



# Race to the Top News & Views Newsletter

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## **Bethel Local School District's Leap into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

In order to help prepare its students for the future Bethel Local School District is interweaving technological changes into its instruction. Using a combination of many different funding sources, including Race to the Top, Bethel has been busy adding new systems and infrastructures as well as ensuring all teachers have the access and ability to conduct virtual classroom activities in a blended mode. During the day, teachers meet with students face-to-face and at home they use the free, open-source software Moodle to extend or supplement their instruction or evaluate topics taught in class. The addition of Moodle will also allow the district to meet the requirements of forgiving up to three snow days.

Bethel's institutional wireless network is a necessity for its future due to the ever growing proliferation of wireless devices. Education is quickly moving in the direction of one-to-one computing, where each student has access to a personal computing device using the wireless network. Presently, Bethel Local School District is investigating the implementation of a "Bring Your Own Technology" (BYOT) for next school year. This includes a revision of policies to allow students to begin bringing their personally owned devices to school for educational purposes. Part of this initiative will also include the investigation of the use of digital textbooks. These efforts will allow each student to have access to a digital device and extended text resources.

Another new acquisition has been a classroom set of iPads. Teacher in-service workshops were used to train teachers in not only how to operate the iPads but also how to integrate them into their daily teaching routines. These devices will engage students with interactive content and access to research materials. With all of the rich content available for these devices, they are definitely welcome in the district.

These technology changes will help move the district forward and help teachers meet its Race to the Top requirements for teaching students the skills necessary for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. For more information about Bethel's instructional changes please contact Mr. Larry Smith, superintendent, at [smithl@behel.k12.oh.us](mailto:smithl@behel.k12.oh.us) or at 937-845-9414, or Mr. Kevin Graham, Technology Director, at [graham@bethel.k12.oh.us](mailto:graham@bethel.k12.oh.us).

## **Race to the Top Central Region Inspires**

Here we are in the final days of July, at the end of Year 2 of Race to the Top. It reminds me of half-time of the big game. We are adjusting the game plan before the start of the second half. We are in a brief intermission of the play before the rising action of Acts Three and Four. We are in that quiet transition into the final movements of the opus. You are in the all too brief quiet to gather oneself for the coming school year. And...we are halfway through Race to the Top.

Yes, *halfway* through Race to the Top, a four-year, four-hundred-million-dollar herculean effort to transform education in Ohio. I could not be more proud of the effort being made by participating LEAs in the Central



Region to attain our lofty goals. I've been around this business for almost forty-four years, and the accomplishments being realized and efforts I have witnessed are nothing short of inspirational. The Central Region has ninety-six participating LEAs, from urban and rural, suburban and digital, big and small, traditional and community, with everything in between and all working to improve the quality of education for their kids. Some LEAs have skilled centralized staff to organize the work. Others do the work with few personnel resources beyond teachers in classrooms. Many are facing a bleak financial picture that produces personnel cuts, disruption, and diminishing bandwidth to be able to do the work of universal education. Yet, the work goes on. Good educators find a way when the work to do is the right work – and we have *great* educators in the Central Region.

As I look back of the first two years of Race to the Top, I see LEAs making giant strides. The first year was a “getting to know you” year, and the second brought deepened skills related to Common Core Curriculum, Formative and Summative Assessment, employing data to inform teaching practice, and principal and teacher accountability. The coming year ratchets up the level of implementation, moving toward the crescendo of activity in Year 4 to complete the transformation.

Many of our LEAs have been showcased in previous editions of *News and Views* and continue to do great work. They “got it” early and went way out in front. What they are doing is phenomenal and I continue to be excited with their accomplishments. We will continue to point to new exemplars of the work being done as other of our LEAs produce great results.

Some of our LEAs came late to the realization of the magnitude of the contemplated transformation. As one Superintendent of a district told me toward the end of year 2, “We didn't know what we didn't know. We do now, and we are getting on it.” We want to help.

Our Central Region Team, Greg Sampson, Tim Hilborn, Mark Yoho, and I stand ready to do all we can to support and assist our LEAs in this important work. At the end of Year 4, we want to look back and know that we made a difference in supporting schools so that the work of Race to the Top is sustained when the money and we go away.

Enjoy whatever final “quiet” you can find and then let's get back to work to Race to the Top together!

With great admiration and respect,

Scott Spears  
Central Region Coordinator



## Happy Belated Birthday!

Our great nation is another year older, and in Value-Added terms, we are at least another year wiser. All over Southeastern Ohio, small rural communities and municipalities put aside their differences and celebrated our nation's 236<sup>th</sup> birthday together on July 4 as a single group of proud Americans. This birthday celebration has been called by several names, Independence Day, July 4<sup>th</sup>, or simply "the 4<sup>th</sup>." We trust you took time to spend with family and appreciate our great heritage. We are supposed to do a little relaxing and have some summer fun during this time, so I have departed from the normal News and Views to share some "Independence" trivia that I have researched.

