

Office of Education Improvement & Innovation Newsletter

June 2013



Director's Message

WELCOME! This is the first issue of the Office of Education Improvement and Innovation (OEII) newsletter. Our plan is to share updates from the four units housed in the OEII office early each month. We will provide you with the latest news and events that are important to ISDs and districts. There will be a separate ASSIST section bringing you all that is new to the ASSIST platform. Also included is an area bringing news about upcoming events and deadlines that are of interest to schools.

The newsletter will be published every month with the exception of July. We are taking advantage of June to reach out to you and to build our mailing list so that we maximize our outreach across the state when we return in August. Be sure to let your colleagues know about the newsletter. We'll be happy to add them to our mailing list. We hope that you find this newsletter helpful.

Common Core State Standards

As many of you are aware, the Department of Education budget bill has language that would restrict the ability of Department staff to expend

state or federal dollars in support of implementing the Common Core State Standards once the Legislation takes effect on October 1, 2013 unless the legislature affirms the implementation of the standards. The actual language reads as follows:

Sec. 231. Funds appropriated in part 1 shall not be used to fund implementation of common core state standards or smarter balanced assessments unless an affirmative action of the legislature authorizing implementation of said standards or assessments is provided.

Described as a "pause" by some, the legislation provides no clear path to the affirmative action. Rather, the language is an outright prohibition of Department of Education staff's ability to move forward with our colleagues that have worked for the past three years on implementation of curriculum and lesson plans reflecting the new standards. Local and intermediate school districts staff have been hard at work developing classroom lesson plans and instructional strategies to help students master the rigor outlined in the standards. Many districts have been developing formative assessments to measure how well students are doing and several districts participated in a pilot test this year of some Smarter Balanced assessment items.

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Director's Message, continued

Hopefully the legislature will consider all the hard work and plans made for the summer and start of the school year as they determine when to make a decision regarding the standards. At risk are the Ed Flexibility waiver, a more reliable assessment instrument that will be used not only to assess student work but educator effectiveness, and the loss of standards that move our students to new levels making them ready for careers and college following high school completion.

If we lose the flexibility waiver, Michigan will return to the AYP calculations with all students being proficient by the end of the next school year, utilization of current statewide assessments for measuring educator effectiveness and, most importantly, Michigan's students will not be prepared to compete with their peers across the country. Please let your legislators – both Senate and House – know how you feel about the “pause” and the impact it can have on your summer work and the plans being made for the fall.

Curriculum & Instruction

We are working to ensure school leaders understand the flexibility options available to create innovative learning environments. These include:

Alternative Education & Innovative Programs Waiver (Hours and/or Days):

Allows districts to request a reduction in the number of hours (minimum 878.4) and or days (minimum 146) for alternative education programs. Application: www.michigan.gov/alted.

Seat Time Waiver (6th-12th grade): Allows districts to offer online programming for students in the 6th-12th grade in the following ways:

- 1) ***100% Online Model of Delivery*** may include a drop-in lab component, where physical attendance is not a program requirement. It allows districts to serve 25% or less of students in the 6th-12th grade.
- 2) ***Blended Model of Delivery*** allows districts to serve up to 100% of their students in the 6th-12th grade with a 50/50 instructional blend. More specifically, at least 50% of the instruction is delivered in a bricks and mortar setting with the other 50% (or less) delivered online. Application: www.techplan.org/seat-time-waivers/. Contact [Brian Barber](mailto:Brian.Barber@techplan.org), 517-335-3005.

Flexibility is also built into the Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC). There have been many questions about the 4th mathematics credit. The high school mathematics standards represent 3 credits regardless of whether they are taught in a traditional or an integrated sequence (exceptions are detailed in the Personal Curriculum guidance). The 4th credit option is earned at the discretion of the district, through a mathematics class or a class in which students are applying mathematics, such as a Career and Technical Education (CTE) program, accounting course, graphic arts, or even work experience. For more information contact [Jill Griffin](mailto:Jill.Griffin@mdeq.state.mi.us), 517-335-3064 or see [FAQ](#).



