



INSIGHT ONLINE

October 19, 2011

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Notes from the CEO Bill Sims



The Ohio Alliance for Public Charter Schools is immensely grateful for the unprecedented support for this year's state charter school conference. The numbers of sponsors, exhibitors (see below) and registrants have soared this year, even when compared to past growth trends. It is a testament to the way the charter school community has pulled together over the past five years in Ohio.

I want to take pause in this issue of *Insight Online* to thank the following organizations for their conference sponsorship support and their general commitment to Ohio's charter school community. Without their support we could not have the grand experience this year's conference promises to be.

**Imagine Schools
Reotzel & Andress
Concept Schools
Piper & Jaffrey
K12 Inc.**

**Ohio Connections Academy
Ohio Council of Community Schools
Buckeye Community Hope Foundation
Buckley King**

**Nicola, Gudbranson & Cooper, LLC
American Federation for Children
PSI**

**McGraw Hill
Jones Day**

**Mosaica Education Inc.
Vorys, Sater, Seymour & Pease
Huntington Bank**

**The Walton Family Foundation
The Fisher Fund**

**The Nord Family Foundation
The Lovett and Ruth Peters Foundation
The Ohio Grantmakers Forum
The Sherwick Fund**

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Recently, the Ohio Alliance has been hard at work on two fronts. First, dropout recovery school standards are currently under consideration by the department of education by order of Ohio policymakers and the Alliance has convened meetings of DO member schools and organizations to discuss potential standards and to make recommendations. These recommendations will be presented to ODE and the State Board of Education before the end of this month.

Second, the Alliance has been working on recommendations to enhance the funding of Ohio's community charter schools. Potential new money from casinos and race tracks could be used to provide facilities funds for charter schools. Also, access to low-cost federal bonds (tax-exempt and tax-credit) for facilities is existent if the state can simply create the procedural frameworks to give charter schools access. I'll have more to say about the tremendous potential of this in the next *Insight Online*.

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Not to be Missed

[Harvard Symposium](#)

[National Science Teachers Association Conference on Science Education Hartford](#)

[Parents Deserve to Know More | Education Trust](#)

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December Conference

The 2011 OAPCS Fifth Annual State Conference is rapidly approaching. We are thrilled with the momentum of this year's event and are expecting to reach 1000 attendees during this two day conference. Make plans now to attend. Visit our website, www.oapcs.org for more information!

The following companies have registered to exhibit in December.

Abrams Learning Trends
Achieve 3000
American Reading Company
Association of American Educators
Ben Franklin Payroll
Benchmark Education Company
Charter School Specialists

CTB McGraw-Hill
Editure Professional Development
EdWorks
eSchoolView
FreyScientific
Hamilton County ESC
Hertz Furniture
ICS
Innovative Modular Solutions
Jarvis and Associates, Inc.
Measured Progress
Miles Ahead Technology
Mobilease Modular Space, Inc.
Portage County Educational Service Center
Preferred Meal Systems
PSI Associates, Inc.
Renaissance Learning
S&S Worldwide
Sadlier
Saxon Publishers
Schoolbelles School Uniforms
School Insurance Consultants
School Pathway, LLC
Signature Learning Resources
Smart Solutions
SpedTrack
Study Island
Summit Academies
Superkids Reading Program
Taylor Consulting Services, LLC
The Center for Learning
Therapy Source Inc.,
Total Education Solutions
Triumph Learning
Twin Towers Learning
Zaner-Bloser

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New Standards and Curriculum Revision - Stay Updated!

Learn about the **Revised Content Standards and Model Curricula** for English language arts, mathematics, science and social studies. Facilitated by ODE's Regional Content Facilitators and held throughout the state, attendance is encouraged at **'Standards & Model Curricula 101'** held Oct.-Dec. and **'Curriculum Revision'** held Jan.-May. Before attending, download content-specific materials on the ODE website (click *Educators* tab, select *Academic Content Standards*, select your content area, select *Targeted Professional Development Materials*).

