



April 17 - 24, 2014

Enrollment Audit

Reminder: Enrollment Audit Residency Verification Documentation and Guidance

OSSE has provided residency verification training to all LEAs for SY2014-2015. Please access the OSSE website for [training presentations, translated forms and resource materials](#).

For questions and concerns, please contact [Mr. Sean Flora](#) or [Mr. Johnnie Meadors](#) for further clarification.



Division of Early Learning

Reminder: Professional Development Course Catalog

The [Spring FY 2014 Course Catalog](#) has been 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 access the Spring FY 2014 Professional Development Course Catalog to check out the learning opportunities.

Contact [Dana Caffee-Glenn](#), Professional Development Coordinator at the Early Learning Professional Development Unit, via email for additional questions.

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](#).

Reminder: The Pre-K Classroom Technical Assistance and Comprehensive Service Vendor Form

The Pre-Kindergarten Grantee contractor approval form has been renamed to the Pre-Kindergarten Classroom TA and Comprehensive Services Approval Form. As a reminder, vendors should be selected from the OSSE Approved Trainer list.

Please submit all Pre-Kindergarten Classroom TA and Comprehensive Services Vendor Approval Forms to [NyKisha Haley](#).



LEA LOOK FORWARD

Division of Early Learning (Continued)

Approval Form submission deadlines are as follows:

- Thursday, May 15, 2014

For a copy of the Pre-K Classroom TA and Comp, please contact [NyKisha Haley](#).



Division of Elementary & Secondary Education

New: Online Short Courses for Implementing the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)

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.

Access and learn more about, [National Science Teachers Association, NGSS Online Short Course](#)

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

New: 2014 DC Green Schools Summit

The U.S. Green Building Council – National Capital Region and Maryland Chapters are planning the second annual DC NoVA MD Green School Summit for **Saturday, April 26, 2014** from 9:00am to 5:00pm at Cardozo High School. The theme of this year's summit is *The Intersection of STEM and Sustainability*. This unique event will once again bring together building professionals and K-12 school personnel to share best practices related to sustainable schools. [Register here!](#)

New: 2014 Geothermal Student Competition

US Department Energy's Geothermal Technologies Program and Oak Ridge Institute for Science Education are pleased to announce the 2014 Geothermal Student Competition. The Geothermal Student Competition seeks students interested in building and showcasing scientific research, communication and leadership skills to promote geothermal energy as a player in the nation's renewable energy future. This year's event focuses on a non-technical barrier to geothermal development: public communications. Energy production can be a complex topic to explain to a broad public audience, and describing energy that comes from a subsurface environment—difficult to visualize for many—amplifies the challenge of explaining geothermal energy, how it works, and how it can benefit consumers.

The Challenge:

This year's Competition focuses on a non-technical barrier to geothermal development: public communications. Students are asked to develop a cutting-edge geothermal communications tool that integrates accurate, technical information with a graphical visualization infographic. Students will also create an outreach plan to disseminate the infographic to local middle and high schools.



LEA LOOK FORWARD

Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (Continued)

New: The Teacher Ranger Teacher Program

The Teacher Ranger Teacher (TRT) program is a professional development opportunity for selected teachers to spend the summer learning and working in our nation's largest classrooms – the national parks. Teachers are matched up with opportunities that will enhance their subject matter expertise in the classroom. National Park Service units, ranging from the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site to Channel Islands National Park, provide a chance for teachers to truly *experience* science, history, and the diversity of American stories.

As TRTs, teachers will work on a variety of projects and duties, such as preparing curriculum materials for parks and presenting interpretive programs for the general public. After their summer experience, TRTs bring their knowledge of park resources back to their classrooms and serve as a lifelong bridge between the National Park Service and their district, school, colleagues, and students.

The TRT experience requires 230 hours of effort (roughly 4-6 weeks), and takes place between the months of June and August, although exact dates are negotiable.

Each TRT will receive a \$3,000 stipend at the end of the summer, and can receive course credit through a graduate seminar offered by the University of Colorado Denver.

To apply to be a TRT in the Washington, D.C. office, please complete and submit the attached application by **April 30, 2014**.

[Teacher Ranger Teacher Program Application Packet](#)

For more information about TRT opportunities in other National Park Service units around the country, please send an email to theodore@nps.gov with subject headline "TRT Program."