School Improvement Support

With the recent approval of the revised ESEA Flex Waiver, there is a need for clarification around the changes to Focus and Priority School Requirements. Here is a quick summary of what those changes mean for both newly identified districts and those in the 2012/13 cohort:

Focus School Changes for 2013/14

- The district Title I set-aside for Choice/ Transportation has been eliminated.
- There is no district Title I set-aside until Year 3 of Focus School identification, and then these parameters apply:
 - ◆ The required district set-aside will be calculated as the sum of 10% of each non-improving Focus School's previous year Title I budget, up to a maximum of a 10% district set-aside. During Year 4, the district set-aside will increase to an additional 15% of each non-improving Focus School's previous year Title I budget up to a maximum of a 15% district set-aside.
 - ◆ If the proficiency levels of the Focus School's bottom 30% of students have improved as determined by the MDE, this set-aside will not be required.
 - ◆ There is no longer a district obligation to contract with a District Improvement Facilitator from the MDE or its designee in the third year and beyond of having a school or schools continuing to be identified as Focus Schools, this service will be provided by the MDE in all years of identification.
- The 10% building Title I set-aside begins in Year 2 of identification.
- If a Focus School is not identified as a Focus School, all accountability and supports are conditionally suspended. The Focus School does remain in its four-year cohort.

School Improvement Support, continued

- The calculation of the Achievement Gap metric was capped according to a recommended threshold.

Priority School Changes

- The district Title I set-aside for Choice/ Transportation has been eliminated.
- A district will be assigned a District Intervention Team in Year 3 rather than in Year 2.
- The change in the calculation of the Achievement Gap metric has an effect on the top-to-bottom ranking as it is one of the three calculations used.

Public School Academies

The Public School Academies (PSA) unit is preparing to open the 2013-2014 school year with a Charter School Planning Grant Application cycle beginning on July 10, 2013, followed by an orientation session scheduled for the Wayne RESA in mid-August. The first round of this grant is scheduled to close on August 28, 2013. Subsequent grant rounds may be held if funding is available.

The PSA unit is also scheduled to conduct a webinar on June 5, 2013 entitled: "Organizational Meetings for Charter School Boards." This webinar will be the first of eleven monthly iterations (no webinar in July). Individuals interested in participating in the live webinar should contact [Christi Lopez](#) for login information.



Educational Technology

Last Minute SCECH Opportunity

Need last minute State Continuing Education Clock Hours (SCECHs)? We have a program for middle and high school teachers at the last minute! All participants must be registered in order for the 10 SCECHs to be awarded. You will need to do some pre-work and participate in a 1-1.5 hour webinar on either June 19th or 26th. You must complete the offering evaluation as soon as possible after receiving notification from the SCR in order for the SCECHs to be awarded by June 30, 2013. Go to <http://www.techplan.org/professional-development/rap-genius/> for details and to register.

Technology Readiness Infrastructure Grant

Moving into the month of June, there have been several updates to the Technology Readiness Infrastructure Grant, Section 22.i including administration and tasks assigned to individual districts. The MDE is pleased to announce that the Section 22.i website has gone live: www.22itr.org

While MDE employees are still overseeing the grant administration, Tim Hall has been named as interim project manager. The full-time position has been posted and once hired, the project manager will begin work on July 1, 2013.

In news related to individual districts, Category One participants, 734 in the State of Michigan in total, were asked to complete a brief survey concerning the status of the requirements under Category One of the grant. Send completed surveys to [Holli Crowley](mailto:Holli.Crowley) to be uploaded to the MEGS+ system. Also, the SPOT bid is available to districts. Through the bid, districts can purchase devices at a discounted rate.

Events/Important Dates

July 29 & 30—Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS), Grand Rapids. For details email nealk1@michigan.gov.

July 31, August 1, & 2—Simplifying Response to Intervention (RTI) Institute, Grand Rapids. For details email nealk1@michigan.gov.

ASSIST

This is a reminder of the key school and district level reporting dates. You can access and complete the reports via [MDE School Improvement/AdvancED](#) website.

Districts and schools are required to submit the following online reports during the designated timeframes. Please note only the EdYES! and SIP report types are used on the Michigan School Accountability Scorecards:

- Single Building District Improvement Plan (SBDIP) **Due June 28, 2013**
- District Improvement Plan (DIP) **Due June 28, 2013**
- School Improvement Plan (SIP) **Due September 1, 2013**

For additional information and templates of the diagnostics and reports, please see the [Online Resources and Tools page](#). If you need assistance, contact the School Improvement Support Unit at (517) 373-4213, or the AdvancED/MDE technical support toll free line at (866)773-1128.

Facebook Feature

The Office of Education Improvement and Innovation (OEII) has a Facebook page! We want to use it as a space where you—the field—can be recognized for your hard work, dedication, and passion for teaching. The Facebook Team, consisting of Karla Browning, Kellie Flaminio, Christi Lopez, Ann-Marie Smith, and Ryan Starkweather will highlight innovative programs with proven results.



We will also be working with the 2013-2014 Michigan Teacher of the Year, Gary Abud, to create a series of videos about innovation in the classroom.

Like OEII on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/#!/MDEOEII>

To recommend that OEII highlight your school for its innovative program/practices, fill out a form at <http://tinyurl.com/oeiifbform>.