

February 19-26, 2015



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## District Highlights

- [OSSE Parent and Community Conversations Continue Tonight at Friendship Woodridge](#)
- [PARCC Parent Resources \(NEW\)](#)
- [DC PARCC Administration and Technology Webinars on February 23](#)

## Getting Ready to Knock It Out of the PARCC: Next Generation Assessments Tips and Resources

- Resources for Schools
  - [2015 DC PARCC Administrative Guidance on Timing and Cell Phones \(NEW\)](#)
  - [DC PARCC Infrastructure Trial Guide \(NEW\)](#)
  - [LEA FAQs \(NEW\)](#)
  - [NGA Ambassador Information](#)
  - [2015 DC State Test Security Guidelines \(UPDATED\)](#)
- Resources for Parents/Community
  - [PARCC Parent Resources \(NEW\)](#)
  - [SAVE THE DATE: OSSE Parent and Community Conversations \(PARCC\)](#)
  - [Want to see PARCC items in action?](#)



# LEA LOOK FORWARD

- [Next Generation Science Standards \(NGSS\) Ideas for Parents](#)
- [Guide to the New PARCC Assessment \(For Parents\)](#)

>>>[Learn more](#)

## Important Dates and Deadlines

### Dates

- **[2015 DC Assessment Timeline \(NEW\)](#)**
- 2/19: [OSSE Parent and Community Conversations @ Friendship Woodridge](#)
- 2/19: [PARCC/CCSS Mathematics Professional Development Series](#)
- 2/19: [NGSS 1.0: Introducing the Next Generation Science Standards for LEAs and School Leaders](#)
- 2/20: [Districtwide Assessments: Test Integrity Training for Public Schools \(DCPS and Public Charter Schools\)](#)
- 2/20: [Districtwide Assessments: Test Integrity Training for Non-Public Schools](#)
- 2/21: [OSSE Parent and Community Conversations @ Stuart-Hobson](#)
- 2/21: [FAFSA Assistance @ MLK Library](#)
- 2/21: [FAFSA Assistance @ DC ReEngagement Center](#)
- 2/23: [School Wellness Team Training](#)
- 2/26: [LEA Data Discussion Meeting](#)
- 2/26: [Next Generation Assessment Meeting](#)
- 2/26: [PARCC/CCSS Mathematics Professional Development Series](#)
- 2/28: [FAFSA Assistance @ RISE Demonstration Center](#)
- 2/28: [FAFSA Assistance @ LAYC](#)

>>>[View the OSSE calendar](#)

### Deadlines

- 2/23: [Request For Applications for the 2015 DC Career Academy Network \(DC-CAN\)](#)
- 4/1: [PAEMST 2015 Award Nominations Open](#)

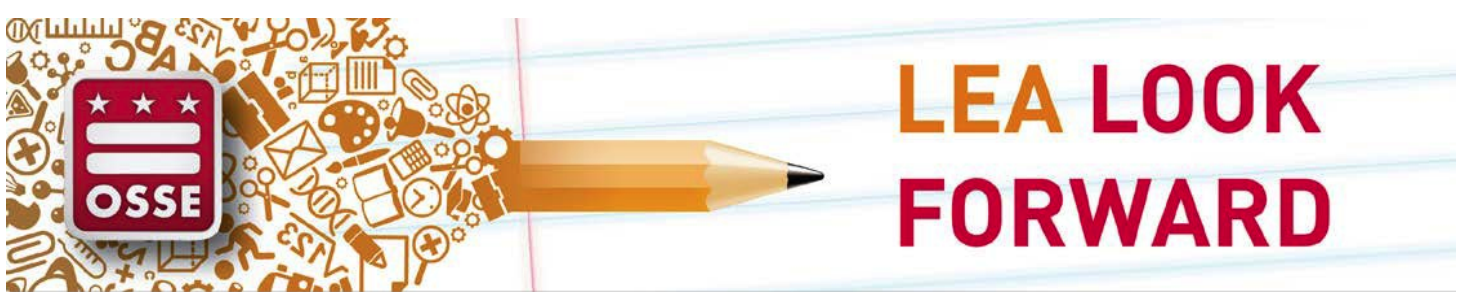
## Announcements

### New

### **LEA Access to Student Postsecondary Completion Information through National Student Clearinghouse StudentTracker**

OSSE, in partnership with the National Student Clearinghouse -StudentTracker, is offering LEAs access to student-level postsecondary enrollment, persistence and completion information. This information can be used for the following:

- With StudentTracker, LEAs can tell where their former students are currently enrolled.
- With StudentTracker, LEAs can see if students are concurrently enrolled at your LEA and college



- With StudentTracker, LEAs can utilize enrollment, persistent and graduation data from over 3,600 Institutions of Higher Education.

