

July 3–10, 2014

Enrollment Audit

Reminder: Enrollment Audit Residency Verification Documentation and Guidance

OSSE has provided residency verification training to all Local Education Agencies (LEAs) for School Year 2014-2015. Please access the OSSE website for [training presentations, translated forms and resource materials](#).

For questions and concerns, please contact [Sean Flora](#).



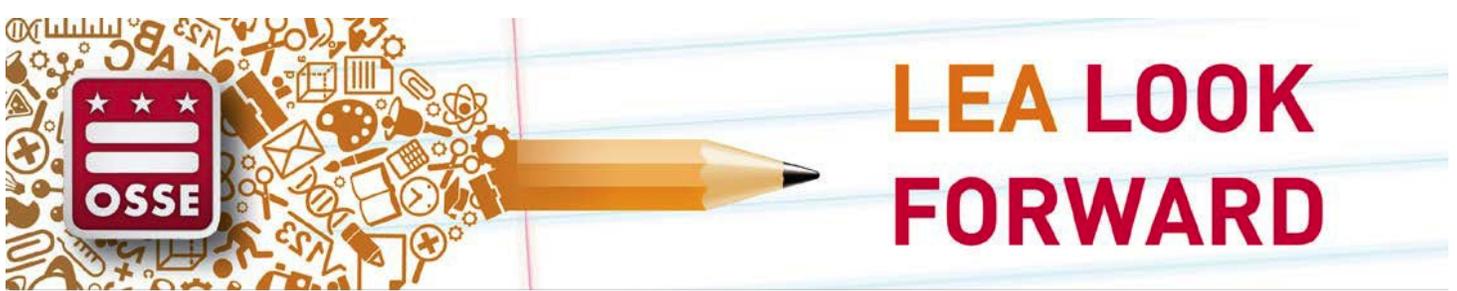
Division of Early Learning

Reminder: SY 2013-2014 Pre-K Statewide Classroom Assessments Scoring System (CLASS) Evaluation

Pursuant to the Pre-K Enhancement and Expansion Act of 2008 (D.C. Code 38-271.03; D.C. Law 17-202), OSSE in partnership with School Readiness Consulting conducted its annual evaluation of pre-kindergarten programs in community-based organizations and public charter schools during SY 2013-2014 using the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS). The purpose of the study was to assess classroom quality and evaluate early childhood programs through collecting and reporting quantitative and qualitative data to provide useful input for strengthening the early childhood education system. OSSE will disseminate program/school level reports this week. A final comprehensive report including the District of Columbia Public Schools will be available by September 2014.

To learn more about the CLASS tool and evaluation process, access and watch the [District of Columbia Early Childhood Program Quality Evaluation SY 2013-2014 webinar](#) now.

For questions and concerns, contact [Mahlet Getachew](#).



Division of Early Learning (Continued)

Reminder: Child Care Licensing Orientation for Centers and Homes Available Online

Are you interested in opening or setting up a licensed child development center or home facility?

Access and participate in the following online licensing webinars to learn how:

[Child Development Center Webinar](#)

[Home Based Child Care Facility Webinar](#)

For inquiries and questions regarding the webinar, contact [Brandee Reed](#) or call (202)741-5937.

Reminder: Professional Development Course Catalog

The [Spring FY 2014 Course Catalog](#) was developed to provide the early childhood education (ECE) and Out-of-School Time (OST) workforces with multiple opportunities for professional growth and development; opportunities for meeting the yearly continuing education requirements; and opportunities to participate in a District-wide professional learning community. Please see the [Spring FY 2014 Professional Development Course Catalog](#) to check out various learning opportunities.

For questions, please contact [Dana Caffee-Glenn](#), professional development coordinator in the Early Learning Professional Development Unit.

Reminder: Child Care Emergency Preparedness Online Workshop

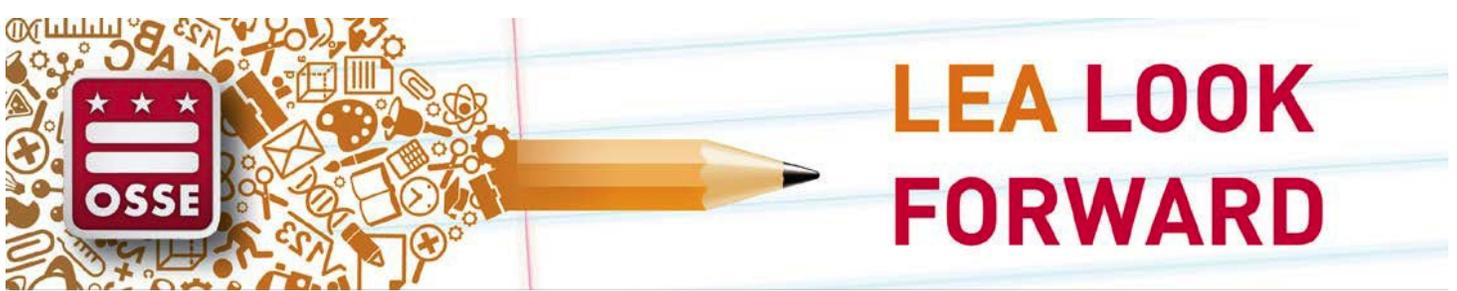
Improve your skills and take your practice to the next level by ensuring that all the children in your care will be protected during emergencies. Please access the online workshop through the U.S. Center for Child Development and Resiliency to complete the [Save the Children's Child Care Emergency Preparedness Training](#).



Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

New: OSSE Statewide Educator Talent Pool

OSSE is forming a Statewide Educator Talent Pool to act as a resource for educator recognition opportunities. While the Talent Pool is not an award itself, it is designed to support a collection of information about outstanding educators in DC.



Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (Continued)

This year, DC Public Library is teaming up with The Washington Nationals. All kids and teens who reach their summer reading goal will **win two tickets** to a Nationals baseball game. Kids, teens and adults also can win a coupon for free Chipotle.