New: Annual Medical Education Conference for High School Students

Saturday, April 19, 2014, [Tour for Diversity in Medicine](#) and [Student National Medical Association](#), are co-hosting the annual medical education conference at the Washington Hilton. The conference is for minority high school students interested in medicine. [Learn more](#) about the event and waiver information on the OSSE website.

[Registration link for students](#)

For more information please contact by email [Maya Garcia](#)

Reminder: Carnegie Academy for Science Education Announces sciLIFE-DC

sciLIFE-DC is an outreach partnership of the Carnegie Institution for Science and many metro area colleagues, institutions, agencies and businesses, with support from the Association of American Medical Colleges and the National Institutes of Health. We are delighted to co-host this event with the Department of Forensic Sciences at George Washington University!

D.C. middle school teachers, parents and guardians, Carnegie Academy for Science Education invites you to bring all middle school students to sciLIFE-DC.



LEA LOOK FORWARD

Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (Continued)

sciLIFE-DC is an event exclusively geared towards middle school students in Washington D.C. who are residents of the District of Columbia and attending public schools (or home-schooled)

sciLIFE-DC is an "ALL-DAY" Program that will provide middle school students with the opportunity to "jump start" their future by meeting with professionals in and advanced students (college/graduate/pre-professionals) still developing their career paths in the Bio-Medical and STEM related career fields.

Save the Date! The event is free, come to lunch and jump start your future.

Date: Thursday, May 22, 2014

Time: 10:00am – 2:00pm

Location: George Washington University, Mount Vernon College Campus

Lunch, Snacks and Goodies provided and guided tours for teachers.

For information and updates contact [Dr. Toby Horn](#) by email with subject line – "sciLIFE-DC" or visit [Carnegie Academy for Science Education website](#).

Registration is required so [register today!](#)

[Permission form signed by parent/guardian for students under age 18 can be downloaded.](#)

Reminder: Girls Love STEM Conference

The National Society of Black Engineers, Washington D.C. Professionals Chapter (NSBE DC) is hosting its first Girls Love STEM Conference on May 3, 2014 at Trinity Washington University for 6-12th grade girls!!! The main goal of this conference is to spark and keep girls interested in STEM and to motivate girls to pursue STEM careers. Through the conference, NSBE DC hopes to improve girls' attitudes about STEM and encourage successful outcomes such as completion of mathematics and science courses, reduce dropout rates, improve reading and mathematics test scores, and increase college attendance.

Workshops include:

- Circuit Workshop Presented by IBM
- How Computers Work Presented by IT Computer Wiz Kids
- 3-D Printing Workshop Presented by BestBuy Geek Squad
- Digital Photography Presented by BestBuy Geek Squad
- The Creative Side of Tech Presented by DC Web Women
- Liquid Nitrogen Ice Cream Demo by BestBuy Geek Squad
- Adventures In Flight Presented by NSBE DC



LEA LOOK FORWARD

Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (Continued)

Event Details

Who: Female students in 6th through 12th grades

Location: Trinity Washington University, 125 Michigan Ave NE, Washington

Time/When: Saturday, May, 2014, 8:30am to 4:00pm

[Register Here!](#)

For more information about the Conference or questions contact the National Society of Black Engineers, Washington D.C. Professionals Chapter (NSBE DC) by email at girlslovestem@nsbedc.org

For more information please contact by email [Maya Garcia](#)

Reminder: Cutting to the Core Training

Teach Plus and teachers from across Washington, DC will be hosting a collaborative training in understanding the Common Core State Standards (CCSS).

Please **Save the Dates** and visit teachplus.org to RSVP

- Wednesday, April 23, 2014 (Final Notice)
- Wednesday, May 21, 2014



Division of Post-Secondary & Career Education

Reminder: Best Practices for College & Career Ready Middle Schoolers

The Early High School Program at Columbia Heights Education Campus (CHEC), now in its fifth year, works to provide middle school students and families with high school readiness. Participants will learn about examples of CHEC's existing best practices as well as local and national research on preparing middle school students for successful transition to ninth grade and beyond. This session is targeted at middle grades counselors and administrators.