- Congress secretly voted for independence on July 2, 1776
- The Declaration of Independence was not published until two days later, July 4, 1776. The first newspaper to print the Declaration was the Pennsylvania Evening Post on July 6th
- The first public "reading" was on July 8th
- However, the signing did not occur until August 1776
- It is believed that the term "Independence Day" was not used until 1791
- By the early 1800's the traditions of parades, picnics, and fireworks were established as a way to celebrate America's birthday
- John Hancock's signature on the document stands out as a dominant signature. There are unfounded stories about why he signed with a larger signature. It might be fun to research this.
- Two signers of the Declaration, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, died on the same day, July 4, 1826, exactly 50 years after the adoption of the Declaration.

## Federal Grant Opportunity: Innovative Approaches to Literacy

**Program Title:** Innovative Approaches to Literacy

**Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number:**84.215G

**Grant Opportunity Number:** ED-GRANTS071112-001

**Estimated Available Funds:** \$28,599,844

The U.S. Department of Education (Department) is announcing ***Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL)***, a new discretionary grant opportunity available to eligible local education agencies, national not-for-profit organizations, and consortia. IAL is designed to develop and improve literacy skills for students from birth through 12th grade within the attendance boundaries of high-need local educational agencies and schools. More information about this program will be available at the IAL program Web site: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/innovapproaches-literacy/index.html>.

State education agencies (SEAs) should **expect to receive requests from applicants for expedited eligibility verification** related to this competition. The 2012 competition is operating under a compressed



schedule of 30 days from the time the Notice Inviting Applications (NIA) is published on July 11, 2012, until the **application due date on August 10, 2012.**

Applications that include charter schools, State-Administered Schools, and Regional Service Agencies that are identified as LEAs under State law—but are not listed with the Census Bureau’s Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates for school districts—must verify eligibility by including “written communication from a State certifying official that includes the name of the entity and confirms that the named entity: a) is considered an LEA by the State under State law, and b) has a student enrollment at least 25 percent of whom are from families with incomes below the poverty line.”

Visit <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/innovapproaches-literacy/2012-215g.pdf> to download the IAL application package. For more information on the application along with instructions for registering in the Grants.gov system and applying, is available at the program Web site and at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). If you have any questions, please email a person listed under the “Contacts” page of the program Web site.

### **Professional Development Plan Data Collection Tool**

The Ohio Race to the Top (RttT) Scope of Work requires participating Local Educational Associations (LEAs) to annually submit a comprehensive professional development plan that meets the Ohio Professional Development Standards for all RttT-funded professional development. To that end, LEAs are also required to provide evidence of professional development impact, which must include the following:

- Documentation of participants’ reactions
- Documentation of participants’ learning (i.e. new knowledge and skills)
- Participants’ use of new knowledge and skills
- Impact on the organization (i.e. organizational climate; collaborative learning opportunities)
- Student learning outcomes

Reporting on evidence of professional development impact in Year 2 will assist the LEA in planning professional development for Year 3.

**Click here** to download the RttT Professional Development Plan Data Collection Tool.

#### **DIRECTIONS FOR COMPLETION:**

Please use the attached document to report on the data collected and analyzed from the LEA’s implementation of the Year 2 Professional Development plan. Complete responses for **Components 1 through 4 only**. *For Year 2, LEAs are **not** required to complete responses for Component 5.*

#### **SUBMITTING COMPLETED WORK:**

Login to the Collaboration Center via your SAFE Account > Click “Race to the Top” > Open the folder with



your IRN#/LEA Name > Open folder “Professional Development” > Open folder “Year 3” > Upload your completed Professional Development Plan Data Collection Tool here

**DEADLINE:**

**Wednesday, August 1, 2012**

## **New, Free Common Core State Standards Videos**

The Ohio Department of Education offers you free downloads of two dynamic videos about important new education standards that will blaze the path to better futures for America’s students. Suitable for presentation at teacher meetings, parent nights, PTA meetings, association conferences and community events, they can stimulate great conversation about why the standards are necessary and how classroom teaching and learning will change.

***Higher Expectations for a Brighter Future: Ohio’s New Learning Standards*** is Ohio-specific, including information about the state’s updated science and social studies standards as well as its adopted Common Core State Standards in math and English language arts. Visit [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z7j7tLymkT4&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z7j7tLymkT4&feature=player_embedded) to watch video.

