

Gifted Education Update

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1. Gifted Education Advisory Committee

Gifted Education Advisory Committee

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) is convening an advisory committee to review department recommendations addressing recent legislation in HB 1, including:

- development of administrative rules regarding the expenditure and reporting of gifted funds; and
- development of a performance indicator reflecting the level of services provided to and the performance of gifted students by December 31, 2011.

The committee will be comprised of members from several organizations that represent a broad base of stakeholders (organizations listed on right). The organizations have been asked to nominate an individual to participate as a member of this committee. Nominees should have a strong interest in the education of gifted and advanced students and should be able to serve as a representative of the organization.

The organizations invited to participate have until February 15 to nominate an individual to serve on the committee.

If you have any questions about this committee, please contact Beth Hahn at gifted@ode.state.oh.us.

Ohio Gifted Education Advisory Committee:

- Buckeye Association of School Administrators
- Coalition of Rural and Appalachian Schools
- Ohio Association for Gifted Children
- Ohio Association for Gifted Children, Governing Board Representative
- Ohio Association for Private Colleges of Teacher Education
- Ohio Association for Supervision, Curriculum and Development
- Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators
- Ohio Association of Pupil Services Administrators
- Ohio Association of School Business Officials
- Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators
- Ohio Board of Regents
- Ohio Coalition for Quality Education
- Ohio Education Association
- Ohio Education Service Center Association
- Ohio Federation of Teachers
- Ohio Parent Teacher Association
- Ohio Parent Teacher Organization
- Ohio School Boards Association
- Ohio School Psychologists Association
- Ohio State Support Team
- State Board of Education
- The Ohio Eight Coalition

2. Call for Credit Flex Case Studies

Senate Bill 311 (the Ohio Core legislation) raised the graduation requirements for high school students, with the goal of increasing the number of students who are ready to meet the demands of our global and technological age. It included among its several provisions, credit flexibility (more information can be found by visiting education.ohio.gov and searching the term "credit flex"). If your district is currently utilizing or planning for credit flexibility in a way that is particularly beneficial for gifted students, we would like to hear from you. This could include topics such as educational options (particularly in the arts), testing out, acceleration, as well as credit flexibility more broadly. An interdepartmental team is at work at ODE on guidance documents and would like to feature case studies of the ways in which credit flexibility can be useful in broad areas. Please email program or contact information to gifted@ode.state.oh.us.

3. Gifted Education Audits

In an effort to be more efficient and less intrusive to districts, the Office for Exceptional Children (OEC) will be incorporating particular aspects of special education monitoring and gifted education monitoring into the Program Audit Compliance Tracking System (PACTS) utilized by ODE's Office of Federal Programs.

As part of this process, approximately 40 districts this year will participate in onsite reviews related to federal programs, special education and gifted education.

The Office of Federal Programs PACTS contact person will be taking the lead for the PACTS process. In addition, OEC will be assigning a consultant that will provide technical assistance, if requested, related to the special education and gifted education reviews.

Districts will receive additional information regarding the activities and materials that will need to be prepared prior to the visit in addition to what districts can expect during and after the visit.



FEATURED ODE WEB LINKS

Translations of several key documents important to parents of gifted children are now available on ODE's website. Languages include Arabic, Chinese, Russian, Somali and Spanish.

Please visit education.ohio.gov and search the term "translated documents."

4. Wheel of Learning for Students Gifted in Fine Arts Available Online

The *Wheel of Learning for Fine Arts* is a professional development tool developed by a team of arts specialists, professional artists and gifted educators. The purpose of the tool is to provide examples of service settings, instructional strategies and resource options that will guide educators of students who are gifted in the arts. The tool will:

- Guide Ohio educators in the selection, preparation and development of differentiated education plans, materials and curriculum;
- Guide gifted educators in creating a written education plan for a student gifted in the visual and performing arts;
- Guide collaboration among educators serving students who are gifted in the visual and performing arts;
- Guide high quality professional development (HQPD) for Ohio educators regarding curriculum and instruction for students gifted in the visual and performing arts.