Date: April 29, 2014

Time: 2:00pm-6:00pm

Location: OSSE, 810 1st Street, NE, Eighth Floor, Rm. 806

For question and inquiries please contact by email [Chloe Woodward-Magrane](#)



LEA LOOK FORWARD

Division of Post-Secondary and Career Education (Continued)

If your school is interested in increasing the number of students who participate in dual enrollment, or if you have any questions, please contact [Mike Andrews](#).



Division of Specialized Education

New: LEA Tiered Technical Support Model for Special Education Best Practice

Over the course of SY2012-2013, OSSE's Division of Specialized Education (DSE) undertook its second comprehensive data accuracy audit as required by the Consent Decree entered into under *Jones v. District of Columbia*, Civ. Act. No. 97-2402 (formerly consolidated with *Blackman v. District of Columbia*, Civ. Act. No. 97-1629 (PLF), now settled). The focus of this annual audit is to evaluate the accuracy of a representative sample of special education data from all LEAs whose data are maintained in OSSE's statewide data information systems, and to use the results to inform training and technical assistance efforts that will ensure systemic improvements.

DSE has completed an initial review of the results from this audit and has reviewed feedback received from last year's technical assistance efforts to refine its approach to meet LEA needs. Over the course of the next six months, DSE will continue to work with LEAs and other education stakeholders to design a technical assistance model that will best support improved outcomes.

The first phase of support includes a foundational webinar on Systems and Supports. The first broadcast of this webinar will be on **Monday, April 28, 2014 at 1:00pm—2:30pm**. Below please find the webinar description and registration link.

Systems and Supports Webinar:

This webinar, which is informed by trends in data quality, will provide participants with tools to help support them as they (a) develop a structure for effectively communicating with their teams, (b) establish guidelines for school-based training, and (c) develop and monitor systems that will ensure timeliness of IEPs, initial evaluations, and re-evaluations. Participants will learn how analysis of special education data quality can lead to enhanced student outcomes. Specific areas to be addressed include data quality for nonpublic placements, Extended School Year (ESY) services, transfer of student records, consent for initial provision of services, absenteeism, evaluation timelines, and related service provider management.

Participants will be introduced to a checklist that will help them assess where they are in terms of managing their special education programming. After this quick introduction, participants will be guided through a process, using questions from the checklist, that will help them develop or refine procedures to ensure timely IEPs, initial evaluations, and re-evaluations.

To register, please click [here](#). For questions, please email: osse.tta@dc.gov.



LEA LOOK FORWARD

Division of Specialized Education (Continued)

As part of the regulatory review process, the Division of Specialized Education (DSE) will be releasing surveys and holding topic-specific focus groups on key content area “clusters” to inform the work:

- Transfer of Educational Rights
- Child Find, Evaluation, & Eligibility Determination
- Specialized Instruction & Caseload/Class Size
- Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) & Discipline Procedural Safeguards
- Graduation Pathways, Secondary Transition, & IEP Certificate of Completion

A high-level overview of the initiative’s calendar of events and the OSSE content area review process can be found at: [DC Municipal Regulations \(DCMR\) Title 5-E, Chapter 30: Special Education Review Schedule](#)

The first content area, *Transfer of Educational Rights*, is being reviewed this month.

OSSE has developed a topic-specific survey that is open to all stakeholders. The deadline for submission of this topic survey is Monday, April 21, 2014. [View the Survey!](#)

In addition, an LEA focus group is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, April 23, 2014 from 3-4pm at 810 First Street NE, Room 806 B. Please RSVP by emailing: OSSE.DSEPolicy@dc.gov.

OSSE is collaborating with the State Advisory Panel (SAP) to coordinate parent/community focus groups for each content area. The parent/community focus group for this topic area will take place on April 30, 2014 from 6:00pm – 7:30pm at 810 First Street NE, Room 806 B. [Please RSVP](#) or email OSSE.DSEPolicy@dc.gov.

Focus group reminders will be posted on the [OSSE website](#) and in OSSE newsletters such as the LEA Look Forward.

For more information, please contact [Jamille Peters](#), Policy Analyst.