This service is provided for free to all DC schools and LEAs. In order to access this service, an LEA must sign a data agreement with OSSE. [Learn more about StudentTracker.](#)

LEAs interested in learning more information about StudentTracker or completing a data agreement should email [Melissa McKnight](#) or call (202)741-6413.

### **Test Integrity Online Training Modules**

As indicated at Next Generation Assessment meetings, OSSE has the ability to pull data for LEAs on PearsonAccessNext registered users who have completed the system's online training modules. This information may be helpful to you if your School Test Plan requires authorized personnel to complete the online training modules. Participating in the training modules helps test administrators understand the details involved with computer-based PARCC administration.

If you would like to know which authorized personnel completed these test integrity training modules via the PearsonAccessNext System, contact [Dr. Tonya Mead](#), State Test Integrity Coordinator, at 202-741-5991.

### **Volunteer for the 2015-2016 Enrollment Audit Stakeholders Working Group**

For School Year 2015-2016, the Office of Enrollment and Residency will once again assemble an Enrollment Audit Stakeholders Working Group to serve in an advisory role. This working group will allow LEA representatives and OSSE personnel to contribute ideas and recommendations and act as a resource as we continue to improve the residency/enrollment audit processes and outcomes.

The Working Group will meet monthly from February 2015 until January 2016 with the expectation that the group may convene more often when necessary. Meetings will be held on Wednesdays from 3:30-5 p.m., with the exception of the first meeting occurring on February 27, 2015.

If you are interested in volunteering for a position with the Enrollment Audit Stakeholders Working Group, please e-mail your name and contact information to [Sean Flora](#) by COB Monday, February 23, 2015. Representatives will be selected based on interest, experience in the enrollment audit process, and with the goal of ensuring a diverse group comprised of LEAs of different sizes, tenures, and special populations (LEP, adult, preschool, etc.). You will be notified by Wednesday, February 25, 2015 if you have been selected for the position and given next steps.

### **Youth Mental Health First Aid**

Youth Mental Health First Aid is designed to teach parents, family members, caregivers, teachers, school staff, peers, neighbors, health and human services workers, and other caring citizens how to help adolescents (age 12-18) that are experiencing mental health concerns, addictions, or are in crisis. Youth Mental Health First Aid is primarily designed for adults who regularly interact with young people. The course introduces common mental health challenges for youth, reviews typical adolescent development, and teaches a 5-step action plan for how



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to help young people in both crisis and non-crisis situations. Topics covered include: anxiety, depression, substance use, disorders in which psychosis may occur, disruptive behavior disorders (including AD/HD), and eating disorders.

**Presenter:** Department of Behavioral Health (DBH)  
**Date:** Monday, March 16, 2015  
**Time:** 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
**Location:** OSSE, 810 First Street, NE, 3rd Floor Grand Hall

[Register](#)

## **School Test Plans Submissions at Least 10 Days Before Assessment**

This is a reminder to submit School Plans for test integrity/test security at least 10 days before the administration of the Districtwide assessment. OSSE is pleased to provide [technical assistance](#) feedback on your plans, and we encourage early submission.

Should you need any support or have questions, contact [Dr. Tonya Mead](#), State Test Integrity Coordinator, at 202-741-5991.

