



OSSE LEA LOOK-FORWARD: March 28, 2013—April 4, 2013 Key Events, Announcements, Updates and Deadlines

Division of Specialized Education

Special Education Data Audit: TTA Tier I Trainings

Recently, your LEA received a communication regarding the results of OSSE's recent special education data audit. As a result of this audit, LEAs were placed into three performance categories (Tier I, Tier II, and Tier III) which correspond with increasingly intensive interventions and supports.

LEAs that have not met all required compliance thresholds in Tier I (universal support) are required to attend a special education quality improvement training series conducted via three strands, as follows:

1. Use of the Special Education Quality Review (SEQR) Assessment to Inform Improvement
Required Training Participants: LEA Leadership Team
2. Improving Special Education Data Quality in SEDS to Enhance Student Outcomes
Required Training Participants: Special Education Case Managers, Coordinators, and Teachers
3. Using Student Data to Conduct a Root Cause Analysis
Required Training Participants: LEA Leadership Team

Each session of this training series will be scheduled multiple times in March and April (around the DC CAS testing window) to ensure that your LEA can access the sessions at times that are most convenient. Please note that these trainings are recommended even for LEAs that have met all requirements, in order to support continued excellence.

The training sessions began the week of March 25, 2013, beginning with SEQR and Data Quality. Please see the training dates on the calendar link below to begin scheduling your attendance at available Tier I training sessions. Additional sessions will be scheduled.

These updates will be shared via the OSSE Look Forward, the TTA list serve, and the SEDS Resource Site at <https://sites.google.com/a/dc.gov/seds-help-resources/home/tier-i-t-ta-calendar>. We look forward to continuing to support your efforts to improve outcomes for children with disabilities.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dr. Amy Maisterra, Assistant Superintendent, at amy.maisterra@dc.gov or 202-481-3757.



Division of Specialized Education (Continued)

Extended School Year Certification – Webinar Resource

The Division of Specialized Education (DSE) recently hosted two Extended School Year (ESY) Certification webinars on February 13, 2013 and February 27, 2013. These webinars were designed to assist local education agencies (LEAs) in successfully completing the annual ESY certification requirements. Please reference the link to the webinar PowerPoint presentation that contains information regarding federal and state ESY requirements, ESY eligibility framework and IEP documentation requirements, annual certification process requirements, and the Division of Student Transportation's (DOT) new Transportation Online Tool for ESY (TOTE). To view the link, please click [here](#).

Special Education Data System (SEDS)

As a result of LEA feedback, the OSSE has relaxed the rule requiring the selection of a Common Core standard for academic IEP goals in preschool and pre-kindergarten grades. Users are not required to associate a Common Core standard for academic goals for students in these grades though may do so if they wish. This flexibility will allow IEP teams to both take advantage of quality assurance checks while having the ability to adequately document information for exceptional cases. OSSE will continue to respond to the needs of LEAs in order to ensure that SEDS is a tool that supports the very important work of developing appropriate programs for students with disabilities.

OSSE Releases for Public Comment FFY 2013 Draft State Grant Applications for IDEA Part B

In order to receive a grant award under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to support the provision of special education services to children with disabilities, each state must complete an annual grant application. To ensure an opportunity for the public to provide input, this application must be posted for 60 calendar days and open for public comment for 30 days within the 60 day period.

OSSE's Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2013 draft state application for IDEA Part B will be posted for 60 days on the OSSE website (from March 11, 2013 to May 9, 2013). Members of the public have the opportunity to make comments on the application until April 9, 2013.

****Please Note:** The US Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) has requested that OSSE notify the public that it does not have an appropriation yet. States should use last year's Part B spreadsheet for public participation purposes. As the FFY2013 allocations are not yet available, the numbers posted to meet the 60-day public participation requirement are "draft" and the State will post its 2013 spreadsheet as soon as it becomes available.

Individuals who wish to comment so should direct their comments to Ms. Desirée Brown, Special Assistant - Community and Parent Relations, Division of Specialized Education, by email at: osse.publiccomment@dc.gov. Should you have questions regarding this application or the public comment period, please direct them to the attention of Desirée Brown by email at desiree.brown@dc.gov or at (202) 741-0271.



Division of Wellness & Nutrition

DC Free Summer Meal Program –Renewing and New Sponsors and Sites

LEAs--Want to continue your sponsorship of the FSMP? Or, do you want to sponsor or even be a site in the FSMP? Remember, the FSMP offers children free meals when schools are closed for the summer. New to the FSMP--Did you know that you can receive a higher reimbursement for meals served in the summer if you participate in the FSMP? Come hear more about this program. Attend the training to learn what's new for the 2013 summer program and discuss the application process.

The training will be held **Wednesday, April 17** and **18** at **OSSE**.

Location: 810 First Street, N.E.