Currently available are the guides for Dance and Music. Coming soon: Drama and Visual Arts. Please visit education.ohio.gov and search the term "wheel of learning" to view the PDF documents.

5. Technology Feature of the Month

Each month, we will be featuring a no cost technology tool that we feel has possibilities for use in the gifted classroom. (Please note: these tools are not endorsed by ODE; we merely bring them to your attention as a possible resource.)

January's Feature: OpenCourseWare Consortium- www.ocwconsortium.org



An OpenCourseWare is a free and open digital publication of high quality educational materials, organized as courses. The OpenCourseWare Consortium is a collaboration of more than 200 higher education institutions and associated organizations from around the world creating a broad and deep body of open educational content using a shared model. The mission of the OpenCourseWare Consortium is to advance education and empower people worldwide through opencourseware. These courses may provide material to develop online educational options or other independent study-type work for gifted students.

We're on the Web!

Go to the ODE site and search the term "gifted."

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How to Subscribe/Unsubscribe to Gifted listserv

The Gifted Update is now sent via listserv, which is a type of mailing list that allows any interested person to add or remove themselves to/from the subscriber list by simply sending an email to:

join-ls_giftedupdate@lsmail.ode.state.oh.us

No subject title or message in the body of the email is necessary. It is no longer necessary to send an email to the Gifted Department. Please pass this message on to anyone interested in receiving the Gifted Update.

In addition, at the bottom of each email you receive from now on, you will see a message explaining how to unsubscribe yourself from the list should your circumstances change and you would no longer like to receive the update. We hope this makes the distribution of the update faster and easier for everyone. If you have questions about the listserv, please contact lauren.angelone@ode.state.oh.us.

6. WIAT III Added to Approved List

The Weschler Individual Achievement Test III (WIAT III) has been approved for gifted identification for both superior cognitive and specific academic. This test has been added to the current test list revised November, 2009.

7. Non-ODE Items of Interest

Online Educational Options

To help address requirements of the new credit flexibility policy and expand access to advanced and specialized learning options for students, Learning|Connective, a non-profit educational organization, is attempting to assess interest on the part of districts in participating in a co-op pooling students and teachers to offer Web-facilitated asynchronous courses on topics individual districts cannot typically offer due to lack of local critical mass. The goals of this project would be to replace learning opportunities lost with the cancellation of the Ohio Summer Honors Institutes, help districts comply with credit flexibility requirements, and expand curricular offerings for students while minimizing district costs and the need to outsource instruction to for-profit and out-of-state providers. Districts and ESCs interested in learning more about the concept or participating in the co-op are asked to complete a contact form at <http://learningconnective.org/about/contact-us/>

Teacher Training Available

Creative Connections Group is offering online training for educators and parents on a variety of topics in gifted education. Space is limited, some titles require a nominal fee. All sessions begin at 7 pm EST.

- Co-teaching and Collaborative Techniques for Gifted - January 13
- Credit Flexibility Policy Implementation - January 19
- Writing WEP Goals - January 20
- Strategies for Students with Asperger Syndrome - January 26
- Making the Acceleration Decision - January 28

Visit the website for more information - <http://www.ccgohio.com> or contact Mary Rizza at info@ccgohio.com.

Resources from NAGC Exhibits

- Center for Talent and Development, Northwestern University- Research, resources and summer programs at www.ctd.northwestern.edu.
- The Center for Gifted Studies, Western Kentucky University- Teacher training, summer programs and a spring break travel opportunity at www.wku.edu/gifted.
- Program for the Exceptionally Gifted, Mary Baldwin College- PEG, the Program for the Exceptionally Gifted, offers an opportunity for bright and accomplished young women to complete college during their high school years. PEG students live in a fully supervised, state of the art residence hall with their true peers on the beautiful campus of Mary Baldwin College. www.mbc.edu/peg/
- Center for Distance and Independent Study, University of Missouri- Online coursework at elementary, middle, high school and university levels. There are also specific courses geared toward gifted students. cdis.missouri.edu/