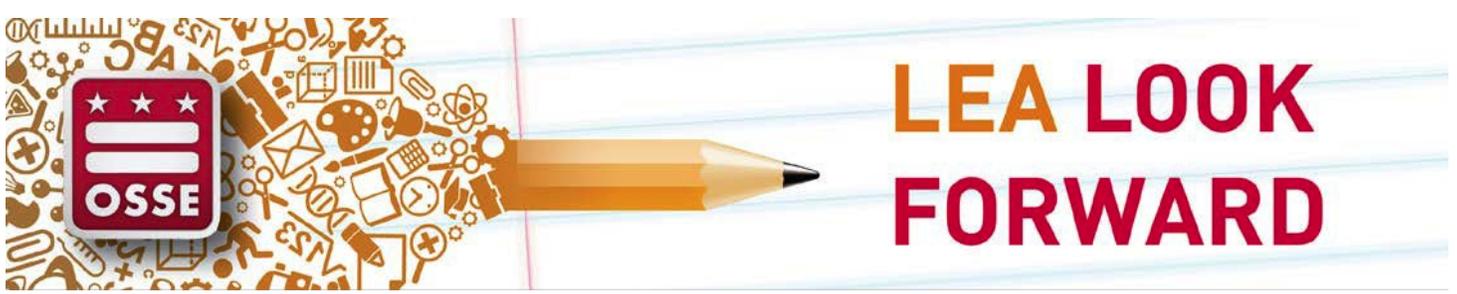
Sign-up began June 1. Kids can sign up at any library. [Teens](#) and [adults](#) can sign up online. The Library has tons of great [Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math \(S.T.E.A.M\) related events and activities](#) planned for all ages. Encourage your students to sign up!

For questions, please contact [Carmen Boston](#).

Reminder: Fellowship for Urban Education Leaders (FUEL) Program

OSSE is seeking applications for it's [Fellowship for Urban Education Leaders \(FUEL\) program](#).

FUEL is a program designed to provide exemplary educators the opportunity to shape State activities and policies around English Language Learners, immigrant students, and their families in DC.



Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (Continued)

The five-week program, July 1–31, 2014, places outstanding educators in the OSSE [ESEA Title III, Part A \(Title IIIA\) Program](#). Title IIIA is also known as the English Language Acquisition, Language Enhancement, and Academic Achievement Act of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act.

Fellows who successfully completed the program will receive a \$2,000 stipend. Download the [Application Form](#) and apply today.

For more information, email OSSE.Title3@dc.gov for questions using “FUEL Application” as the subject line.

Reminder: Next Generation Science Standards Implementation Overview for LEA’s and School Leaders Webinar

The [Next Generation Science Standards \(NGSS\)](#) were adopted by the District of Columbia State Board of Education in December 2013. Together with the Common Core State Standards in Mathematics and English Language Arts, the NGSS holds the promise of transforming STEM education and preparing all DC students to succeed in education, work, and their daily lives. Please join OSSE staff for an overview of the Next Generation Science Standards and implementation efforts.

During the session we will deliver an overview of the standards and share resources and opportunities that will help support the transition to these new science standards.

Click to register for one of the two remaining sessions:

- [Monday, July 28, 2014, 1pm–2:30pm](#)
- [Thursday, August 7, 2014 1pm–2:30pm](#)

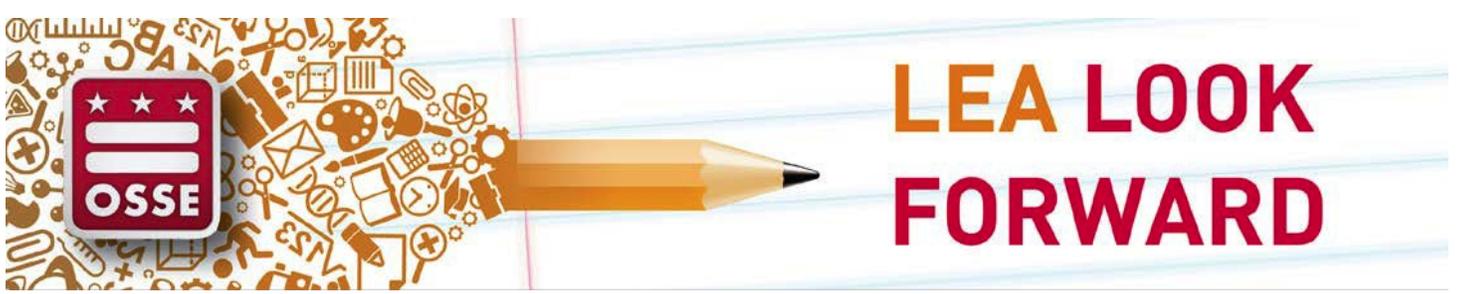
For more information, please email [Maya Garcia](#).

Reminder: School of Rock 2014: Dive Deep Application Deadline Extended

Free Summer Experience for DC High School Teachers: Travel to University of Delaware in Lewes for this amazing interdisciplinary experience. Work in high tech labs with microbiologists who are investigating the ecosystems and microbial diversity below the seafloor and geologists who search for clues to Earth’s evolutionary history through the study of microfossils. Develop NGSS-aligned lessons and materials for your classroom in SY 2014-2015. Participating teachers will receive PLU’s towards recertification.

Access more information at [Dive Deep Immersive NGSS Summer Experience for HS Science Teachers](#).

For more information, please email [Maya Garcia](#).



Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (Continued)

Reminder: Moving Toward NGSS: Connecting Science to Common Core With Picture-Perfect Science Lessons (ES Teachers)

This short course will provide practical insights into connecting science and literacy standards in elementary classrooms.

NSTA is providing a series of online short courses to help educators prepare for the implementation of the standards. Each of these courses involves a series of three web seminars along with asynchronous activities on topics that are essential for successful teaching and learning.

Learn more at [National Science Teachers Association, NGSS Online Short Course](#).

For more information, please email [Maya Garcia](#).



Division of Post-Secondary and Career Education

Reminder: Request for Applications for the Career and Technology Education (CTE) Certification Fund

OSSE's Adult and Career Education Division invites the submission of applications for the CTE Certification Fund. The purpose of this grant is to support eligible LEAs and the University of the District of Columbia Community College (UDC-CC) with full or subsidized payments of certification exams within priority career sectors in DC as identified in the CTE Strategic Plan. Please access the strategic plan and certification fund RFA below:

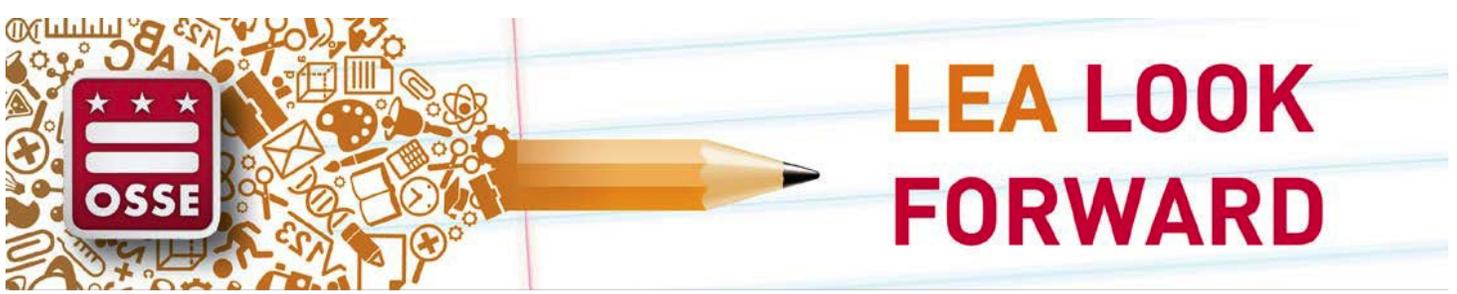
[CTE Strategic Plan](#)

[CTE Certification Fund RFA](#)

Reminder: FSA Tool Publishes FAFSA Completion Numbers for the High School Graduating Class of 2014

The U.S. Department of Education is now providing high schools with current data about their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) submissions and completions so that high schools can track their progress and help ensure that their students complete the FAFSA.