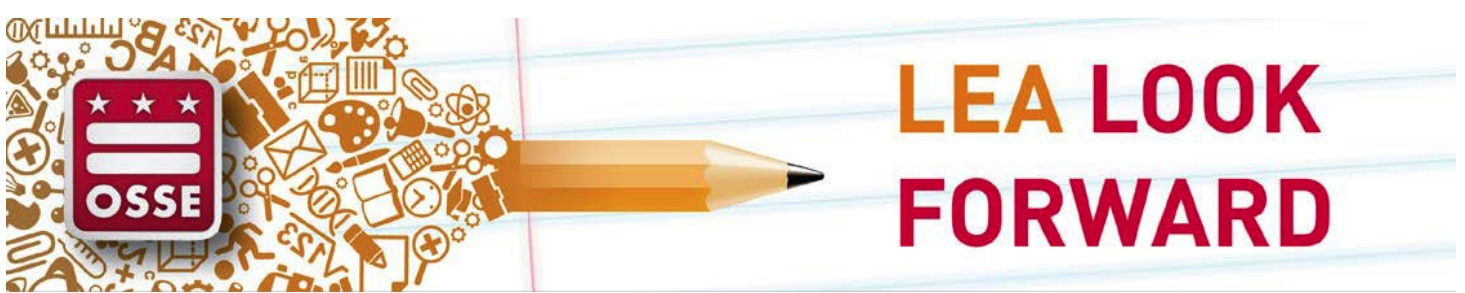
## **HealthierUS School Challenge: Smarter Lunchrooms Training**

The Division of Wellness and Nutrition Services will be conducting a HealthierUS School Challenge: Smarter Lunchrooms (HUSC: SL) Training on March 4, 2015 at 9 a.m.–4 p.m. to discuss the HUSC: SL general criteria, the application process, and to answer frequently asked questions. The HealthierUS School Challenge: Smarter Lunchrooms is a voluntary certification initiative that has recognized thousands of schools for their efforts in improving food and beverage offerings, teaching kids about nutritious food choices and being physically active, providing opportunities for physical activity, and having supportive school wellness policies. Participating schools get recognized nationally and earn monetary rewards for your school, build school spirit, cooperation, and proudly display the HealthierUS banner and plaque as a symbol of their school's achievement. We encourage you to attend this training to learn about this exciting opportunity, participate in fun activities, and to get started with the application process. More information will be available as the training date approaches.

**Date:** March 4, 2015  
**Time:** 9 a.m.–4 p.m.  
**Location:** 810 1st Street, NE, 4th Floor, Room 4002, Washington, DC 20002

[Register](#)

**Contact:** [Blair Tucker-Gruchala](#), (202)741-6481



### **DC CAS-Alt Science Portfolio Review & Return Shipping Webinar**

If you have students participating in the DC CAS-Alt Science assessment, a webinar on portfolio review and return shipping will be held on Wednesday, February 25, 2015 at 2:30 p.m. Registration details can be accessed through this [calendar invite](#). For more information, contact [Imani Stutely](#).

### **DC PARCC Administration and Technology Webinars on February 23**

As a follow up to Test Coordinator training, PARCC and OSSE will co-host two optional webinars on Monday, February 23, where participants will deep dive into preparation for computer-based testing:

2 – 3:30 p.m.: Technology configuration of school devices and proctor caching for PARCC online testing. Recommended for Technology Coordinators. [Register](#)

3:30 – 5 p.m.: Demonstration of Pearson Access Next test session setup for PARCC online testing. Recommended for School Test Coordinators. [Register](#)

Webinars will be recorded and posted to the OSSE website for future reference.

### **Reminder**

### **2015 School Test Security Sample Plan Template Now Available on OSSE's Website**

Each school/campus site is required to submit to OSSE a 2015 School Test Plan, due ten days before the administration of a Districtwide assessment. To help schools develop their own plan, OSSE has released a 2015 Sample Plan Template. Each segment of this template is aligned to the 2015 Test Plan Rubric and closely follows the 2015 General Observation Form used by State OSSE Auditors for observation. Sample answers for each section are identified in "red" font and highlighted in green. We thank the LEAs that contributed content to OSSE for this 2015 Sample Plan Template.

Should schools have additional questions regarding the completion of the Test Security Plan, they should contact [Dr. Tonya Mead](#), State Test Integrity Coordinator, at 202-741-5991.

[More information](#)

### **PARCC Test Development: Opportunities for Teachers and Administrators in the District of Columbia**

OSSE is pleased to offer several opportunities for teachers and administrators to participate in the ongoing development of the PARCC assessment. If selected for participation, travel, lodging, and food will be provided, as well as a daily stipend. Opportunities for participation include the following:

- Item Review
- Content and Bias Review
- Rangefinding
- Standard Setting / Performance Level Setting
- Data Review

Rangefinding and Standard/Performance Level Setting for PARCC 2015 will take place this summer after test administration is complete (see subject-and-grade specific dates inside the application form). While dates for



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Data Review for PARCC 2015 are to be determined, as well as dates for Item Review and other activities to develop PARCC 2016, the application form allows you to express your interest now.

