the Deaf. Today, the State Board recognized Ohio's Teacher of the Year Jennifer Walker, and the National and Ohio Career-Technical Teacher of the Year Jim Scott.

Ms. Walker is an English teacher at East High School in the Youngstown City School District and Mr. Scott is a teacher in the Turf, Landscape and Greenhouse Management Program at Tolles Career and Technical Center in Plain City. Ohio First Lady Frances Strickland joined State Board President Jennifer Sheets and me in today's recognition ceremony.

To view the Board's full agenda, including the items for vote during the business meeting, click [here](#) and search keywords: *State Board Meetings 2009*.

Here are several items that may be of interest to you:

- Join state leaders at the Ohio Economic-Education Leadership Summit II
- National Entrepreneurship Week kicks off Feb. 21
- ODE invites district input on childhood obesity policies and programs during free seminar

- Applications now open for Speech-Language Pathology intern program or district sign-on bonus

- Teams invited to apply for guided planning process on school health
- AMBER alerts now available via text messaging
- Reminder – treasurers added to weekly e-mail distribution

Join state leaders at the Ohio Economic-Education Leadership Summit II

The Ohio Economic-Education Leadership Summit II will be held Feb 23 - 25 at the Hyatt Regency in Columbus. This is the second year for the Summit – even more timely in 2009 considering President Obama’s inaugural address, Governor Strickland’s State of the State remarks and the impending stimulus packages.

This Summit is designed for middle, high school, and district level administrators (superintendents, principals, supervisors, career-technical directors, lead teachers), business/industry leaders and college deans/department chairs as well as state agency staff engaged in leadership activities related to economic-education linkages.

Under the theme of *Engaging Partners, Changing Futures*, keynote speakers will include Superintendent Deborah Delisle, Lt. Governor Lee Fisher, Ohio Board of Regents Chancellor Eric Fingerhut, Columbus Council on World Affairs CEO Patrick Terrien, and Bob Evans Restaurants President Roger Williams. Presenters in the more than two dozen breakout sessions will share replicable education and business/industry successes, as well as ideas for transforming Ohio’s economy.

The Summit is sponsored by ODE’s Office of Career-Technical Education, in collaboration with the Ohio Department of Development, Ohio Board of Regents, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Ohio Association for Career and Technical Education, KnowledgeWorks Foundation and Battelle. The cost is \$125. For more information or to register, click [here](#) and look at the Ohio Economic-Education Leadership Summit on the right menu. The registration deadline is **Tuesday, Feb. 17**.

National Entrepreneurship Week kicks off Feb. 21

The Ohio Department of Education, in collaboration with the Ohio Entrepreneurship Coalition, the Consortium for Entrepreneurship Education and the Ohio Department of Development, invite you to participate in National Entrepreneurship Week, Feb. 21 - 28. Lt. Governor Lee Fisher will recognize and honor Ohio entrepreneurs on Feb. 23 at noon at the Vern Riffe Center in Columbus. Programs, forums and workshops will be offered from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. You can find out more about the day’s activities by clicking [here](#).

More than six in 10 youth (65 percent) express a desire to work for themselves or start a business of their own.

There are many opportunities to explore and develop student entrepreneurial skills. Here are some examples:

- Students can join programs such as Junior Achievement where they write business plans or take career technical coursework in business and marketing. Learn what it can look like by clicking [here](#).
- Students test their innovative thinking and imagination in community contests such as Invention Convention. Watch kids in action by clicking [here](#).
- Some students shadow young entrepreneurs who have started technology companies or businesses located in our communities. Small Business Development Centers and The Entrepreneurial Learning Initiative Foundation are examples of resources that exist to support these kinds of partnerships and experiences. You can learn more about these initiatives at the Ohio Business Gateway by clicking [here](#) and at the Entrepreneurial Learning Initiative Foundation by clicking [here](#).