Reminder: Public Comment Period for COA Regulations and Policy Ends May 27

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), Division of Specialized Education (DSE), released for public comment the proposed regulations found at Subtitle A, Title 5, Chapter 28 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (5 DCMR §A-2800-2899) entitled “Certificates of Approval for Nonpublic Special Education Schools and Programs Serving Students with Disabilities Funded by the District of Columbia and Special Education Rates” and the proposed state policy “Individualized Education Program (IEP) Implementation for Transfer Students Policy.” [Please access the proposals here.](#)

The proposed regulations and policy were posted for a 60-day public comment period commencing March 28, 2014 and will close May 27, 2014. If you are interested in providing comments, please forward them to the attention of Dr. Amy Maisterra, Assistant Superintendent of Specialized Education, c/o Ms. Grace Chien, Director of Policy, at osse.publiccomment@dc.gov. All comments received by 5:00 p.m. on May 27, 2014 will be considered.



LEA LOOK FORWARD

Division of Specialized Education (Continued)

OSSE DSE will hold public hearings to discuss the proposed regulations and policy on April 29, 2014 from 1:30pm – 3:30pm, and May 6, 2014 from 5:30pm – 7:30pm. Individuals wishing to testify at the hearing should contact [Ms. Christie Weaver](#), Policy Analyst, by email or call on 202-481-3870.

Final Notice: Student-led IEP Initiative (SLIEP) - Information Session

Last school year, the Division of Specialized Education implemented a student-led IEP demonstration project with a select number of DC students. The purpose of the project was to promote meaningful student involvement, build self-determination skills, and increase family engagement throughout the Individualized Education Program (IEP) planning process.

In conjunction with the project, OSSE also produced several resources, including a five-module film series entitled *The Best Me I Can Be* and a corresponding *Student-led IEP Toolkit* that provides guidance and resources for educators, families, and students to use in implementing these practices. [Access resources here!](#)

To learn more about the background of the Student-led IEP initiative, accompanying resources, training/consultation opportunities, and plans for expansion, please join us for a webinar on Wednesday, April 23, 2014 from 1:00PM to 2:00PM.

Presenter(s): OSSE

Date(s): April 23, 2014

Time: 1:00pm to 2:00pm

[Registration](#)

Final Notice: Behavior Webinar Module II: Trauma Informed Behavior Support

Participants will develop a deeper understanding of the impact that trauma can have on student behavior and academic performance. By better understanding the role trauma can play in students' lives, educators can implement practices that create a safe and supportive environment that mitigate the impact of trauma and foster student success.

Presenter(s): OSSE

Date(s): April 22, 2014

Time: 10:00am to 11:30am

[Registration](#)

Final Notice: Youth Mental Health First Aid Training

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 an adolescent (age 12-18) who is experiencing a mental health or addictions challenge or is 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 to help young people in both crisis and non-crisis situations.



LEA LOOK FORWARD

Division of Specialized Education (Continued)

Topics covered include anxiety, depression, substance use, disorders in which psychosis may occur, disruptive behavior disorders (including AD/HD), and eating disorders.

Presenter(s): Department of Behavioral Health (DBH)

Date(s): April 25, 2014

Time: 8:30am to 4:30pm

Location: 810 First Street, NE, 806 B

[Registration](#)

Reminder: Nonviolent Crisis Intervention

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.

Date: Monday, April 28, 2014

Time: 8:30am to 3:30pm

Location: 810 First St. NE, 3rd Floor Grand Hall - Side B

[Registration](#)

Reminder: Special Education Data System (SEDS) – Reports Tab

A new SEDS reports tab was made available in the Statewide Longitudinal Education Data System (SLED) on March 17, 2014 to all LEA Data Administrators. The SEDS Reports tab is a set of reports that provide point in time information on actionable SEDS data. For questions, please submit a ticket in the [OSSE Support Tool](#).

Reminder: OSSE Posts FFY 2014 Draft State Grant Application under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for Public Comment

In order to receive a grant award under Part B of IDEA to support the provision of special education and related services to children with disabilities, each state must complete an annual grant application to the United States Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs.

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 same 60 day period. OSSE's FFY 2014 draft state application and spending plans for IDEA Part B were posted for 60 days on the OSSE website on March 11, 2014.



LEA LOOK FORWARD

Division of Specialized Education (Continued)

Members of the public will have the opportunity to make comments on the applications from March 11, 2014, - May 11, 2014. Individuals who wish to do so should direct their comments to Dr. Amy Maisterra, Assistant Superintendent of Special Education, Division of Special Education, by email at osse.publiccomment@dc.gov.