[Access information about the FAFSA completion tool and view high school completion rates.](#)



Division of Post-Secondary and Career Education (Continued)

New: DC Tuition Assistance Grant (DC TAG) Application Season Closed

The DC Tuition Assistance Grant (DC TAG) application season for SY 2014-2015 is now over. The office will not be accepting or receiving any supporting documentation. The 2015-2016 DC TAG application season will reopen in February 2015.



Division of Specialized Education

New: Getting Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Started - Professional Development

Participants will learn about the essential features of School-wide Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) and receive guidance on effective practices needed for successful implementation. Schools are encouraged to come in teams (i.e. administrator, dean, social worker, teachers, PBIS coordinator) in order to begin planning for the upcoming school year. Teams will also have an opportunity to review their current universal practices, analyze their current data, and develop an action plan that outlines next steps, roles, and responsibilities.

Presenter(s): OSSE

Date(s): August 1, 2014

Time: 8:30am to 3:30pm

Registration: [Getting Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports Started](#)

Reminder: 2014 Special Education Data System Fall Release

The OSSE Division of Specialized Education (DSE) is pleased to announce the 2014 Fall SEDS Release training. The training is designed to give trainers detailed information about the changes and updates made in the system. The training will also provide suggested methods for conducting a school-based training and resources to assist trainers with conducting their own training.

All special education LEA points of contact (formerly referred to as LEA Data Administrators, or LDAs) and nonpublic points of contact who are trained as SEDS trainers are encouraged to attend. Upon completion of this training, trainers are expected to train all relevant staff on the features that directly impact their users.

Below are a few of the areas that will be covered during the training:



LEA LOOK FORWARD

Division of Specialized Education (Continued)

- **ESY Page** – ESY transportation fields will align with the new transportation policy;
- **Discipline Tab** – Users will be able to access the manifestation determination page for all students;
- **Parental Consent to Evaluate** – Page rules will change to require a signed consent form during the reevaluation process;
- **Procedural Safeguard** – Users will be able to create a cover sheet specifically for this document; and
- **Speech-only IEPs** – Enhanced language and page rules will inform users that speech is considered specialized instruction for a speech-only IEP.

Presenter: OSSE DSE TTA

Date(s): Wednesday, July 23, 2014

Time: 10am –12pm

Location: Webinar

[Register Here](#)

Contact: OSSE.TTA@dc.gov

Additional trainings will be offered in August and September.

Reminder: New LEA Special Education Point of Contact Orientation

Each LEA is required to have an LEA Special Education Point of Contact who serves as OSSE's main point of contact for all things related to SEDS, special education data and records, SEDS training of staff, etc. All new LEA POCs are required to attend this full-day in-person training. The content of this course will include:

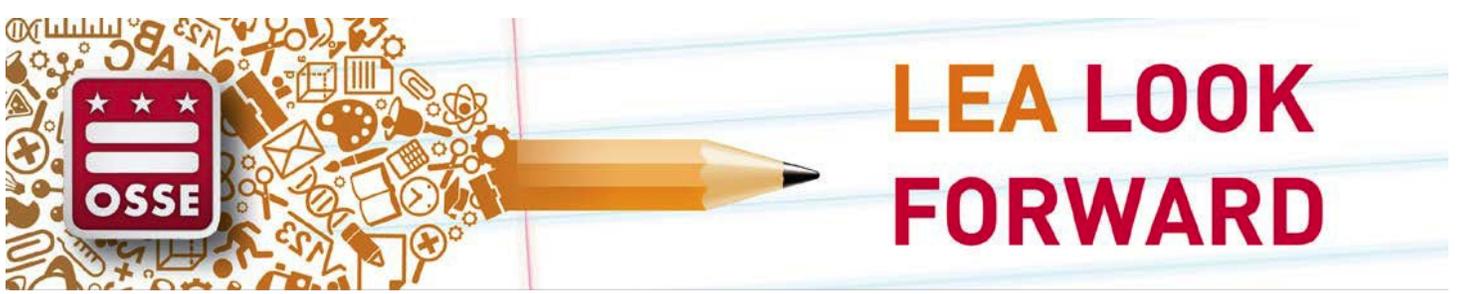
- LEA POC responsibilities at the LEA level, including management of all SEDS records
- The role of the LEA POC in overseeing students served by nonpublic programs
- Resources available to LEA POCs when troubleshooting SEDS issues
- Protocol for communicating with and receiving assistance from OSSE
- All relevant content shared with LEA POCs in the previous two school years

New LEAs are required to attend one session of this training. Three dates are available:

Date: **Friday, July 25, 2014**

Time: 9am – 4pm

[Register Here](#)



Division of Specialized Education (Continued)

Contact: OSSE.TTA@dc.gov

Date: **Friday, August 15, 2014**

Time: 9am–4pm

[Register Here](#)

Contact: OSSE.TTA@dc.gov

Date: **Thursday, September 11, 2014**

Time: 9am–4pm

[Register Here](#)

Contact: OSSE.TTA@dc.gov

Reminder: The 2014 Special Education Data Survey is Now Live

OSSE would like to extend an invitation to all staff with access to the Special Education Data System (SEDS) to complete our annual [SEDS user survey](#). LEA participation is encouraged and necessary in order for OSSE to make key decisions concerning improvements across multiple data systems. The goals for this year are to:

- Track general comfort levels with SEDS;
- Gauge the extent and nature of SEDS usage; and
- Understand the impact of other OSSE-led data initiatives.

