



# review

A Monthly Update from  
the Desk of the  
State Superintendent of Education

**May/2012**

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## Department of Transportation

### DOT Continues On-Time Delivery Success

OSSE's Department of Transportation (DOT) has continued its unprecedented success in delivering students to school on-time. Surpassing its goal of a 94% on-time delivery rate, DOT possessed an on-time delivery rate of 94.4% in May and a 95.5% rate in April. An on-time arrival is defined as an arrival to school no earlier than 30 minutes before the morning bell and no later than 10 minutes before the morning bell. OSSE's on-time delivery rate is due to several key changes implemented this school year including: improved fleet availability, an updated routing optimization process, and improved communication between drivers, attendants, managers, and call center staff. New fleet management software and in-house mechanics has allowed DOT to utilize a fleet of 700 buses, compared with less than 500 buses in the previous school year. GPS



tracking devices have allowed managers to make immediate route adjustments previously taking days to complete. Finally, better communication between staff has allowed the Department to quickly troubleshoot and resolve problems when they arise.

## Division of Post-Secondary Education & Career Education

### Post-Sec Launches High Achievers Program

On May 30th, OSSE's Post-Secondary and Career Education Division launched their new High Achievers Program. The program links high-achieving high school sophomores and juniors to competitive Tier I Summer Enrichment programs around the country. Superintendent Mahaley welcomed the 14 program participants and parents during an informational session hosted by Higher Education and Financial Services (HEFS) staff.



Students with a Grade Point Average of 3.5 or higher who demonstrated leadership skills inside and outside of the classroom were eligible to apply for scholarships

through HEFS to jumpstart their college career by attending designated enrichment programs. OSSE's university partners include Boston University, Carnegie Mellon, Northwestern University and the University of Pennsylvania. To support the High Achievers program, OSSE is providing full tuition and transportation costs for all program participants.

## Division of Statewide Athletics

### Mayor Vincent C. Gray and OSSE Launch DC Statewide Athletic Association

On May 30th, OSSE's Division of Statewide Athletics with Mayor Vincent Gray announced the creation of the DC State Athletic Association (DCSAA), a new association allowing teams from the District's public, private, parochial, and independent schools to compete for a statewide title. DCSAA operations will be managed by the OSSE Statewide Athletics Office. State Superintendent of Education Hosanna Mahaley explained that the appointment of an Advisory Board of Interscholastic Athletics and a separate, independent DC-SAA Appeals Board will provide added oversight over regulations and activities, including gender balance in statewide sports competitions. Echoing that sentiment was Statewide Director of Athletics Clark Ray, citing OSSE's award-winning Health & Wellness division and the District's nation-leading student nutrition programs as valuable resources for fulfilling the DCSAA mission to offer District youth top-notch physical education and the opportunity for safe and organized competition. "Sports are a positive gateway for D.C. students, a deterrent to truancy and a path toward discovering their potential," Ray said. "One of Mayor Gray's ongoing initiatives is to change what school athletic success looks like in the District of Columbia; establishing DCSAA allows us to do just that."



## Wellness & Nutrition

### School Garden Update

In the month of May, OSSE's School Garden Grant, funded through the Healthy Schools Act, supported the establishment of seven new school gardens. EL Haynes Public Charter School constructed two school gardens at both the Kansas Ave and Georgia Ave campuses with the enthusiastic support of the school community and the technical support of City Blossoms. Cleveland Elementary school, also partnered with City Blossoms, created a beautiful school garden that will serve as a productive outdoor classroom. Bridges Public Charter School expanded on their school garden with three large raised beds that will allow students to better understand where their food comes from. Yu Ying Public Charter School established seven raised beds and an herb garden with the help of Earth Day Network and their supportive and resourceful school community. Lastly, Excel Public Charter School broke ground on their school garden during a Family Fun Day thanks to the help of DC Cares.