Should you have questions regarding these applications or the public comment period, please direct them by email to the attention of [Ms. Desirée Brown](mailto:Ms.Desiree.Brown@dc.gov) or call on (202) 741-0271.

Please Note: The 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 FFY2014 allocations are not yet available, the numbers posted to meet the 60-day public participation requirement are "draft" and the State will post its 2014 spreadsheet as soon as it becomes available.

Reminder: Specialized Education Policy in Practice Webinar Series

OSSE is pleased to announce the release of its new Policy in Practice Webinar Series. This training series is a new technical assistance initiative that will serve as a valuable resource for local and state level educators and administrators in understanding and implementing state special education policies.

The webinar training series covers a wide variety of special education topics, and consists of one webinar training for each of DSE's special education policies. During each webinar, participants will learn:

- The basic tenets of each special education policy
- The laws and regulations underlying each policy
- Best practices in implementing the policies, including case studies
- Documentation of policies and procedures in the Special Education Data System (SEDS)
- Where to find additional resources

Each webinar is pre-recorded and is available for download in Windows Media file format (for information about PC and Mac technical requirements needed to view the recording click [here](#)). Webinars vary in length from 20 to 75 minutes, depending on the length of the policy. To access a webinar, simply click the hyperlink below. Additional DSE policy webinars will be added to this list as they are completed.



LEA LOOK FORWARD

Division of Specialized Education (Continued)

For questions about this policy webinar project, please contact the DSE Training & Technical Assistance Unit: osse.tta@dc.gov.

Individualized Education Program (IEP) Process Policy
Individualized Education Program (IEP) Amendment Policy
Part B Initial Evaluation/Reevaluation Policy
Comprehensive Child Find Policy
Special Education Transportation Services Policy
Related Services Policy
Extended School Year (ESY) Services Policy
Secondary Transition Policy
Confidentiality of Student Information Policy
Guidance Related to Prohibition on Discrimination Against Children with Disabilities in the Charter School Application During the Enrollment Process & Prohibition on Medication Guidance (2-part webinar)

Reminder: Division of Specialized Education Technical Assistance Request Form

In an effort to continue to provide high quality technical assistance to LEAs, DSE is happy to provide an online technical assistance request form.

Please access to submit a request for technical assistance at the link provided. Requests will receive a response within 2 business days.

Access the [DSE Technical Assistance Request Form](#).

Reminder: Special Education Data System (SEDS) Nonpublic Point of Contact (NP POC) Quarterly Webinar Series

DSE hosts a quarterly SEDS webinar support series for all Nonpublic SEDS Point of Contacts (NP POCs). Each webinar will address various SEDS-related topics, including:

- SEDS updates and alerts
- The release of new OSSE special education policies
- OSSE Support Tool updates
- Training tips
- Resources and announcements



LEA LOOK FORWARD

Division of Specialized Education (Continued)

- The [Confidentiality of Student Information Policy](#), in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), serves to protect the confidentiality of students with disabilities by establishing procedures for the collection, storage, disclosure, and destruction of personally identifiable information in educational records collected, used, or maintained under IDEA Part B.
- The [Individuals with Disabilities Education Act \(IDEA\) Part B Grant Eligibility and Administration Hearing Process Policy](#) establishes a hearing review process for grantees and subgrantees to request review of grant eligibility and administration activities, in accordance with the Education Department's General Administration Regulations (EDGAR).

Reminder: Special Education Quality Review (SEQR) Tool Webinars

The Special Education Quality Review (SEQR) Tool is a web-based self-assessment tool designed to assist schools, local education agencies (LEAs), and nonpublic schools in assessing the quality of school-level programming for students with disabilities. The tool uses selected quality indicators to assess present practices and guides users to identify and plan for school level improvements that are aligned with special education best practices. To learn more about the tool and how it can contribute to improved special education practices at your LEA, register to participate in one of the following introductory webinars.

Presenter(s): OSSE

Date: Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Time: 9:00am – 10:00am

[Registration](#)



Division of Wellness & Nutrition

New: 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. This advisory board will meet approximately 4 times a year and will be expected to participate in the content and bias review sessions for new test items.

Please contact [Grace Friedberger](#) by email to register your interest.

