

# Education Update

To: LWVO  
From: Joan Platz  
Education Update for October 12, 2009

1) 128th General Assembly: The Ohio House and Senate will hold committee hearings this week, but no sessions are scheduled. The next sessions of the House and Senate in October are scheduled for October 20-21 and 27-28, 2009. The Senate Education Committee will meet on October 13, 2009. (Please see details in #4 below.)

\*Peter Beck was sworn in as the representative for the 67th House District on October 6, 2009. Mr. Beck replaces Representative Shannon Jones, who was elected representative of the 67th in 2007, but was appointed to the 7th Senate District seat in September 2009, replacing Senator Robert Schuler, who passed away on June 19, 2009.

2) Update from the U.S. DOE:

\*INVESTING IN INNOVATION FUND: U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced on October 6, 2009 priorities for grants under the \$650 million Investing in Innovation Fund (i3). The U.S. Department of Education will collect public comment on the proposed priorities for 30 days; publish a final application in early 2010; and accept proposals in the spring. All money under the program will be obligated by September 30, 2010.

The fund is part of the \$4 billion directed for school reform in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The i3 will support individual school districts or groups of districts to start or expand research-based innovative programs that help close achievement gaps, improve student progress toward reaching proficiency, increase graduation rates, or recruit and retain high-quality teachers and principals. Grants will be awarded in three categories:

-Scale-up Grants: This is the largest grant category and will support programs and practices with the potential to reach more students.

Applicants must show evidence that their program has had a significant effect on improving student achievement.

-Validation Grants: These grants will support existing, promising programs that show evidence of success and are ready to improve their evidence base while expanding in their own and other communities.

-Development Grants: The smallest grant level is designed to support new and high-potential practices whose impact should be studied further.

Grant recipients will be required to match federal funds with public or private dollars, and demonstrate how their programs will be sustainable after their federal grants are completed.

RACE TO THE TOP UPDATE: The U.S. DOE also noted in the announcement that the final application for the Race to the Top (RTT) grant program will be available in late fall. The U.S. DOE still plans to make two rounds of grant awards in 2010. The announcement also stated that the U.S. DOE may hold a separate competition for up to \$350 million for states to create common assessments to measure whether students are on track to graduate and succeed in college and the workplace.

FORMULA GRANTS RELEASED: On October 1, 2009 the U.S. ODE released more than \$21.8 billion in noncompetitive formula grants to states based on population, poverty rates, enrollment, and program types.

The grants are distributed through the following programs:

-\$10.8 billion - Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to help students in poverty.

<http://www.ed.gov/programs/titleiparta/index.html>

-\$8.6 billion - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Part B for America's six million students with disabilities.

<http://www.ed.gov/programs/osepgts/index.html>

-\$1.6 billion - Improving Teacher Quality State Grants

<http://www.ed.gov/programs/teacherqual/index.html>

-\$773.6 million - Career and Technical Education.

<http://www.ed.gov/programs/ctesbg/index.html> \$773.6 million.

Ohio will be receiving the following grant amounts:

OHIO - Title I: \$410.48 million; IDEA-B: \$327.96 million; Teacher Quality: \$61.33 million; Career-Tech: \$30.50 million; TOTAL: \$830.26 million.

For more information about these reports, please visit

<http://www.ed.gov/index.jhtml> and follow the links.

3) Ohio House Education Committee Hears Three Bills: The Ohio House Education Committee, chaired by Representative Brian Williams, met on October 6, 2009 and heard testimony on the following three bills.

Representative Koziura presented sponsor testimony on HB161, which would require state universities to guarantee that a full-time undergraduate student with a declared major field of study could complete coursework for the program of study in a specified time period. Representative Koziura has introduced this bill three times before in previous General Assemblies. He reported that it is common for students to be closed-out of required courses for graduation in their senior year of college/universities. As a result, students must stay longer than anticipated at a university, and pay additional tuition to finish their degrees. During questioning Representative Koziura said that he is open to a variety of ways to address this problem, including allowing students to substitute other courses for the required course, or allowing students to complete online courses.