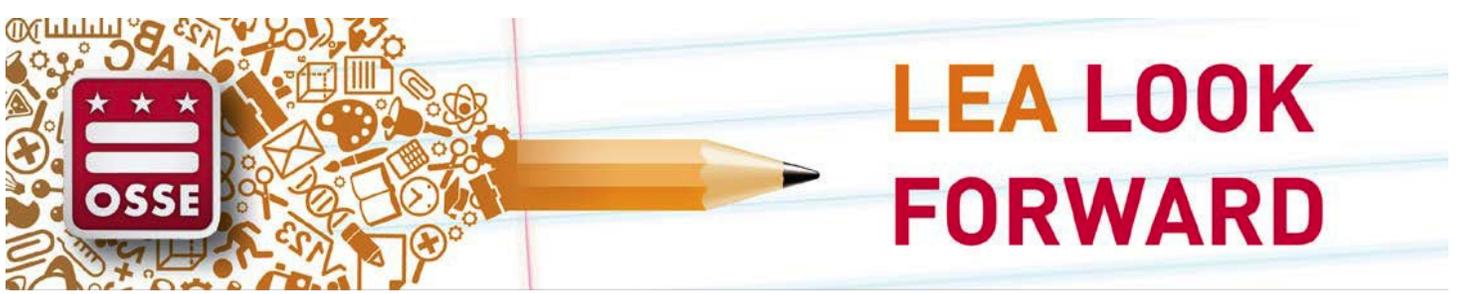
The survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete and responses will be used to shape the development of SEDS, SEDS trainings, and any other OSSE-led resources that will assist users.

All users are asked to participate including school leaders, data managers, special education coordinators, special education teachers, and related service providers.

The survey will remain open until 5pm on Friday, August 8, 2014. Results from the survey will be shared during one of the 2014-2015 webinar trainings. [Complete the survey now.](#)

Reminder: OSSE Releases 2014-2015 LEA Support Model Survey

Over the past several months, OSSE has been rethinking how we deliver technical assistance support to LEAs to assist them in meeting the needs of students. To that end, OSSE is seeking your input on a new “LEA Support Model.”



Division of Specialized Education (Continued)

The goals of the model are as follows: 1) allow OSSE to deliver high quality, useful technical assistance to LEAs; 2) reduce LEA burden through coordinated service delivery and improvement planning; and 3) foster cross agency collaboration and develop LEA learning communities to support best practice sharing.

Complete the [LEA Support Model survey](#) today.

For additional background information, view the [LEA Support Model proposal](#).

Reminder: Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Training

The Nonviolent Crisis Intervention training program, developed by Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI), is embraced worldwide as a highly effective behavior management system for organizations committed to providing quality care and services in a respectful, safe environment. The strategies taught in the Nonviolent Crisis Intervention training program provide participants with a proven framework for decision making and problem solving to prevent, de-escalate, and safely respond to disruptive or assaultive behavior.

This event will not go over physical restraint techniques. Please wear comfortable clothing, closed-toed shoes, and bring a water bottle.

Presenter: OSSE

Date(s): Monday, July 30, 2014

Time: 8:30am–3:30pm

Location: 810 First Street, NE, 3rd Floor Grand Hall

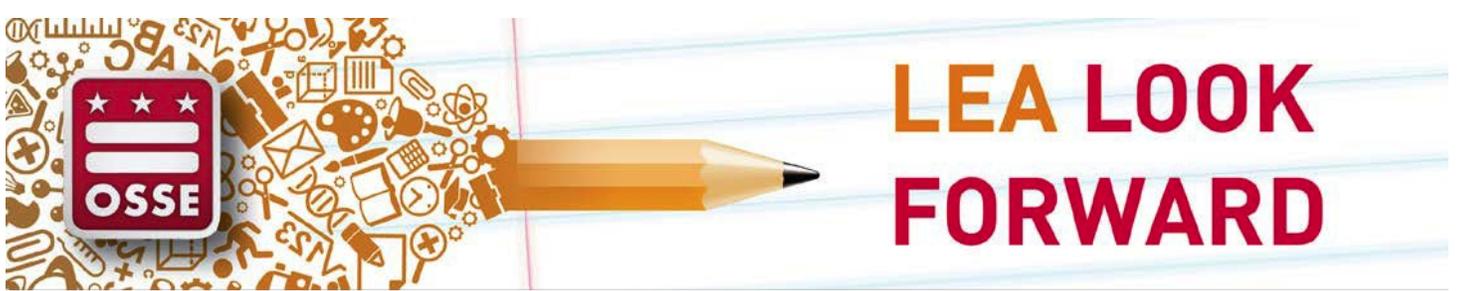
[Register](#)

Reminder: Reports Tab in Statewide Longitudinal Education Data System (SLED)

Four new student data reports are available to view in the SEDS Reports Tab:

- Active Students with SPED Exit Codes
- Students in SEDS not in STARS
- Students in SEDS not in Proactive
- Student-level Historical Enrollment

More information about these reports and details on how these new reports will benefit LEA Data Administrators is available in the [LDA SEDS Reports Tab User Guide](#).



Division of Specialized Education (Continued)

Users also can access the SEDS Reports Tab through the [SLED Main Page](#) by clicking the blue 'Reports' tab and the Red OSSE Reporting Logo.

For questions, please email [Allister Chang](#).



Division of Wellness and Nutrition

New: Physical Education and Physical Activity Curriculum Training

OSSE is providing a free physical education and physical activity curriculum training for school personnel in DC.

SPARK is a research-based, public health organization dedicated to creating, implementing, and evaluating programs that promote lifelong wellness. SPARK strives to improve the health of children, adolescents, and adults by disseminating evidence-based [Physical Education](#), [After School](#), [Early Childhood](#), and [Coordinated School Health](#) programs for teachers and recreation leaders serving Pre-K through 12th grade students.

For additional information please visit the [SPARK](#) website.

To sign up for this free physical education and physical activity curriculum training- SPARK, please [register](#) and indicate your preferred date of instruction by July 14, 2014.

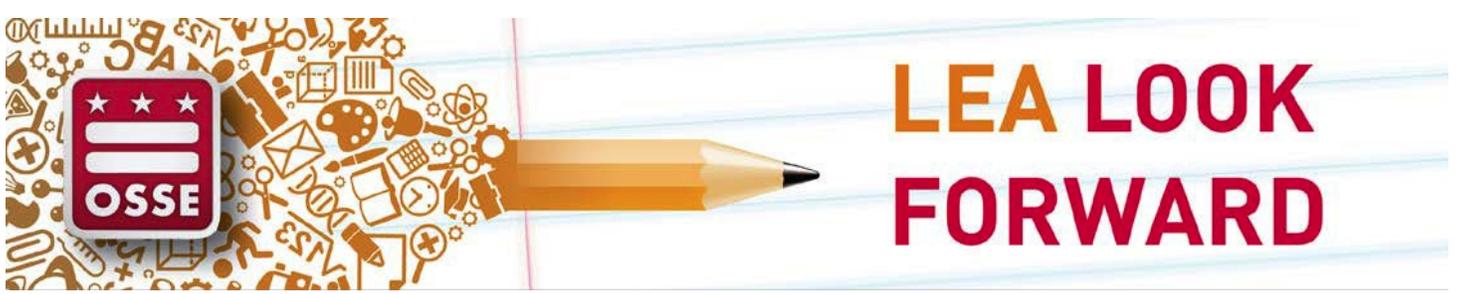
For questions and inquiries, please contact [Lance Miller](#).