### Farm to School Update

The School Garden Program worked closely with the D.C. Farm to School Network to plan and support the third annual Strawberries & Salad Greens Day on May 23rd. OSSE set up hands-on educational tables in school cafeterias to remind students where their food comes from. It was also a great chance for school gardens to celebrate what's growing this spring. The School Garden Program is looking forward to an equally productive June. Follow the School Garden Program on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/#!/OSSESGP>

## Division of Specialized Education

### LRE Contract Awards

As first announced during the May 2nd webinar, the Division of Specialized Education (DSE) within the Office of the State Superintendent of Education is still accepting contracts, as well as budget and spending plans, associated with DSE's Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) Contract Initiative. By way of background, the initiative was designed to reward LEAs and encourage them to continue to expand best practices and build internal capacity to support the provision of a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in the LRE for students with disabilities.

The funds available under this initiative will be allocated to individual Local Education Agencies (LEAs) as each submits an approved contract, budget plan, and spending plan. If you have any questions regarding this initiative, please feel free to contact John Pallasch, Special Assistant by phone at **(202) 481-3870** or via email at [john.pallasch@dc.gov](mailto:john.pallasch@dc.gov).

Once again, congratulations on the great work to date and we hope these contract awards will allow for further enhancements that expand the District's capacity to provide FAPE and LRE.

### LEA Data Administrator Pilot Opportunity

The Special Education Data System (SEDS) team would like to announce an opportunity for LEAs to participate in a pilot program for the LEA Data Administrator, Level 2 Course. Participants in the pilot will be introduced to the new role envisioned for LEA Data Administrators as it relates to use and support of SEDS. Participation will allow LEAs additional administrative flexibility and control in SEDS and an opportunity to weigh in early on an upcoming shift in SEDS management. LEA Data Administrators who participate in the pilot should be comfortable with SEDS, willing to participate in training and available to provide ongoing detailed feedback on the overall experience.

A new training course designed specifically for pilot participants will be offered in July, 2012 and

will focus on end user support strategies, maintenance of data integrity of student records, and system management. In order to indicate interest, LEA representatives should register for one of the sessions listed below. Participation in the pilot will be limited to 20 LEA Data Administrators (with a maximum of 2 per LEA). Participation will be available on a first come first served basis, and the registration site (linked below) will be closed upon reaching capacity.

After completing the training course, and in addition to the responsibilities of existing LEA Data Administrators, participants in the pilot will be responsible for the following:

- Use tools in SEDS to communicate messages and/or alerts to end users within the LEA
- Ensure integrity of data by adjusting and/or removing erroneous documents, events, and faxes
- Use reporting tools to manage and analyze LEA data
- Serve as first level of support for end users within LEA; act as point of contact for escalation of issues to OSSE
- Provide consistent ongoing feedback to OSSE about the processes, tools, and structure of the pilot program

#### Prerequisites:

In order to participate in the pilot LEA Data Administrator, Level 2 Course, participants:

- Must be an LEA level representative (opportunity not available for school level representatives)
- Must have completed the LEA Data Administrator, Level 1 Course
- Should obtain approval from LEA level leadership for participation in the effort

#### Registration Details:

Participants must register to indicate interest in the pilot and to reserve a spot in a training session. Visit this link to register online:

<https://octo.quickbase.com/db/bfiacz22d>



## LEA System Data Administrator Level 2 Course (for Pilot LEAs)

**July 12, 2012**

9:00 am-12:00 pm  
810 First Street NE, Room 3002

**July 16, 2012**

1:00 pm-4:00 pm  
810 First Street NE, Room 3002

**July 19, 2012**

9:00 am-12:00 pm  
810 First Street NE, Room 3002

**July 23, 2012**

1:00 pm-4:00 pm  
810 First Street NE, Room 3002

While not all LEAs will participate in the pilot, all LEA Data Administrators are strongly encouraged to access the SEDS resource site for additional information on the overall plan to restructure the SEDS user support process to include more engagement at the LEA level. Please contact Angel T. Johnson, [angelt.johnson@dc.gov](mailto:angelt.johnson@dc.gov) with questions about the pilot effort or the larg-

er implementation of changes to the SEDS user support process.