In order to apply, please complete this [application form](#).

## **Sponsors and Sites Needed for the 2015 DC Free Summer Meals Program**

OSSE's Division of Wellness and Nutrition Services, which administers the U.S. Department of Agriculture Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), known locally as the DC Free Summer Meals Program (FSMP) is currently recruiting organizations to serve as sponsors and sites during the summer of 2015. An information session for all new organizations interested in participating in the FSMP, as well as organizations that did not participate during the summer of 2014 will be held on February 24. Information regarding eligibility and participation requirements, as well as program deadlines will be discussed during the session.

Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Time: 9 a.m.–11 a.m.

Location: 810 1<sup>st</sup> Street NE, 4th floor Conference Room 4002

Link: [dcsummermeals.com](http://dcsummermeals.com)

Contact: Elisabeth Sweeting (202)724-7628

## **It Takes a City: DC Does it Best! Call for Proposals**

Deadline for Proposals: March 27, 2015

OSSE is pleased to announce its final LEA Institute, [It Takes a City: DC Does it Best!](#), to be held May 1-2, 2015, in DC. OSSE is currently accepting proposals from researchers and practitioners that reflect high quality, innovative best practices.

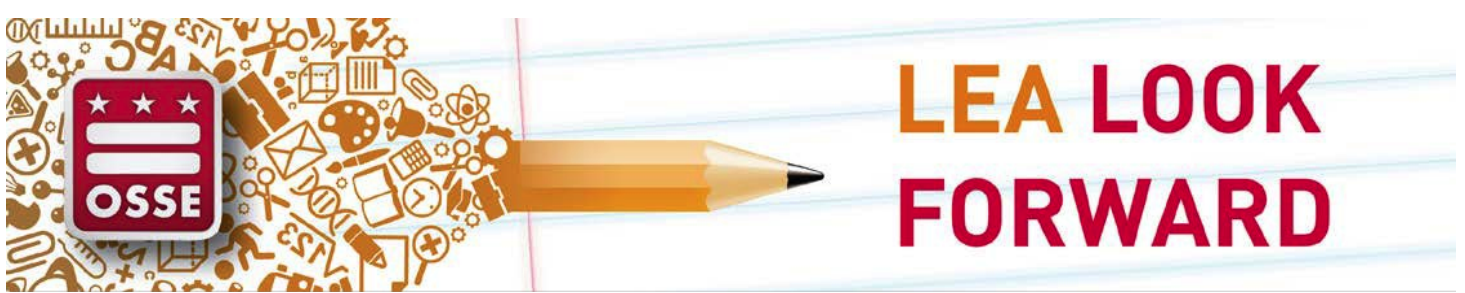
Proposals should focus on one or more of the following strand areas of research and practice: a) Early Childhood; b) Special Populations (i.e., instruction, positive behavior supports, related service delivery, secondary transition, ELL); c) Instruction and the Common Core; d) STEM and the Next Generation Science Standards; e) Positive Behavior Supports; f) Parent/Family and Engagement; and g) Educator Effectiveness.

The criteria for the proposals will be evaluated according to the following standards:

- Rationale for Presentation
- Participant Outcomes
- Relevance to Learners, Families, and/or Educators of Diverse Backgrounds
- Evidence of Effectiveness

To be considered, completed proposals must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. .EST, Friday, March 20, 2015.

Presenters will be notified of their selection no later than Friday, March 27, 2015. The State Institute Committee will review proposals. Sessions that include evidence- and/or research-based practices, emerging ideas, creative



trend research, and strategic solutions to current issues that have potential high-yield results will be given preference. Proposals should encourage active learning and audience engagement, leaving time for discussion and interaction.

Interested individuals may submit proposals using the link provided on the Institute's website: [DC Does it Best!](#)

For questions or difficulties in accessing the online form, please contact the OSSE Teaching and Learning staff at [osse.tta@dc.gov](mailto:osse.tta@dc.gov) or 202-724-7878.

### **PARCC Personal Needs Profile (PNP) Registration System for Special Populations**

This webinar is for any LEA staff who will be assisting in developing the PNP for students with disabilities. This could include LEA Test Coordinators, Special Education Coordinators, data managers, or other LEA personnel. This live webinar will:

- Compare PARCC Accessibility Features versus Accommodations
- Compare testing accommodations in SEDS for students with disabilities to PARCC Accommodations and Accessibility Features
- Clarify documentation requirements in SEDS and the PNP
- Provide guidance on completing the PARCC Personal Needs Profile (PNP)

Date: 2/19/15

Time: 10 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

[Register](#)

For questions, contact [osse.assessment@dc.gov](mailto:osse.assessment@dc.gov).