Washington, D.C. 20002 (near Metro Union Station – Red Line)
4th Floor, Conference Room 4012

Time: **Renewing Sponsors** (*for those participating since 2012 summer*)

April 17 from 9 am – 12 pm

April 18 from 12 PM – 4 PM

New Sponsors or Sites (*for those who have submitted intent to participate or who want to participate*)

April 17 from 1 pm – 4 pm

April 18 from 9 am – 12 pm

Registration is required. Please contact Elisabeth Sweeting at Elisabeth.Sweeting@dc.gov or call on (202) 724-7628

Using DoD Fresh to Purchase Local Produce

The U.S. Department of Defense Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (DoD Fresh) allows schools to use their USDA Foods entitlement dollars to buy fresh produce.

What are the advantages of DoD Fresh?

Flexibility-States can adjust DoD Fresh allocations on a continuous basis allowing them to utilize USDA Commodity/Food entitlement more effectively.

Easy Ordering and Funds tracking-The values listed in the (Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Order/Receipt System) FFAVORS are adjusted on a weekly basis based on market conditions and reflect the amounts a school's entitlement will be deducted or the amount a school will be billed if entitlement is not available for the selected items.

How produce is ordered-In some states, districts/School Food Authorities/LEAs place orders with input from each school. The District of Columbia uses both models. For additional information please feel free to contact Program Specialist Major Langford at major.langford@dc.gov.



Division of Wellness & Nutrition (Continued)

USDA Launches the Farm to School Census

USDA has now officially launched the first ever nationwide Farm to School Census, which will survey more than 13,000 school districts to determine how many schools currently purchase local foods. Data from the Farm to School Census will be used by USDA's Farm to School Program to develop a baseline assessment of the prevalence, geographic distribution, and characteristics of farm to school programs in order to set priorities for USDA outreach and technical support.

If you are a school food service director please respond when the survey appears in your inbox! Visit <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/f2s/f2s-census.htm> for more details.

Grant Application Solicitation for DC PAY Program

OSSE is soliciting grant applications for the District of Columbia Physical Activity for Youth (DC PAY) program. The purpose of this program is to increase the capacity of DC schools to provide physical activity to all students before, during, or after the school day.

Eligibility: Applications will be accepted until April 8, 2013 from schools participating in the Healthy Schools Act (2010). Past award recipients are eligible. The total funding available for this award period is \$200,000; eligible schools may apply for an award amount up to \$10,000.

The Request for Applications can be found on the OSSE website by clicking here: <http://osse.dc.gov/publication/2013-dc-pay-request-applications>. Please contact Erin Watts at (202) 481-3755 or erin.watts@dc.gov with questions.

Healthy Schools Act School Health Profile – Past Due

Under Section 602 of the *Healthy Schools Act of 2010*, each public school and public charter school within the District of Columbia is required to complete and submit the Healthy Schools Act School Health Profile form to OSSE on or before **February 15th** of each year. This is an online form, located in Quickbase (<https://octo.quickbase.com>), and links to the form and access instructions were sent to principals on January 10, 2013. If your school did not receive the link or someone other than the principal needs access, please call 202-481-3755 or email osse.hsahealthform@dc.gov. The information in the profile is reported annually to the Mayor and the City Council. Schools who do not submit will be out of compliance, and this will be noted in the report as well as on the OSSE website. A print version of the 2013 School Health Profile form can be found [here](#); however, the form must be submitted online through Quickbase. Please call if you would like to confirm OSSE's receipt of your school's School Health Profile.

Application Link: https://adobeformscentral.com/?f=h83xMnuRrug0Nkp*fwFK5w#



Office of Grants Management and Compliance

U.S. Department of Education Launches 2013 Investing in Innovation i3 Grant Competition

The U.S. Department of Education announced the start of the \$150 million 2013 Investing in Innovation (i3) grant competition today with the release of the program’s invitation for pre-applications for the i3 “Development” grant category and the notice of final priorities for the i3 program overall. Today’s announcement incorporates several improvements the Department has made to the grant competition in its efforts to support school districts and nonprofit organizations in partnership with schools to pursue innovative ideas that increase student success.

The i3 program aims to develop and expand practices that accelerate student achievement and prepare every student to succeed in college and in their careers. The i3 program includes three grant categories: Development, Validation and Scale-up. The Department plans to announce applications for the Validation and Scale-up categories later this spring.

The deadline for the pre-application is April 26, 2013. Following the peer review process, the Department will announce a list of the highly rated pre-applications. These entities will then be invited to apply for the Development competition and given additional time to complete their full application.

The NFP can be found at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-03-27/pdf/2013-07016.pdf>. The Development NIA can be found at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-03-27/pdf/2013-07003.pdf>.

To learn more about the i3 grant program and the pre-application process, please visit the i3 site: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/innovation/index.html>.

Enrollment Audit Report, SY 2012-2013

The annual enrollment verification process for the 2012-2013 School Year is complete. The final enrollment audit report was sent by F.S. Taylor and Associates, an independent contractor that conducts the enrollment audit, and is available on the OSSE website at <http://osse.dc.gov/publication/2012-fall-enrollment-audit-report-district-columbia-public-schools-and-district-public>.

OSSE Charter School Closure Policy

The OSSE Charter School Closure policy sets expectations and provides guidance and technical assistance with regard to the state-level issues related to the closure of a District of Columbia public charter school, also referred to as a Local Educational Agency (LEA). The policy is now available on the OSSE website at <http://osse.dc.gov/publication/charter-school-closure-policy>.