Representative Koziura also reported that he is currently gathering data on the extent of the problem.

The committee also heard sponsor testimony from Representative Driehaus on HB268. This bill would temporarily reduce the per pupil base-cost payments to community schools in academic watch or emergency, and use approximately \$70 million from the reduction to make supplemental payments for Auxiliary Services and Administrative Cost Reimbursement for non-public chartered school students. Auxiliary Services include support for nonpublic schools for intervention specialists, school nurses, guidance counselors, textbooks, computers, and standardized testing. Administrative cost reimbursement funds provide funds for non-public schools to comply with local, state, and federal laws and rules, such as required reporting.

This bill is in response to the \$10 million in budget reductions made over the past year to Auxiliary Services and Administrative Cost Reimbursement to balance the state budget, and the \$59 million reduction made in these funds through in the FY10-11 state budget, Am. Sub. HB1. The intent of the bill is to re-establish "parity" for state funding for non-public schools. Community schools in academic watch and emergency would lose approximately \$700 per student if the bill is approved.

Several committee members had questions concerning the proposal. Some questions related to how this proposal would affect student achievement in struggling community schools, especially schools that focus on certain groups of students, such as those serving dropouts or students with special needs. Representative Evans questioned the use of standardized test scores to determine school effectiveness when so many variables affect school quality. He requested that testing experts be brought before the committee to explain how schools are rated.

Three witnesses testified in support of HB253 (DeBose), leadership and character ethics in public schools and public institutions of higher education. Lucy Fontera, Executive Director of Ohio Partners in Character Education and Chip Weiant Senior Fellow at the Center for Civic Character at Sagamore Institute for Policy Research in Columbus presented testimony together, and Mary Alice Casalina testified on behalf of Stuart Muszynski, CEO of Project Love in Cleveland.

Lucy Fontera and Chip Weiant spoke in support of a program called "Eureka", which provides ethics training and professional development for educators. Stuart Muszynski's testimony described how values and character education help to shape the culture and environment of the school, and support student success.

#### 4) Hearings this Week at the Statehouse:

\*The Ohio Senate State and Local Government and Veterans Affairs Committee, chaired by Senator Hughes, will meet on October 13, 2009 at 10:00 AM in the South Hearing Room. The committee will hear testimony on several bills, including SB8 (Seitz) Elections Clarifications, which addresses issues related to absent voters' ballots, identification, and same day voting, and SB52 (Grendell), which would reorganize the executive branch of state government.

The Senate Education Committee, chaired by Senator Cates, will meet on October 13, 2009 at 1:30 PM in the North Hearing Room. The Committee will hear testimony on SB126 (Fedor), which would prohibit school administrators from knowingly failing to report to law enforcement authorities menacing by stalking or telecommunications harassment that occurs on school grounds; require boards of education to adopt a policy that prohibits bullying by electronic means; require a school district's harassment policy to address acts that occur off school property but materially disrupt the educational environment of the school; require a school district annually to provide training on the district's bullying policy for district employees and volunteers; and require a school district to notify parents or guardians of students if the annual training is not completed.

The Ohio Retirement Study Council will meet on October 14, 2009 at 9:00 AM in Hearing Room 116. The agenda includes a review of investment performance; update on 30-year funding plans; and an investment report on Ohio-based brokers/managers per SB133.

\*The Ohio House Elections and Ethics Committee, chaired by Representative Stewart, will meet on October 14, 2009 at 10:00 AM in hearing room 122. The committee will continue to hear testimony on HB260 (Stewart) Election Laws.

\*The House Health Committee, chaired by Representative Boyd, will meet on October 14, 2009 at 4:00 PM in hearing room 116. The Committee will hear testimony on several bills, including the following:

-HB229 (Stewart), Comprehensive Cleaning System for Schools, which requires the Ohio Department of Health to establish a pilot program to test the effectiveness of the "OS1" comprehensive cleaning system in public schools.