## Special Education Data System (SEDS)

### 2012 User Survey

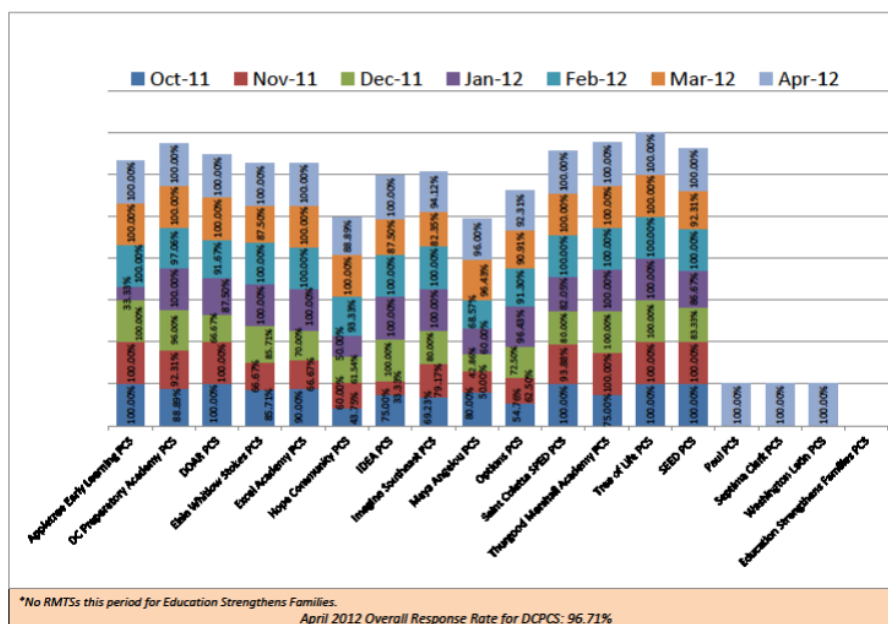
OSSE is preparing to release the annual SEDS user survey. This annual survey is designed to gather information about usage, training, and help resources for the Special Education Data System (SEDS or 'EasyIEP'). The survey only takes about 15 minutes to complete. Your responses will be used by OSSE to inform future improvements to SEDS. This survey is intended for all SEDS users from all LEAs and nonpublic schools. The survey will be open beginning June 12, 2012. All responses must be received by 5:00 pm on July 24, 2012. Thank you in advance for your time. If you have any questions about this survey, please contact [Rohini.Thukral@dc.gov](mailto:Rohini.Thukral@dc.gov).

Beginning June 12, 2012, you may use this link to access the survey: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/S33KPF8>

## Medicaid Recovery Unit

The chart below shows the Random Monthly Time Study Random Moment Time Study (RMTS) monthly rate for all participating LEAs. Kudos to all the LEAs for their work in ensuring that their response rates remain above 85%. For the month of April 2012, NO LEA SCORED BELOW 85%. Kudos to everyone.

District of Columbia Public Charter Schools  
RMS Response Comparison for the Period of October 2011 – April 2012



## Healthy Youth Development Team

### DC Physical Activity for Youth (DC PAY) Grant Awarded

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education recently awarded the DC Physical Activity for Youth (DC PAY) grant. The goal of this grant, funded through the Healthy Schools Act of 2010, is to increase physical activity in Washington, DC public and public charter schools. Nineteen awards were given. The recipients are: Capitol Hill Montessori at Logan, Center City – Brightwood, Center City –Capitol Hill, Center City –Congress Heights, Center City – Petworth, Center City – Shaw, Center City – Trinidad, DC Bilingual PCS, EW Stokes PCS, Excel Academy PCS, IDEA PCS, KIPP Key Academy, National Collegiate Prep, Savoy Elementary, SEED PCS, Thurgood Marshall Academy PCS, Tree of Life PCS, Two Rivers PCS, and Washington Yu Ying PCS. Congratulations to all the award recipients!