***Clearer and Higher: Why Students Need the Common Core*** focuses solely on the Common Core State Standards and is pertinent to audiences in any state that has adopted the standards. Visit [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yll0fJrUAW&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yll0fJrUAW&feature=player_embedded) to watch video.

To download an MP4 or WMA version of these videos to save and share visit the original videos on the [ODE website](#).

## **How much do you know about the Ohio Core?**

The stated purposes of the Ohio Core are:

- Establish rigorous high school graduation expectations for all students
- Prepare Ohioans to meet demands of the knowledge-based economy
- Prepare all students for college and work
- Strengthen link between high school graduation and college entry
- Reduce remediation at the college level

[Click here](#) to take a quick quiz and see how much you really know about the Ohio Core and Ohio’s graduation requirements.



## Upcoming Events

### **SAVE THE DATE: Ohio's Annual Statewide Education Conference 2012**

**Date:** November 1-2, 2012

**Location:** Greater Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, Ohio

### **Join Ohio's Race to the Top Education Leaders**

This two-day statewide conference will inspire, challenge and re-invigorate educators with the tools to successfully equip Ohio's 1.8 million students for accelerated academic achievement and progress!

### **All Ohio Educators are Invited**

Principals, teachers, superintendents and administrators, educational service center staff, community school staff and sponsors, board members, and all education stakeholders vested in the process of improving education in Ohio are welcomed.

### **Registration coming soon!**

### **Ohio Innovative Learning Environments 2012**

**Date:** July 30-Aug. 3, 2012

**Time:** 8:00am – 4:00pm

**Location:** Hilliard Bradley High School | 2800 Walker Road | Hilliard, OH 43026

**Cost:** \$30 per day or \$99 for the week

### **Bridging the Knowing-Doing Gap of Innovative Practice**

Learn from more than 100 breakout sessions from ODE consultants and Ohio educators addressing conference strands of:

- Inquiry-Based Instruction and Assessment
- Transformative Leadership
- Global Education
- College, Career and Community Connections
- Technology-Supported Learning

Featured presenters will include David Conley, Jim Popham, Robyn Jackson, Ken O'Conner, Asia Society, Buck Institute for Education (PBL) ; and Kristin Kipp, 2011 national online teacher of the year.

Teacher stipends (up to \$220), contact hours for continuing education and/or graduate credit options are available. For more information and to register for this event, visit [www.ileohio.org](http://www.ileohio.org).

*Ohio ILE is a collaboration of the Ohio Department of Education, Ohio Network for Education Transformation, Ohio STEM Learning Network, Hilliard City Schools and the Educational Service Center of Central Ohio.*



## Parent Training Opportunities

### Parent Involvement Coordinators' (PIC) Meeting

The Ohio Department of Education, Center for Accountability and Continuous Improvement, Office of Federal Programs, invites you to attend a Parent Involvement Coordinators' (PIC) Meeting on **Wednesday, October 10, 2012, from 1-4 p.m. (NOTE: SPARK Ohio TIME CHANGE FOR THIS MEETING)**. This meeting will occur before the start of the Ohio Association of Administrators of State and Federal Education Programs (OAASFEP) conference, in the Hyatt Regency Hotel, at the Greater Columbus Convention Center, in the Fairfield Room. There is **no** registration fee for this meeting. Three contact hours will be available for those who attend the entire session.

Join us to review the Title I parent involvement requirements (Annual Meeting and Parent Resource Centers), learn about Parent Mentors, PAC, SPARK Ohio, Project Ease, Make it/Take it Family Nights, and Family Reading Academies and other new program ideas. The handouts for the meeting are available for download via the association website.

We encourage you to stay for the entire OAASFEP Conference scheduled for **October 10-12, 2012**. Please go to the association [www@oaasfep.net](http://www@oaasfep.net) and click on the "conferences" button for registration information.

### For more information, please contact:

Ann Bohman, Educational Consultant  
Federal Programs and Parent Involvement  
[ann.bohman@education.ohio.gov](mailto:ann.bohman@education.ohio.gov)

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### Ohio Parent Forum

The purpose of the forum is to inform, educate and train parents; to equip them for their roles as partners in the learning process of their children.

Register for this **FREE** event on Saturday, **October 13, 2012** from 10am to 2pm at [parent.congress@tps.org](http://parent.congress@tps.org)

A Business Friendly City of the Future. Child Care is available under adult supervision with the National Honor Society students. Special invitation to Ohio college and university students studying to be teachers.

### For more information, please contact:

Ann Bohman, Educational Consultant  
Federal Programs and Parent Involvement  
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*Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education in partnership with the Ohio Department of Education.  
Hosted by the Toledo Public Schools (TPS) Parent Congress & The Parent Congress is a State Liaison  
Parent Representative Group for TPS.*