To find out how you and your school can sign up for National Entrepreneurship Week, please click [here](#).

ODE invites district input on childhood obesity policies and programs during free seminar

District representatives are invited to join business and community leaders in exploring new policies and programs regarding childhood obesity during a two-day seminar in Columbus on April 1 - 2. Former U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Richard Carmona and Dr. Michael Roizen, chief wellness officer for the Cleveland Clinic, will deliver the keynote addresses. Participants may attend sessions on family and community engagement and nutrition and physical education standards. The seminar is sponsored by Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus. The program is free, although registration is required. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

Applications now open for Speech-Language Pathology intern program or district sign-on bonus

ODE and Ohio Master's Network Initiatives in Education (OMNIE) continue to address the immediate and future availability of speech-language pathologists (SLPs) for Ohio's children who receive special education services. The speech-language pathology intern graduate program immediately increases the number of qualified SLPs in Ohio schools and provides districts with four continuous years of service delivery.

Districts facing continued SLP shortages and/or anticipating future openings should identify and recruit prospective candidates locally. Administrators must submit or update the *District Application for SLP Support* to request intern participation or a \$12,000 OMNIE employment sign-on bonus for the 2009-2010 academic year. For details, click [here](#) and go to *For School Administrators* in the left menu. Please direct any questions to Nada Allender, OMNIE project coordinator, at nada@ameritech.net or (330) 699-4019.

Teams invited to apply for guided planning process on school health

District teams interested in boosting student achievement by improving school health should apply now to participate in the 2009 Ohio Coordinated School Health Conference in June. This year's conference is designed to challenge the participating districts to take a comprehensive look at their system of learning supports and how they meet their students' physical, emotional and social needs.

Those wishing to participate must complete a competitive application. Enrollment has been limited to provide selected participants with guidance on creating and sustaining effective school health plans before, during and after the conference. ODE and the State Planning Committee for Health Education in Ohio will provide this training and follow-up.

Applications are due May 1 and must summarize a district student health assessment, describe a related issue to be addressed and list at least six team members representing district leadership, faculty, staff and the community. The conference will be offered twice: June 15 - 17 at Salt Fork State Park in Cambridge, and June 23 - 25 at Deer Creek State Park in Mt. Sterling. The events are supported in part by grants from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. For more information and an application, click [here](#) . If you have questions, please contact craig.wethington@ode.state.oh.us .

AMBER alerts now available via text messaging

Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray and Ohio's AMBER Alert Steering Committee have announced that districts may now receive news alerts related to missing children through text message on their cell phones. Sign-up is free. Text: AMBER followed by a space and your district's five-digit ZIP code to 26237. Registrants will receive a confirmation that they are signed up to receive AMBER alerts about children from their ZIP code whom police believe have been abducted. For a promotional flyer, click [here](#) and see *Time Out for Amber Alerts* . If you have questions, please contact Vicki German at the Attorney General's Office at (614) 466-1711 or vgermann@ag.state.oh.us .

Reminder – treasurers added to weekly e-mail distribution

Treasurers are now included in the list of recipients for the *EdConnection* newsletter. Individuals who are listed in the Ohio Educational Directory System (OEDS) in the role of "Treasurer" will receive my weekly communication to superintendents.

In addition, you may view all of ODE's finance newsletters by clicking [here](#) . This includes the treasurers' newsletters, as well as the newsletters for community schools and nonpublic schools.

Note: You also may find this document online at <http://education.ohio.gov> . If you have questions, comments or suggestions about this weekly e-mail, please feel free to contact me at superintendent@ode.state.oh.us .

PLEASE NOTE: This message and any response to it may constitute a public record, and therefore may be available upon request in accordance with Ohio public records law. (ORC 149.43) The Ohio Department of Education values your feedback as a customer. Please take a few minutes to complete our survey regarding the quality of service you received from our staff. Thank you in advance. http://www.ode.state.oh.us/cust_service_survey