New: Health and Physical Education Curricula in Schools Focus Group

The Health Education Team within the Division of Wellness and Nutrition Services at the Office of the Office of the State Superintendent of Education are currently recruiting individuals who teach health and/or physical education in DC schools to participate in a focus group regarding OSSE's proposed Health and Physical Education Curricula Guidance Document. Participants who complete the focus group will be eligible to receive supplies and materials for their classroom.



LEA LOOK FORWARD

Division of Wellness & Nutrition Services (Continued)

Date: May 7, 2014

Time: 2:00pm - 4:30pm

Location: 810 First Street NE, 3rd Floor – Grand Hall Side B, Washington DC, 20002

Registration Deadline: Friday, April 25, 2014 (space is limited– registration is required)

[Register Here!](#)

For questions and inquiries please contact [Kafui Doe](#), Health education Manager.

Refreshments will be provided by the Children’s Medical Center’s Connect to Protect Program

New: Build Our Kids' Success (BOKS) K-8 New Trainer Training Physical Activity Program

OSSE is working with BOKS (Reebok sponsored physical activity program) in order to conduct a professional development opportunity that will allow instructors to think “outside of the box”; in an attempt to meet the 2014/15 school year physical education and physical activity minute requirements. BOKS is a curriculum designed to supplement (not replace) an LEA’s physical education program. With a variety of obstacle courses, relay races, and tag games, BOKS is a wonderful resource for any K-8 school to not only meet the minute requirement for next school year; but also, assist our learners in developing skills needed to focus during the school day.

Registration Deadline: May 9, 2014

[Register Here!](#)

Who Should Attend? Teachers, DC educators, school personnel, government employees, parents/guardians, professionals who work on health education and school health, community based organizations who work with schools within the District of Columbia, and early child care staff.

For questions and inquiries please contact [Lance Miller](#), Health and Physical Education Specialist.

New: DC Anti-Bullying Safe Schools Initiative for school-based staff

OSSE invites you and your school staff to participate in a professional development opportunity. 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 2 days, and both days are required to complete sessions. Day one is 8 hours and day two is 4.5 hours.

[Register here your interest to participate in the training!](#)

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



LEA LOOK FORWARD

Division of Wellness & Nutrition Services (Continued)

The lesson topics in this training are:

- Nutrition is Important to You!
- Tools for Guiding Food Choices
- Macronutrients: The Energy Nutrients
- Micronutrients: Vitamins and Minerals
- Special Diets
- Putting It All Together
- Nutrition Issues in the Media

[Register Today!](#)

Nutrition 101: A Taste of Food and Fitness is hosted by The National Food Service Management Institute of Oxford, Mississippi

Date: April 30, 2014

Time: 9:00am - 5:00pm

Venue: 810 First Street, NE, Fourth Floor, Room 4002

School Food Authorities & Vendors are invited to attend.

For more information, contact [Noni Robinson](#), Senior Program Specialist.

Reminder: D.C. Girls Softball Coaches Clinic

On Saturday, June 14, DCSAA will be holding a free Coaches Clinic led by **Tommy Orndorff**, Head Coach of Varsity Softball at Bishop O'Connell High School.

Coach Orndorff brings over 30 years of Softball Coaching Experience at the High School and Club Levels. Highlights include:

- During Orndorff's 28 years at the helm, Bishop O'Connell teams have won the Catholic League softball championship 21 times.
- In State Championship play, his teams have compiled a 58-2 record overall – winning 17 Virginia Independent Schools State Championship titles over the past 19 years.
- Named Coach of the Year for the Washington D.C. metropolitan area by *The Washington Post* in 1986 (22-1) and 1996 (23-0), by the Arlington County Better Sports Club in 1991 (21-1), and by *The Journal Newspapers* in 1994 (25-3). He has also been named Virginia Independent Schools State Coach of the Year 16 of the past 18 seasons by the Virginia Independent Schools Softball Association.
- A perennial power nationally the past 20 years, his Bishop O'Connell program reached new heights the past two springs – posting a 57-2 record overall and finishing both seasons ranked 5th in the country in *The USA Today/NFCA Scholastic Fastpitch Softball Final Polls*.



LEA LOOK FORWARD

Division of Wellness & Nutrition Services (Continued)

- Orndorff will be inducted into the National Softball Hall of Fame in November 2014 at the Amateur Softball Association's (ASA) National Convention in Reno, Nevada.

You will be asked to provide the number of years you have been coaching girls softball. The Clinic will cater to the experience level of the attending coaches.