Division of Post-Secondary & Career Education

General Education Diploma Announcement

OSSE is letting adult learners in the District of Columbia know — *Your future is calling. With the GED test, you can answer the call!* The current GED® test is expiring at the end of 2013 and learners' partial passing scores will expire too if the test is not successfully completed by then. For learners who don't feel prepared, OSSE and local programs can help.

The OSSE Adult and Family Education Office and the DC Office of Cable Television (OCT) have partnered to produce a public service announcement encouraging District residents to finish the GED before the current test series expires on December 31, 2013. The PSA is running on DC cable television. View the GED message at <http://youtu.be/83olkMqsZHc>. Learn more about the GED campaign at <http://www.gedtestingservice.com/finishtheged/>.

Division of Elementary & Secondary Education

Professional Development Grant Opportunity

On March 1, 2013, OSSE released the Teacher Quality Improvement (TQI) competitive application. The purpose of the TQI grant is to fund programs designed to provide teachers with skills needed to positively enhance student learning and improve the quality of instruction. **The application deadline is Monday, April 22, 2013 at 5:00PM.** OSSE encourages District of Columbia LEAs, and schools of education and arts and sciences departments within institutions of higher education to form eligible partnerships and apply.

Please visit [OSSE's website](#) for more information on this grant opportunity and to download the Teacher Quality Improvement RFA.

Highly Effective Teacher Incentive Program Is Recruiting Highly Effective Teachers

Public schools in DC need talented teachers to contribute their time and energy to make a difference for students in high-needs schools. To accomplish this, OSSE has launched a pilot program to recruit 20 highly-effective educators to teach in four high-needs schools beginning in the 2013-14 school year.

Educators must make a commitment to teach for three years and will receive a range of incentives, including a \$10,000 bonus, \$5,000 in tuition assistance or loan repayment, and access to homebuyer assistance (details are forthcoming).

Candidates must have been rated highly effective by their LEA's evaluation system, have come from a low-poverty school (less than 50% free or reduced-price lunch) or from outside the classroom, and have taught for at least two years. **Applications will be accepted between March 4th- April 19th with in-person interviews scheduled for April 29 or April 30 from 2:00PM-6:00PM.** You may find more information about the program and an application at <http://osse.dc.gov/page/teacher-and-leader-evaluation>. If you have questions, please contact Robin Chait at robin.chait@dc.gov.



Office of Data Management

Policy Guidelines for Calculating the Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate

OSSE is beginning the Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate (ACGR) verification process. On Friday, March 15, 2013, LEAs received the ACGR policy documentation, which included a “DETAILED TIMELINE” and processes.

The timeline includes important deadlines. LEA(s) will have from April 1, 2013 to May 20, 2013 to verify students and provide documentation.

Responsibility	Process	Timeline
Phase I: Project Timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit project timeline to LEA(s) • Contact LEA(s) 	March 15, 2013
Phase II: Username & Password Dissemination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LEAs receive username & passwords • DCPS receives data file format 	March 27, 2013
Phase II: Verification Tool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LEA cohort verification begins • LEA(s) submit documentation 	April 1, 2013 – May 20, 2013
Phase III: Cohort Assignment and Verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are verified and assigned to their appropriate cohorts • OSSE reviews documentation submitted by LEA(s) • Preliminary ACGR conducted 	May 30, 2013 – July, 2013
Phase IV: Graduates Data submission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCSB and DCPS submits official certified graduates 	June 8, 2013 – June 15, 2013
Phase VI: Graduates Data Submission II (Summer Graduates)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCSB and DCPS submit official certified graduates (summer graduates) 	Aug 1, 2013- Aug 8, 2013
Phase VII: Data Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OSSE conducts data analysis 	Aug 8, 2013-Sept 1, 2013



Office of Data Management (Continued)

DC CAS Roster Verification Process Kickoff!

On Monday, March, 18, 2013, OSSE will begin the DC CAS Roster Verification Process. The goal of this process is to reduce the reporting burden for LEAs and to create one quality dataset for OSSE and LEAs' high stakes accountability measures. A DC CAS Roster Verification tab will be available on the SLED site for LEA SLED Security Administrators to access.

A how-to guide will be posted on OSSE's website at <http://osse.dc.gov/service/data>. Roster verification must be completed **by April 19, 2013**. Please contact Jessica Enos (202-535-2651, jessica.enos@dc.gov) with any questions.

ACCESS for English Language Learner (ELL) Roster Verification Process Information

In an effort to ensure that all student data is accurate and complete, OSSE will provide LEAs with student rosters for verification prior to LEAs' ordering ACCESS testing materials. On Thursday, February 28th OSSE held a webinar to outline the 2013 process for verifying the student rosters and pre-ordering Pre-test booklet ID labels for students. The slides and information from this webinar, and webinar FAQs are posted at the following website address: <http://osse.dc.gov/service/access-ells>. For additional questions about this process, please contact Michelle Blakey-Tuggle: michelle.blakey-tuggle@dc.gov.