Reminder: OSSE/AFHK Teacher Wellness Symposium, August 11–12

OSSE will partner with Action for Healthy Kids and other community-based organizations to host a **FREE** Teacher Wellness Symposium on August 11–12, 2014.

This two-day workshop will consist of sessions to assist all teachers in incorporating health and wellness into their classrooms, serving as health and wellness role models for their students, and addressing their own health and wellness needs. The Symposium is open to teachers in DC, Maryland, and Virginia.

[Register](#) and provide an email address where you can be reached over the summer and more information will be forwarded shortly. For more information, please email [Nancy Brenowitz Katz](#).



Division of Wellness and Nutrition Services (Continued)

Reminder: OSSE/UDC Farm Field Trip for Teachers this Summer

OSSE and the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) will provide two free farm field trips for teachers to the UDC Farm.

This is an excellent opportunity for teachers of all grades and all subjects to visit a functional farm, learn about where food comes from, and gain skills in integrating farm to school concepts into the school environment. Dates will be in late July and early August and will be announced soon.

[Sign-up to receive updates](#) over the summer about more specific details of the Farm and more information will be sent to you shortly. For more information, please email [Erica Steinhart](#).

Reminder: DC Free Summer Meals Program, June 23–August 22

As an educational provider, you are at the heart of making meals available to the children and teens in your community. When school is out, hunger is in. How many needy children are you willing to feed this summer?

Did you know that school districts around the country are serving meals to children and teens outside their school building, such as on their playgrounds or on a cool grassy area?

Providing free meals to hungry children 18 years of age and under during the summer months helps them be physically and mentally ready when school begins.

Teens especially face the same risks of food insecurity in the summer and as younger children and need your support, so make sure your teens are taking advantage of the free summer meals too! While offering good food in an appealing manner will attract children and teens, offering an activity or program that is fun will provide an opportunity to keep them engaged. Although activities are fun, you are not required to offer activities in order to feed the children. Generally, children and teens from the community simply go to an open site to get their meals.

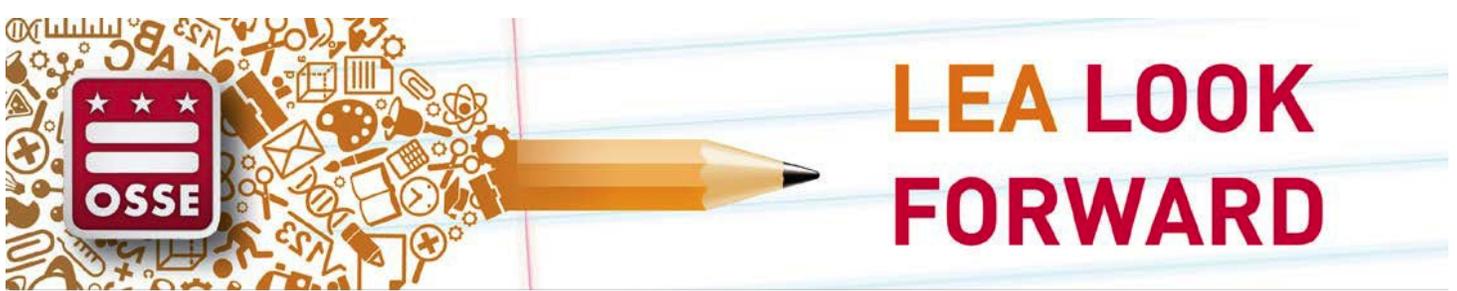
This means the summer meal program sites are “open” to the community, so parents or children are not required to give any personal information about their family status to site operators in order for children to receive a free meal.

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor or a site, or even to learn more about the [DC Free Summer Meals Program](#), it isn't too late. Please contact [Elisabeth Sweeting](#) at (202)724-7628, 8:30am–5pm, Monday – Friday.

Reminder: Serve on the DC CAS Health and Physical Education Advisory Board

OSSE is recruiting health and physical education teachers at all grade levels to advise on the future content, structure, and delivery of the DC CAS Health and Physical Education.

Division of Wellness and Nutrition Services (Continued)



This advisory board will meet approximately four times a year and will be expected to participate in the content and bias review sessions for new test items.

Please email [Grace Friedberger](mailto:Grace.Friedberger) to indicate your interest in joining the board.

Reminder: DC Anti-Bullying Safe Schools Initiative for School-based Staff

OSSE invites you and your school staff to participate in a professional development opportunity on the creation and/or affirmation of safe school environments.

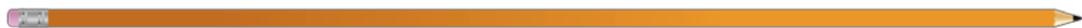
Co-sponsored by OSSE and the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), the goal of the 1.5 day PD session is to provide participants with the knowledge, skills and resources to create safe and affirming school environments for all students, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity and expression. Sessions will be led by certified facilitators from OSSE, DC Public Schools (DCPS) and local government and community based organizations at no cost to participants.

The training course runs over two days, and both days are required to complete sessions.

Day one is 8 hours and day two is 4.5 hours.

[Indicate your interest to participate in the training.](#)

For questions and inquiries please email [Julie Ost](mailto:Julie.Ost) and mention the DC Anti-Bullying Safe Schools Initiative.



Office of Data Management and Assessment

New: Next Generation Assessment Meeting: Follow-up Survey

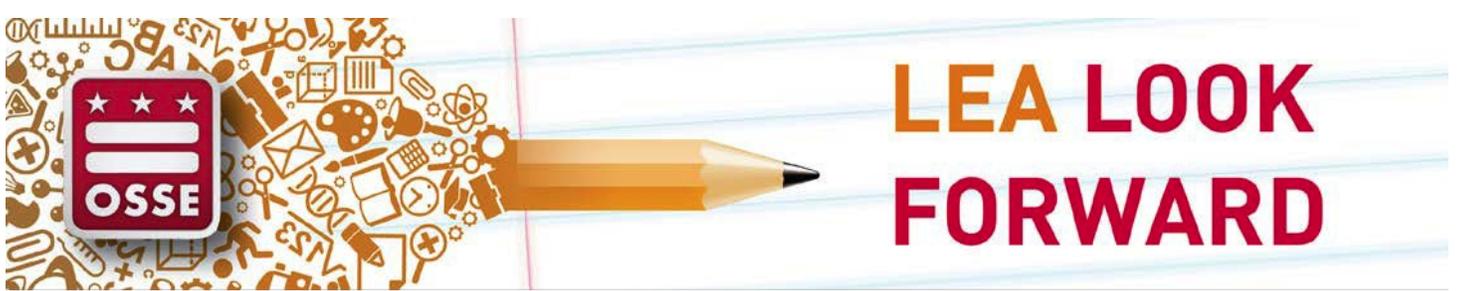
Our thanks goes out to all those who attended the inaugural OSSE Next Generation Assessment stakeholders meeting. Whether or not you were able to participate at the meeting, on Thursday June 26, OSSE invites you to participate in working groups moving forward, or maybe suggest times and topics for meetings in the future.