### OSSE's Youth Advisory Committee completes another successful academic year!



The Office of the State Superintendent of Education would like to congratulate the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) on completing another successful term. The mission of the YAC is to develop a cadre of young leaders with critical thinking skills who will share knowledge and ex-

pertise around adolescent health issues. The YAC meets every week to develop youth led projects and ensure activities implemented are meeting the needs of young people in the District of Columbia. The YAC is comprised of middle and high school students from the District of Columbia. This past academic year, the YAC has accomplished the following activities:

- Received training on youth leadership and outreach, interpreting the Youth Risk Behavior Survey data, diversity and team building, sexual health 101, social media, presentation skills, bullying and violence, school advocacy, college readiness, and LGBTQ awareness.
- Created health education outreach materials, conducted outreach at events such as the National Council of Negro Women's 26th Annual Black Family Reunion event and the DC Youth Task Force kick-off for the International AIDS 2012 Conference. The YAC also hosted parent and teen health workshops on sexual health, adolescent development, and communication, and generated a weekly blog that received over 3,200 views from the public and featured topics such as drug use, nutrition, sexual health, and LGBTQ issues.
- Collaborated with the Youth Pride Alliance Board to plan the 16th Annual Youth Pride Day. They created the general theme, designed shirts, buttons, promotional materials, activities, surveys, and a creative logo. The YAC used their booth to distribute condoms, sexual health information, recruit new YAC members, collect surveys, and to pass out information about starting a Gay Straight Alliance (GSA). The YAC took the lead on getting youth participants to complete a survey about their satisfaction with the event.

Congratulations to the following YAC members: Abriana Luke-Scales, Brigid Carmichael, Brit-tany Addison, Cobi Shaw, David Villatoro-Sor-to, Haley Samuel-Jakubo, Ileana Benitez, Justin C. Robinson, Linda Nguyen, Malik Miller, Queen Lanette Dews, Remy Greg Jones, Rico Gregory Jones, Shawanda Davis, Shemar Wheeler, Simone Banks-Mackey, Tamika Dowdle.

## Teens Who Don't...DC Tobacco Youth Coalition



Teens Who Don't...DC Tobacco Youth Coalition (TWD) is a youth leadership program established through the collaboration between OSSE's Healthy Youth Development Team and the Department of Health-Tobacco Control Program. TWD engages youth in tobacco control and prevention by providing them with the opportunity to gain skills and authority to make decisions that help improve the policy environment, change social norms, and reduce smoking initiation and consumption in their communities. May 31st was World No Tobacco Day. World No Tobacco Day declared by the World Health Organization, is a day when anti-tobacco advocates from across the globe work to stop tobacco sales, access and marketing to all people. TWD joined the efforts by going out into the District

to educate our city's youth and adults on the harms of tobacco. Our team of youth were very excited about spreading the messages of ending tobacco use by poling and speaking to their peers and by playing quiz games! We conducted tobacco outreach in the Columbia Heights and H St. communities on May 30th and 31st.

To learn more about tobacco, please feel free to check our Smoking Ain't Swagg short film on Youtube! Please share the link to any youth who might like it!

[http://www.youtube.com/user/DCTeensWhoDontTV?email=share\\_video\\_user](http://www.youtube.com/user/DCTeensWhoDontTV?email=share_video_user)

We are recruiting new members too! Share the e-application with any youth in grades 8-11 who live in the District and attends a DCPS or DC Public Charter School who want to join our fight against tobacco!

<https://adobeformscentral.com/?f=qpJQMWIZ4DGalNwNJqEe0w>



### EVENTS

**June 21st, 9:30am-4:00PM**  
Child and Adult Care Food Program FY  
2012 Mandatory Annual Training  
- Independent Centers A-K

OSSE Headquarters  
810 1st St, NE  
3rd Floor Grand Hall



For comments, suggestions  
or to contact newsletter staff  
please write to osse:  
[media@dc.gov](mailto:media@dc.gov)