Date: Saturday, June 14, 2014

Time: 1:00pm – 4:00pm

Location: St. John's High School, Roth Gymnasium, 2607 Military Road NW, Chevy Chase, D.C.

[Register for the DCSAA Girls Softball Coaches Clinic](#)

Reminder: Strawberries & Salad Greens Day, May 21, 2014

Looking for a way to get your school community excited about the Strawberries & Salad Greens Day happening on Wednesday May 21, 2014? Do you have a healthy and delicious recipe using local strawberries and salad greens? Direct them to the [Strawberries and Salad Greens Recipe webpage](#) to find out more and about submitting a recipe for the Strawberries & Salad Greens Day Cookbook. Creativity and Originality are strongly encouraged!

Contact OSSE's Farm to School Specialist, [Erica Steinhart](#) or visit the [Strawberries & Salad Greens page](#) for more information on how to get involved in this event.

Reminder: USDA Farm to School Grants Available, Applications Due April 30

The purpose of the USDA Farm to School Grant Program is to assist eligible entities in implementing farm to school programs that improve access to local foods in eligible schools. On an annual basis, USDA awards up to \$5 million in competitive grants for training, supporting operations, planning, purchasing equipment, developing school gardens, developing partnerships, and implementing farm to school programs. Planning grants are intended for school districts or schools just starting to incorporate farm to school program elements into their operations. Implementation grants are intended for school districts or schools to help scale or further develop existing farm to school initiatives.

For more information, please visit the [USDA Farm to School Site](#).

Reminder: School Grants for Healthy Kids, Applications Due May 2

Through partners, such as CSX Transportation, Kellogg Company, and the Kellogg's Corporate Citizenship Fund, (and more!), Action for Healthy Kids has released its *School Grants for Healthy Kids* opportunities for the 2014-2015 School Year. Around 1,000 schools will be awarded funds ranging from \$500 to \$5,000 to support school breakfast and physical activity programs. Funded schools will also receive expertise and people power to help implement a successful project that leads to sustainable change.

Award amounts will be based on building [enrollment](#), project type, potential impact, and a school's ability to mobilize parents and students around school wellness initiatives.



LEA LOOK FORWARD

Division of Wellness & Nutrition Services (Continued)

For more information, please visit the [Action for Healthy Kids Site](#).

Reminder: National Federation of State High School Associations 2013-14 Athletics Participation Survey, Due May 30

The District of Columbia is participating in the National Federation of State High School Associations 2013-14 Athletics Participation Survey. It is time for all of our student-athletes to be counted and included in the national survey! All schools should have received a fillable PDF form from the DC State Athletic Association to submit this data. Data should be submitted to [Marie Rudolph](#) by close of business, Friday, May 30, 2014.

Please contact the [Marie Rudolph](#) if you have not received your form or have any questions.

Final Notice: Scholar Athlete Scholarship Program, Applications Due Friday, April 25

The launch of the DCSAA Scholar Athlete Scholarship Program was made possible by Modell's Sporting Goods' and The Wendy's Company's generous donations to the ongoing work of the DCSAA.

The purpose of the scholarships is to recognize the distinguished academic, leadership and sportsmanship achievements of District of Columbia high school student athletes and the positive influence of athletics in each student's life. Visit the DCSAA website for an [application and more information](#) on each scholarship.

Completed applications and supporting documents must be submitted in person or received via U.S. mail, no later than 4:00pm on April 25, 2014.

The address for submissions is:
District of Columbia State Athletic Association
Office of the State Superintendent of Education
Government of the District of Columbia
810 First Street, NE, 4th Floor
Washington, DC 20002



Office of Data Management & Assessment

Reminder: Homeless McKinney-Vento Data Collection

Annual Homeless Student Census Count: This data will be collected beginning Tuesday, April 1, 2014 and is due on Wednesday, April 30, 2014. Communication about the template and due dates will be sent to your LEA Data Manager and Homeless Liaison contacts. For questions or concerns, please email [Tonia Lovelace](#).

Reminder: Faculty and Staff, Class Assignments, and Highly Qualified Claims Data Collection

The data collection for Faculty and Staff, Class Assignments and Highly Qualified Claims will run from March 20 through April 30.