We ask that you please fill out this [brief survey](#).

The Next Generation Assessments includes computer-based and paper-based assessments in reading, composition, math, science, health, English language proficiency and our alternative assessment.

For questions and inquiries please email [Bonnie O'Keefe](mailto:Bonnie.O'Keefe) .

Office of Data Management and Assessment (Continued)



Update: Common Core Summer Institute for DC Special Education Teachers (Date Change)

OSSE is excited to offer a one-day Common Core State Standards (CCSS) Summer Institute to DC Special Education teachers. The goal is to provide public school and public charter school teachers with an opportunity to build educator capacity as we transition to the National Center State Collaborative (NCSC) Alternate Assessment that is aligned to the Common Core State Standards. Participating educators will also explore UDL strategies when teaching the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) to engage students with significant cognitive disabilities and boost their academic achievement.

Training Schedule:

August 4, 2014: High School Educators

August 5, 2014: 3rd–5th Grade Educators

August 6, 2014: 6th–8th Grade Educators

[Register for the Summer Institute for Special Education Teachers.](#)

For questions, please contact [Michelle Tuggle](#).

Reminder: FTP Passwords changed—Thursday, July 3, 2014

The FTP passwords were changed on Thursday, July 3, 2014. All non-2014 DC CAS files have been removed from folders.

If you have any questions regarding OSSE's FTP site, please contact [Imani Stutely](#).

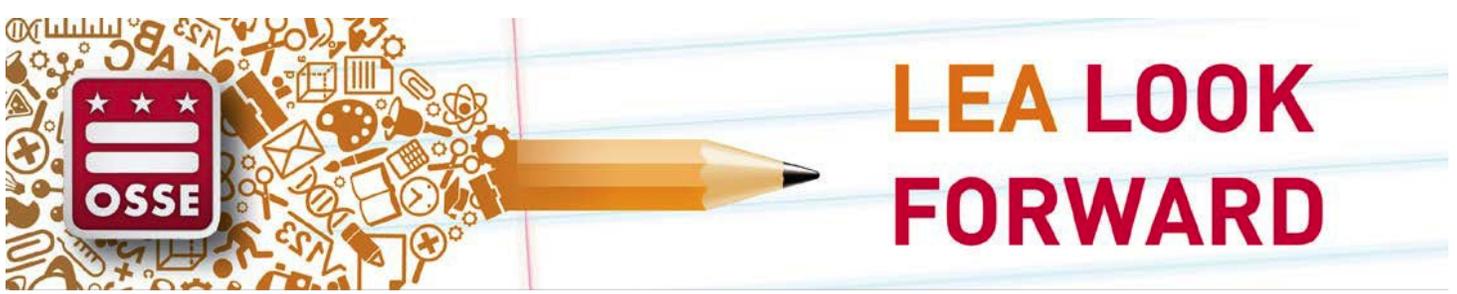
Reminder: Planning for Automated Data Transfer (ADT) Maintenance

There are three types of maintenance of the ADT System:

- System Maintenance
- Major Release Maintenance
- Patch/Emergency Release Maintenance

Information regarding ADT's maintenance window is provided for planning purposes on OSSE's website.

[Access Planning Automated Data Transfer ADT Maintenance.](#)



Office of Data Management and Assessment (Continued)

Reminder: QuickBase Application to Replace McKinney-Vento Student Referral Forms

OSSE will replace the manual collection of Student Referral Forms for McKinney-Vento programs with an online data collection tool in QuickBase.

Training will be offered via webinars, onsite at OSSE, and by telephone as requested.

Webinar dates: August 12, 2014, August 19, 2014 and September 9, 2014

Webinar times: 10am–11am

Registration:

[Register here for the August 12, 2014 training](#)

[Register here for the August 19, 2014 training](#)

[Register here for the September 9 training](#)

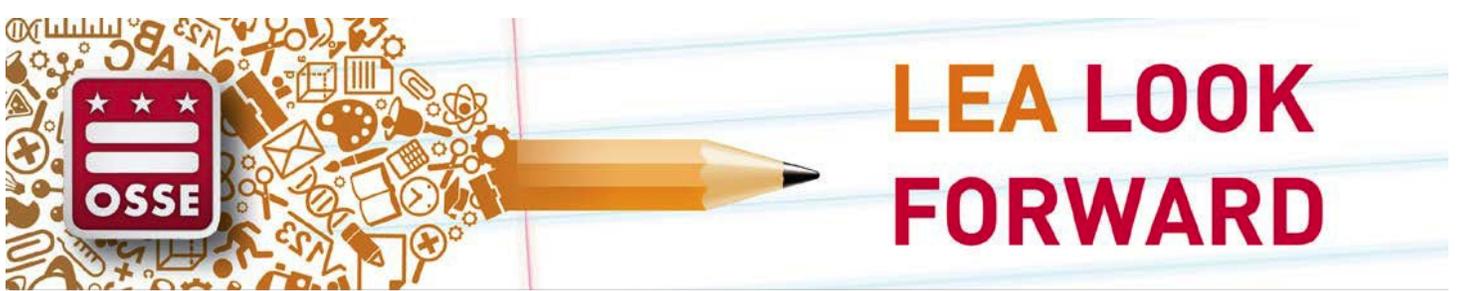
On-site training will be offered at OSSE on September 10 from 10am–12pm. An Eventbrite invitation will be sent separately.

For more information, questions and inquiries, LEA Homeless Liaisons or Data Managers can please email [Doreen Christian](#) or call (202)727-8320.

Update: Entry codes, Exit codes, and Enrollment Training Dates for SY 2014-2015

Based on stakeholder feedback, OSSE has updated its entry and exit codes for SY 2014-2015. OSSE will host trainings on updated entry codes, exit codes, and guidance for enrolling students in alignment with the [DCMR's six stages of enrollment](#), which were last updated on January 10, 2014. All LEAs must record these stages of enrollment for all students in SY 2014-2015.

A combined training on both topics will be held via webinar on July 16, July 24, and July 29, 2014. All sessions will include time for a question and answer session.



Office of Grants Management and Compliance

Reminder: Enterprise Grants Management System (EGMS) Launches June 2

Starting June 2, OSSE automated the entire grant life-cycle process: from pre-application to closeout while consolidating the various databases managing grants into a single centralized system. This means higher-quality customer service through faster grant processing for all customers.

It also improves staff efficiency through automation, which allows educators at the state education agency (SEA) and LEA to know precisely how grant dollars are being spent and how priorities are staffed in real-time. This approach will provide immediate benefits to all LEAs.