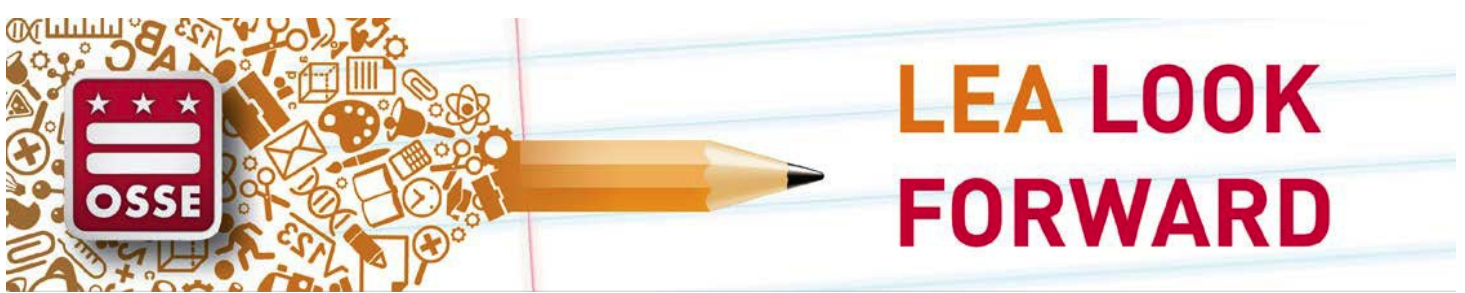
### **Register with First Book to Bring 40,000 Brand New Books to the District**

Having books to read in the classroom is just as important as children having books to read at home. OSSE's Division of Early Learning is teaming up with First Book to help distribute more than 40,000 brand-new FREE books in the District of Columbia to support educators and program leaders serving children in need.

All educators, paraprofessionals, and program leaders serving kids in need across DC are encouraged to sign-up with First Book today to participate in this free book distribution.

HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

1. [Sign up now online](#) with First Book. Signing up is free and takes only minutes to complete. Only individuals who register at the above link will have access to this distribution initiative.
2. Keep an eye on your email. First Book and OSSE will send out more information about where and when books will be distributed in the DC area during April's Week of the Young Child.



3. Help spread the word. If you know other teachers, program coordinators or community leaders serving kids in need in DC, please pass this letter on and encourage them to sign up as well.

Please note, all books received through this campaign are for the direct use of children across the district through educational programs, community outreach events, and programs targeting District families and youth. Books received are not for personal use or resale.

For questions, please contact [Brandee Reed](#).

### **DC PARCC Administration and Technology Webinars for the Week of February 22**

As a follow-up to Test Coordinator training, PARCC and OSSE will co-host two webinars the week of February 22 where participants will deep dive into preparation for computer based testing:

1. Demonstration of Pearson Access Next test session setup for test administration. Recommended for: School Test Coordinators
2. Technology configuration of school devices and proctor caching for PARCC. Recommended for: Technology Coordinators

Dates, times and registration information will be announced in next week's LEA Look Forward, and webinars will be recorded and posted to the OSSE website for future reference.

Date: Week of February 22 (specific dates to be announced soon)

Contact: [osse.assessment@dc.gov](mailto:osse.assessment@dc.gov)

### **Become a Literacy Mentor**

Mayor Muriel Bowser has called on the education workforce to join Deputy Mayor Jennie Niles and DCPS in their efforts to enhance the student experience, increase achievement, and prepare our young men of color for college and careers.

The District's Boys and Men of Color initiative, 500 for 500: Mentoring through Literacy, needs committed volunteers who can dedicate at least one hour a week to mentoring.