Registration for the meetings is available through STARS. Search for 'Targeted Professional Development'. Contact hours will be awarded for attendance. Questions? Email lisa.simpson@ode.state.oh.us

FREE Regional Value-Added Workshops for Community Schools this Fall

Don't miss these informative sessions! If you serve grades any of grades 4-8, value added data impacts your school in many ways:

- the ranking system (increase one designation for overall "Above," decrease one designation with two consecutive overall "Belows"),
- charter school closure,
- and, increasingly, teacher and principal evaluations (mandated as 50% of teacher effectiveness ratings for RtT participating schools).

New this year, students' historical data now travels across LEA's - meaning that ALL charter school students (in grades 4-8), will have value added data (if they have previous data from Ohio schools). By fall of 2013, math and reading teachers for grades 4–8 will receive teacher-level value-added reports.

OAPCS' VP of School Performance and Accountability, Marianne Lombardo, has been selected, along with Lenny Schafer and Sue Newell of Ohio Council of Community Schools, to assist Batelle in assuring that Community School value added issues and needs are addressed. They will participating in the 2-day Community School Value-Added workshops to be held:

- September 22 & 23: Columbus
- October 10 & 11: Akron
- October 14 & 15: Cincinnati
- October 20 & 21: Toledo
- October 24 & 25: Columbus

These workshops are open to ALL charter schools - NOT just those participating in Race to the Top, and are geared to schools serving any of grades 4-8. Registration is through STARS, and requires a DVAL Selection form. School Leaders should select a Value Added Leader from their staff that has a 1) willingness to lead the charge in their school to make value-added information a diagnostic tool for instructional improvement, 2) a willingness to build others' capacity to use value-added reports, 3) strong relationship-building skills, 4) an understanding of educational improvement and change leadership, and 5) strong experience using multiple data sources to inform instructional improvement.

The responsibilities of the Community Value-Added Leader will be: 1) attend a Community School Value-Added Leader Workshop in the fall, 2) work directly with VALs, 3) partner with building administrators to co-facilitate information sharing and training on how to use value-added data with staff members, 4) build the capacity of building-level teams and teacher based teams to use value-added reports for diagnostic purposes, 5) arrange EVAAS® access for appropriate stakeholders, 6) deliver updates to staff members, and 7) assist with the collection of participant feedback.

School leaders should submit a Selection Form by September 2, 2011, via Fax

to (614) 481-8997 or E-mail to OhioRttT@BattelleforKids.org. Please feel free to contact Marianne if any questions (614) 744-2266 ext. 201 or mlombardo@oapcs.org. We look forward to seeing you there!

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Could Your Library Use A Boost?



Could you use \$24,000 for library materials? The Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds mini-grants for schools with library space who seek to tie their standards-based academic program to library resources. **The deadline is October 21st. More information is available at:**

<http://www.library.ohio.gov/lpd/lsta-mini-grants> or through Missy Lodge, Head of Library Programs and Development at 800-686-1532, 614-644-6914 or mlodge@library.ohio.gov.

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Technology Planning Tools



Don't forget that the Technology Planning Tool (TPT) and the OSFC Technology Toolkit are available to create and update your district's Technology Plans. The TPT and the Toolkit can be found online at www.etech.ohio.gov/technology-planning, along with additional resources to help technology staff make the most of the tech planning process. eTech Ohio will also release the Biennial Educational Technology Assessment (BETA) 10-11 data this fall, which allows districts to understand better how their teachers and students are using technology in the classroom.

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Tools for Teachers



Equip educators and students for the 2011-12 school year with tools available through eTech Ohio! Licenses for Atomic Learning (an online professional development solution) are available for public school districts and community schools at no cost, as funds remain available. To learn more, or to begin an application for services, visit www.etech.ohio.gov/online-learning. Educators and school staff can also access Computer Aided Design and GIS mapping tools for the classroom, as well as technology training solutions through eTech Ohio's programs and services. To learn more, contact Jim Harvey at james.harvey@etech.ohio.gov.

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