For more information, please visit the [EGMS page](#), email osse.ogmctraining@dc.gov.



General Announcements

Reminder: FEMS offers Fire Safety Education Classroom Presentations for Students

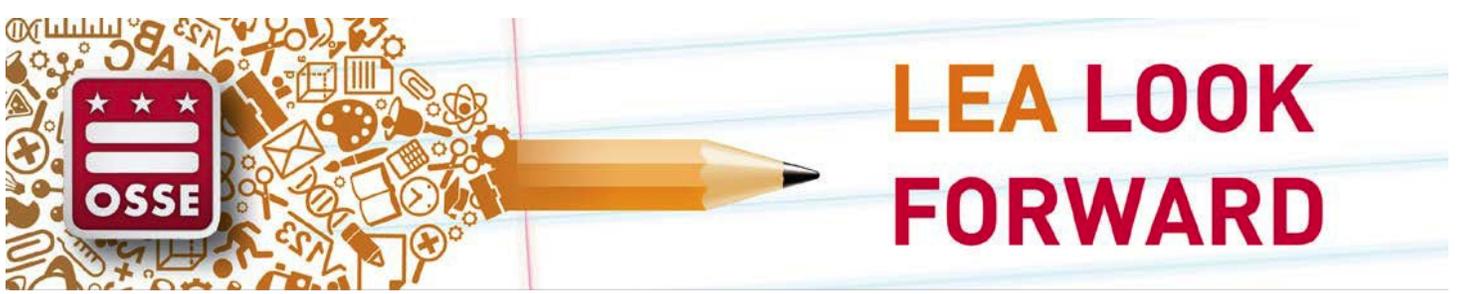
Fire and Emergency Medical Services Chief Kenneth Ellerbe strongly supports the philosophy that fire safety is an important topic that should be educated to all residents and visitors of DC including children.

Highlighted below are a few fire safety educational programs that the District of Columbia Fire & EMS Department (DCFEMS) offers each year that are designed to strengthen elementary and middle school age children's knowledge in the area of fire safety education.

These programs are fun and very interactive and can be presented in any classroom setting at the request of any DC Public or Public Charter school teacher or administrator.

Safety Smart about Fire

Safety Smart about Fire is a one-hour program presentation designed for grades K-3 offered by DCFEMS Public Educators to reinforce simple safety principles. Our educators gather the assistance of Disney's Timon and Pumba (via digital media) to reinforce the following learning factors:



General Announcements (Continued)

- Making a home fire escape plan and its importance
- Smoke alarms and their importance
- Understanding why smoke is poisonous
- The fundamentals of getting down, getting out, and staying out
- Don't play with matches or lighters

Safety Smart Science (Understanding Fire)

Safety Smart Science is a one-hour program presentation designed for grades 4-8 offered by DCFEMS Fire Educators to reinforce the science behind fire. Through a structured curriculum with activities, educators, with the assistance of Bill Nye the Science guy (via digital media), expand on the science concepts. The program provides opportunities for students to apply research, writing, analytical, and teamwork skills. To schedule a presentation for your students, please contact [Ms. Samone Hoston](#), fire education information specialist, FEMS Fire Prevention Division at (202)727-1614.



OSSE in the News

New: Mayor Gray and Superintendent Aguirre Announce FY 2014 Infant and Toddler Facilities Improvement Grant Recipients

Mayor Vincent C. Gray and State Superintendent of Education Jesús Aguirre announced Thursday, June 26, the Fiscal Year 2014 Infant and Toddler Facilities Improvement Grant recipients at the Spanish Education Development (SED) Center, one of 13 grant beneficiaries.

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) sought applications from high-quality infant and toddler providers in the District to address the unmet demand for high-quality infant and toddler childcare. Through this opportunity, and in support of Mayor Gray's citywide plan to provide a high-quality education to all, OSSE aims to increase infant and toddler capacity by, at minimum, 200 new slots for children ages six weeks to 36 months in targeted areas of the District.



OSSE in the News (Continued)

“In order to meet the needs of the District’s fast-growing student population, we need to ensure District families have access to high-quality infant and toddler childcare in addition to quality schools,” Mayor Gray said. ***“And, through these grants, I look forward to seeing the District both fulfill the unmet demand that exists in infant and toddler programs as well as expand quality early-learning programming for our children across the District.”***

Out of 36 applications, OSSE awarded 13 applicants funding to aid in the expansion of current high-quality childcare services and programs. The grants may be used for new facilities development and pre-development; facilities renovations, repairs, and move-in; and start-up expenses, such as early childhood classroom materials, equipment, professional developments costs, and additional eligible activities.

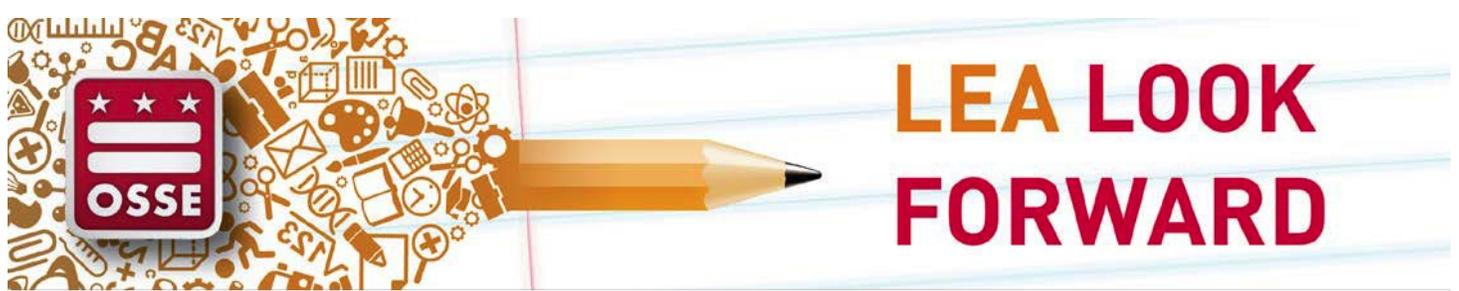
“We’re pleased to offer the Infant and Toddler Facilities Improvement Grant for the second year in a row and to support our early-learning providers with funding to increase the number of high-quality infant and toddler slots,” said State Superintendent Aguirre. “Thanks to the Mayor’s continued support and staunch advocacy, we received additional funding to expand from providing 80 slots last year to offering 200 new slots in the upcoming year. This will continue our effort to advance our goal of ensuring all District residents – from birth to college or careers – have access to a world-class educational system.”

“The District of Columbia continues to be the foremost leader in early-childhood education in the nation,” said Deputy Mayor for Education Abigail Smith. “This grant opportunity is part of our ongoing effort to ensure that our youngest children enter school ready to learn.”