LEA LOOK FORWARD

Office of Data Management & Assessment (Continued)

This data collection gathers data regarding the class assignments for teachers, paraprofessionals, and Special Education Support Staff. It also collects their credentials in order to determine whether they meet the Highly Qualified criteria mandated by ESEA.

The data collection is required for LEAs that serve grades K-12, and is optional for those LEAs who serve ***only*** Early Childhood or Adult grades.

An invitation to the QuickBase application will go out shortly to the LEA Data Manager, HR Manager, or Faculty and Staff collection contact on file with OSSE.

For questions please contact [Doreen Christian](#) or call on 202-727-8320.

Reminder: Statewide Student Information System Working Group

OSSE is looking for participants in a new working group on a Statewide Student Information System (SSIS). ODM is currently developing an RFP for the system, and is soliciting feedback from interested LEA staff. The SSIS will be offered free to any LEAs that wish to utilize it. Participants should be interested in developing data solutions (experience in development is not required) and ready to discuss their own experience with data and data systems. Participants will not be expected to adopt the SIS upon its release, as the system will be an optional service offered to all DC LEAs, CBOs, and adult education providers.

If you wish to participate in the working group or have any questions, please contact [Sarah Sherman](#). We look forward to working with you!

Update: 2014 Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate Verification Ongoing and Deadline Extension

Initial cohorts for 2014 ACGR verification have been released via the Quickbase application (<https://octo.quickbase.com>). The extended deadline for the cohort verification period is still **Thursday, May 15, 2014**.

If you have any questions about acceptable documentation, the cohort verification process or would like to schedule ACGR Office Hours at your LEA office, please contact by email [Emily Persons](#).

Reminder: Post-Secondary Report

OSSE has created a report that shares district-level data on college performance and early indicators. School-level files from this report are now available on the [SFTP site](#).

For questions and inquiries, please contact by email [Emily Persons](#).

Reminder: Electronic Transcript Service

All LEAs have access to a service that allows students and LEAs to share transcripts electronically to colleges and other LEAs. The vendor Parchment will begin communicating with LEAs soon.



LEA LOOK FORWARD

Office of Data Management & Assessment (Continued)

For questions and inquiries about the service please email [Emily Persons](#).

Reminder: ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Field Test

In spring 2014 and 2015, WIDA will field test the technology-based English language proficiency assessment, ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 (ACCESS 2.0).

The main purposes of field testing are to collect data to confirm that all test items and tasks are of the highest quality and to establish the psychometric linking between performances on ACCESS for ELLs[®] and ACCESS 2.0.

Interested LEAs requiring additional information, please contact [Michelle Tuggle](#).

Reminder: PARCC Accommodations

The second edition of the [PARCC Accessibility Features and Accommodations Manual](#) has been posted.

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

Reminder: High School Access to National Student Clearinghouse Data

All DC high schools have the ability to directly receive student-level college enrollment and completion information from the National Student Clearinghouse for students in the classes of 2006 to 2013.

For details about how to create an account to obtain this information, please contact [Emily Persons](#).



Office of Grants Management and Compliance

Reminder: Volunteers Needed to Test Enterprise Grant Management System (EGMS)

OSSE's Office of Grant Management and Compliance (OGMC) team is implementing an Enterprise Grant Management System (EGMS), and is issuing a call for reviewers to participate in a User Acceptance Training (UAT) for testing. EGMS is a solution intended to provide grant management enhanced operational efficiencies and security architecture, central data storage and warehousing, increased transparency, workflow automation, and process and performance accountability.

If you are interested or have any questions, please contact [Richard K. Rowley](#) or call on (202) 727-3869. Selected individuals will be contributing to groundbreaking grant management trainings.





LEA LOOK FORWARD

Chief Information Office

Reminder: FY 2014 Schools Technology Fund

To date the OSSE School Technology Fund (STF) has approved \$3,693,754 for payment to LEAs to upgrade their technology to help students excel at online testing. However, there are still seventeen LEAs that have not submitted their invoices.

OSSE will gladly resend the STF notification, provide a copy of the purchase order and even provide a draft of the invoice to you or to the point of contact within your organization if you send an email to [Matthew Brownlee](#) or call on (202) 320-4950. OSSE asks that you keep a list of hardware and software purchased with the fund. There will be a survey to collect this information to support the continuation of the fund next year.