-SB69 (Cates) On campus student vaccinations, which requires that students living on-campus housing at institutions of higher education be vaccinated for meningococcal meningitis and hepatitis B, or obtain a waiver.

5) State Board of Education to Meet: The State Board of Education, Debbie Cain president, will meet in Columbus at the Ohio School for the Deaf Conference Center on October 12 & 13, 2009.

The Executive Committee, chaired by Debbie Cain, will meet at 9:30 AM to discuss the impact of HB 1 on the waiver process; the election of NASBE Board of Directors; and the proposed seclusion and restraint policy.

The Achievement Committee, chaired by Mike Collins, and the Capacity Committee chaired by Rob Hovis, will meet at 10:00 AM.

The Achievement Committee will discuss and approve a resolution of intent to revise the membership of the Delaware Area Career Center Board of Education; discuss and approve a resolution of intent to revise the membership of the Mid East Career and Technology Center Board of Education; receive an update on standards revision; and discuss a timeline for House Bill 1 responsibilities.

The Capacity Committee will discuss the Principal License Transition Plan; receive a presentation on types of schools; receive a presentation on educator licenses and permits; and discuss a timeline for House Bill 1 responsibilities.

The State Board will receive the Legislative Update at 11:30 AM led by Legislative Liaisons John Bender and Mary Rose Oakar.

Following lunch at 1:00 PM the State Board will hear reports from the Achievement and Capacity Committees; review written reports regarding the Ohio School for the Deaf and Ohio School for the Blind, and community school sponsorship agreements.

At 1:30 PM the 21st Century Learning Subcommittee, chaired by Steve Millett and Ann Womer Benjamin, and the Advocacy and Outreach Subcommittee, chaired by John Bender and Mary Rose Oakar will meet.

At 3:15 PM the Board will receive reports from Board Members and Committees.

The Budget Subcommittee, chaired by Dennis Reardon and Dannie Greene, will meet at 3:30 PM to discuss the State Board's FY12-13 budget process, the functions and role of the Budget Subcommittee, and a survey for determining the informational sessions desired by Board members in preparation for the FY12-13 budget proposed of the Superintendent.

The Board will then adjourn.

MEETING ON OCTOBER 13, 2009

The State Board will begin its meeting at 8:30. Matt Cohen, Executive Director, Office of Policy and Accountability, will present an update on the 2008-2009 Local Report Card Results.

The State Board's business meeting will begin at 9:15 AM, and the Board will immediately convene an executive session. After the executive session the Board will continue its meeting and receive the report of the Superintendent; accept public participation on agenda items; vote on 19 personnel items and the resolutions listed below; consider old and new business; receive reports from committees; receive public participation on non-agenda items; and adjourn.

State Board of Education Resolutions

#3. Resolution of Intent to rescind and adopt Rules 3301-25-01, -02,-05, and -07, and to amend Rules 3301-25-03,-04,-08 of the OAC regarding educational aide permits.

#4 Resolution of Intent to consider confirmation of the Renoldsburg City School District's determination of impractical the transportation of certain students attending the Oakstone Academy, a chartered nonpubic school Franklin County.

#22 Resolution to amend Rule 3301-24-05 of the Administrative Code, entitled Licensure.

#23 Resolution to amend Rule 3301-27-01 of the OAC entitled Qualifications to direct, supervise, or coach a pupil activity program.

#24 Resolution to comply with Executive Order 2009-135 "Establish restraint policies including a ban on prone restraints."

#25 Resolution of appointment to the Educator Standards Board.

#26 Resolution of Intent to approve the revision and reduction of the membership of the Delaware Area Career Center Board of Education.

#27 Resolution of Intent to approve the revision of the membership on the Mid East Career and Technical Centers Board of Education.

6) GAO Releases Report on State Assessments: The Government Accounting Office (GAO) released on September 24, 2009 a report called "No Child Left Behind Act: Enhancements in the Department of Education's Review Process Could Improve State Academic Assessments".