The District currently serves 3,618 infants and toddlers in over 300 child development centers and homes that participate in the subsidized childcare program, and the grant serves to empower parents with quality educational childcare services by expanding the number of high-quality childcare programs across the city – and particularly in Wards 1, 4, 5, 7, and 8.

Applications meeting the aforementioned requirements in expanding in one of the targeted wards; having a “GOLD” tier designation in OSSE’s tiered reimbursement-rate system; and utilizing construction methods aligned to [Mayor Gray’s Sustainable DC Plan](#) received priority consideration as outlined by the Request for Proposals (RFP).

“Access to quality child care is a primary indicator of future success for children,” said SED Center Executive Director Martha Egas. “Thanks to the Infant and Toddler Facilities Improvement Grant award by Mayor Gray, State Superintendent Aguirre and OSSE, we can begin our plans to convert 2,200 square feet of existing space, thus enabling the SED Center to care for an additional 32 infants. This will decrease our infant waiting list by 18 percent and allow us to meet the continuing need of the community since SED’s Infant/Toddler program establishment in 2009.”



OSSE in the News (Continued)

“I am delighted to hear that SED is a recipient of this much-needed grant,” said Yasmina Castellanos, a SED Center parent and former SED Center student.

“As a parent, it pleases me to know that a fourth generation of mine will benefit from the center’s expansion. The program at SED gave my children unforgettable and rich experiences where they could learn their native language as well as English in an immersed class setting. Thanks to the SED Center, this beginning allowed my children to go on to bilingual schools as a result of the fundamental educational base that included language immersion, creativity, confidence, problem-solving skills and sensitivity to diversity provided by the program in our community. So, I’m excited and look forward to the seeds that the SED Center will plant in our little one and to see the fruit that will flourish in a few years.”

[The FY 2014 Infant and Toddler Facilities Improvement Grant recipients](#)

New: District of Columbia Offers Healthy Summer Meals for Kids

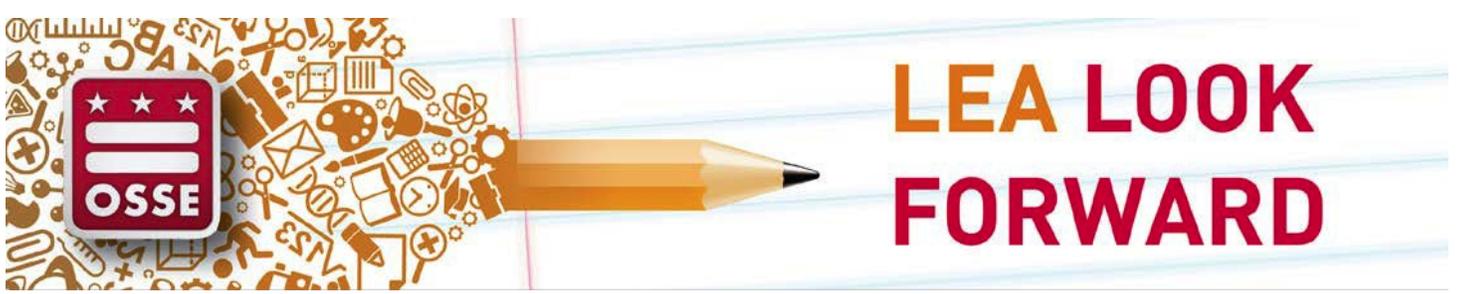
Starting June 23, 2014, children and teens can access free nutritious meals and snacks at more than 300 sites across DC through the [DC Free Summer Meals Program \(FSMP\)](#). The program is administered locally by OSSE. In an effort to combat the reduced access and availability of nutritional foods during the summer months when school is out, participating meal sites serve breakfast and lunch to all District children and teens up to 18 years of age. Youth are encouraged to drop in with a friend. No application or identification is required.

“Good nutrition is essential for effective learning every day, including summer vacations,” said State Superintendent of Education Jesús Aguirre. “As part of our commitment to supporting children year round, our free summer meals program provides nutritious meals so children can continue to learn and grow throughout the summer.”

The FSMP is a nationally recognized U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) child nutrition program created to ensure that children in low-income areas continue to receive wholesome and nutritious meals during the summer months when the [National School Lunch Program \(NSLP\)](#) and [School Breakfast Program](#) are not available.

The program offers a variety of hot and cold meals based upon USDA meal patterns and the DC Healthy Schools Act, which requires sites to serve a variety of fresh fruits, vegetables, and whole grains. To make the program accessible across the District, meal sites include DC Parks and Recreation centers, select DC Public Schools and DC Public Library locations, faith-based and community-based organizations, housing authorities as well as summer camps.

According to the USDA, more than 30 million children receive free or reduced-cost meals through the National School Lunch Program, but only 2.3 million of these kids continue to receive meals through the USDA’s Summer Food Service Program.



OSSE in the News (Continued)

OSSE served more than 1.2 million meals during the summer of 2013 and has consistently ranked first in the nation for serving the highest percentage of eligible children. The program begins June 23 and runs through August 22, 2014. To find a meal site near you, call 211, text FOOD to (202)6565-EAT or visit onecityyouth.dc.gov for an interactive map of sites, serving times and local summer programming.

Reminder: US Department of Education Upgrades District's Grantee Status

Last week Mayor Vincent C. Gray welcomed news that the US Department of Education (USDOE) had decided to remove the “high-risk grantee” designation from grants issued by USDOE to the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE). USDOE notified District education officials of the decision—which was made based on OSSE's demonstrated progress in implementing systemic reforms and addressing corrective actions—on Friday, June 20, 2014.

“This decision demonstrates the significant progress the District has made in our efforts to reform and improve our system of public education for all students,” said Mayor Gray. “I applaud our State Superintendent of Education, Jesús Aguirre, and the entire OSSE team for their dedication and commitment to transforming our educational system.”

During the past several years, OSSE has taken progressive steps to address longstanding financial, grants-management, and programmatic-compliance issues. According to the USDOE, OSSE has made a number of systemic improvements.

“This is an extremely important accomplishment for not only OSSE staff, but for the entire District of Columbia,” said State Superintendent Aguirre. “The decision signals that we are making improvements and that we are headed in the right direction. I appreciate our OSSE staff for always putting children first.”

USDOE concluded that OSSE's ongoing implementation of the corrective actions made to its financial, record-keeping, and internal control systems and procedures is sufficient to address the issues that led to the “high-risk grantee” designation.

In 2006, USDOE designated D.C. Public Schools (DCPS) a “high-risk” grantee based on systemic problems. The D.C. Public Education Reform Act of 2007 shifted authority from DCPS to the OSSE for the purpose of administering federal grants. Since that time, OSSE has worked to implement systemic reforms and resolve issues detailed in the High-Risk Corrective Action Plan (HRCAP).