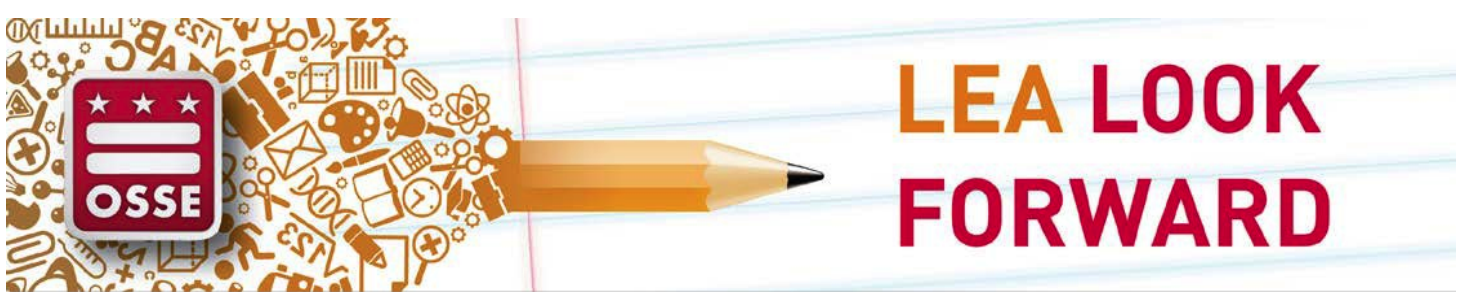
[Sign up and get more details.](#)

### **Calling all high school students: Selma Speech & Essay Contest**

Martin Luther King, Jr. used his words to change history. How will you use yours? To participate, go to [LibertyMuseumSelmaContest.org](http://LibertyMuseumSelmaContest.org). Grand prize: \$5,000. Contest timeline: December 25, 2014 – February 15, 2015.

Who Can Participate?





The National Liberty Museum’s Selma Speech & Essay Contest is open to US High School students ages 14–18 (as of the January 30 deadline), who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States and its territories. After viewing Paramount Pictures film SELMA, contestants will respond to the contest topic with an original 500-700 word essay and videotaped speech reading of their essay.

[View rules](#)

It all started with a speech:

At the age of 15, a young Martin Luther King, Jr. entered a high school public speaking competition with his submission called, “The Negro and the Constitution.” He was in his junior year, and he won the competition. On the bus ride home, young King and his three companions were told to give up their seats to a white couple who had just boarded the bus, and they stood for several hours on their way back to Atlanta.

It has been widely written that the high school speech Dr. King wrote inspired his “I Have a Dream” oration, since all of the concepts in his competition submission were encapsulated into the historic 1963 speech. There are striking parallels between the two writings. That is the power of words.

Selma Speech & Essay Contest Topic:

“The movie Selma tells the story of how Martin Luther King, Jr. and others peacefully protested to advance voting rights. What do you think needs to be done today to protect individual freedom and self-determination? What are you doing or will you do to peacefully advance those rights?”

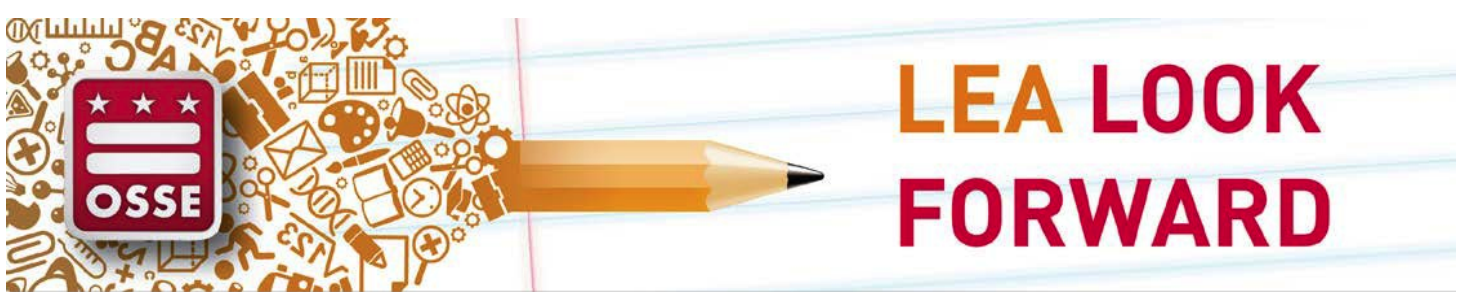
Contest Prizes:

- One grand prize: \$5,000
- First runner up: \$2,500
- Second runner up: \$1,000
- Seven honorable mentions: \$500 each
- \$300 cash prize for each teacher/mentor who sponsors a top 10 finalist

Contest Timeline:

- December 25, 2014, 12:01am EST: Official Opening of Selma Contest & limited release of Selma film
- January 9, 2015: Wide release in theaters of Selma film
- February 15, 2015, 11:59pm EST: DEADLINE for submissions
- March 2015: Winners notified
- April 20-22, 2015: Award Ceremony held in Philadelphia, PA

*The Selma Speech & Essay Contest is made possible through a grant from the John Templeton Foundation and in-kind support of Paramount Pictures.*



## Professional Development

### New

#### **Student-led IEP Professional Learning Community Kickoff Meeting**

Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) have been found to serve as an excellent resource for new teachers and veteran educators alike. Wednesday, March 25th is the first of several monthly Student-Led IEP PLC meetings OSSE has planned for Spring 2015. Come network with your peers, share best practices around student involvement in the IEP process, and boost your learning around a variety of specific topics related to the shared goal of increasing students' self-determination, such as:

- Strategies for involving students with significant disabilities in their IEP meetings
- Strategies for engaging administrators in student-led IEP efforts
- Family engagement strategies
- Assistive technology demonstrations
- Cultural and linguistic diversity and student-led IEPs
- Creative approaches to embedding IEP preparation in day-to-day classroom lessons

Please contact Ms. Naté Dearden at 202-741-0267 for more information.

Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2015

Time: 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

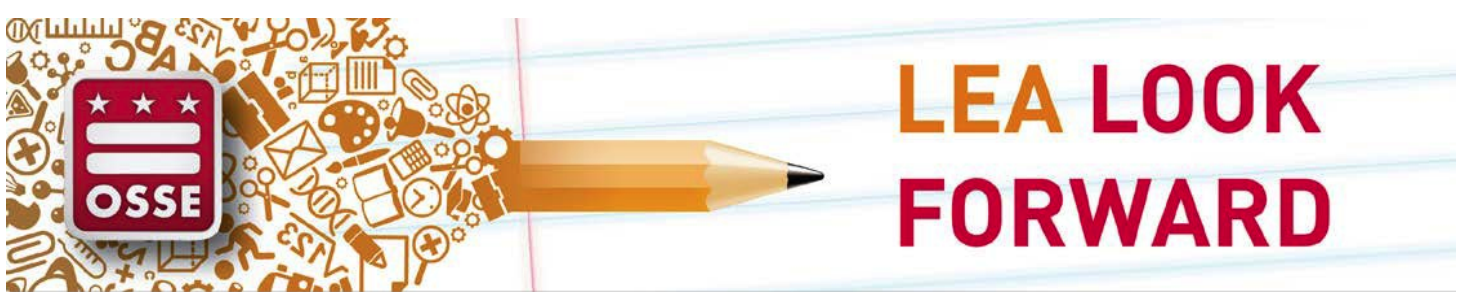
Location: OSSE, 810 First St, NE, Third Floor, Grand Hall Side A

[Register](#)

### Reminder

#### **PARCC/CCSS Mathematics Professional Development Series**

In an effort to support instructional best practices and provide robust training and technical assistance in mathematics throughout the District, OSSE is offering a series of standards-based mathematics professional development. This professional development opportunity is specifically aligned with the Common Core State Mathematics Standards (CCSS) and the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)



assessment. These professional development and training sessions will include interactive workshops, targeted support, and high-quality resources for teachers and administrators to increase student performance and achievement in the area of mathematics.

Presenter: Robyn Silbey

Date: Monday, March 2, 2015

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Location: Charles Sumner School Museum, 1201 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC

[Register](#)

### **PARCC/CCSS: Nuts & Bolts Training**

This session is designed to provide participants with a deeper dive into the PARCC assessment. Facilitators will explore instructional shifts, performance level descriptors, subject-matter model content frameworks, and functions of the PARCC assessment that are integral to administration.

Presenter: Charter School Essentials

Date: Tuesday, March 3, 2015

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Location: OSSE, 810 First Street NE Wash., DC 20002

[Register](#)

### **LEA Special Education Point of Contact Monthly Webinar**

OSSE hosts a monthly webinar for all LEA Special Education Points of Contact (LEA SE POC). The next broadcast will include:

- SEDS updates and alerts
- The release of new OSSE special education policies
- OSSE Support Tool updates
- Data quality, including enrollment, records transfers, compliance reports, etc.
- Training tips
- Resources and announcements

Presenter: OSSE Division of Elementary, Secondary, and Specialized Education

Date: March 18, 2015