The report includes information about the assessments that states have developed to comply with the No Child Left Behind Act since 2002, and how states have spent approximately \$400 million from the U.S. Department of Education for assessments. The report includes the following findings:

-Forty-eight of 49 states that responded to a GAO survey said that annual expenditures for ESEA assessments have increased since NCLBA was enacted.

-Over half of the states reported that overall expenditures grew due to development of new assessments.

-Item-development was most frequently reported by states to be the largest ESEA assessment expense, followed by scoring.

-State officials in selected states reported that alternate assessments for students with disabilities were more costly than general population assessments.

-19 states reported that assessment budgets had been reduced by state fiscal cutbacks.

-Cost and time pressures have influenced state decisions about assessment item type--such as multiple choice or open/constructed response--and content. States most often chose multiple choice items because they can be scored inexpensively within tight time frames resulting from the NCLBA requirement to release results before the next school year.

-As an alternative to using mostly multiple choice, some states have developed practices, such as pooling resources from multiple states to take advantage of economies of scale, that let them reduce cost and use more open/constructed response items.

-Challenges facing states in their efforts to ensure valid and reliable assessments involved staff capacity, alternate assessments, and assessment security.

-States have been challenged to ensure validity and reliability for alternate assessments.

-GAO identified several gaps in assessment security policies that were not addressed in the U.S. DOE's review process for overseeing state assessments. These gaps could affect validity and reliability.

-States report that the U.S. DOE's review process for state assessment did not allow states to communicate with reviewers to clarify issues, which has led to miscommunication.

The GAO report recommends that U.S. Department of Education update its peer review protocols to incorporate best practices in assessment security when they become available in spring 2010; develop methods for peer reviewers and states to communicate directly during the peer review process so questions that arise can be addressed quickly; and help states understand what they need to do to improve their assessment systems in cases where the Secretary of Education's peer review decisions differed from those of the reviewers.

The report is available at <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-09-911>.

7) Ohio School Improvement Institute: The Ohio School Improvement Institution will be held on November 19 & 20, 2009 at the Columbus Renaissance Hotel, Columbus, Ohio. The theme of the Institute this year is "21st Century Tool Box: Creativity, Innovation, Collaboration." Futurist Elliott Masie and Dave Caperton are featured speakers. Early registration for the School Improvement Institute ends on October 15, 2009. For more information please visit <http://www.ohioschoolimprovementinstitute.org/>

8) New RTT Resource from The Wallace Foundation: The Wallace Foundation released in September 2009 a policy brief entitled "Research Findings to Support Effective Educational Policymaking:

Evidence & Action Steps for State, District & Local Policymakers."

The policy brief summarizes the research findings from several Wallace studies, and organizes them to assist state policymakers develop comprehensive and coordinated strategies to achieve the Race to the Top (RTT) objectives. The following topics are included:

-Coordinating state, city, and district policies -Turning around the lowest-performing schools - the role of district leaders -Turning around the lowest-performing schools - the role of the principal -Preparing and developing effective school leaders -Expanding opportunities for out-of-school learning

The policy brief is available at

<http://www.wallacefoundation.org/Pages/Research-Findings-Action-Items-to-Support-Effective-Educational-Policymaking.aspx>

9) Bills Introduced:

HB298 (Weddington) Non-General Revenue Funds: Creates the Special Task Force on non-General Revenue Funds.

HB305 (Newcomb) GED Testing: Requires the Department of Education to waive fees for certain Ohio residents taking the GED test.

10) KCAAEN & National School Boards Association Award Applications Now Online: Each year the Kennedy Center for the Arts, Arts Education Network (KCAAEN) and National School Boards Association (NSBA) recognize a local school board for their outstanding support of the arts in education. This national award is presented at the NSBA's annual conference by Kennedy Center Vice President for Education Darrell Ayers, and includes a \$10,000 cash prize. For more information about the award, to view applications from previous winners, and to download the application form please visit <http://www.kennedy-center.org/education/kcaen/recognition/home>

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