Third Grade Reading

- State law requires the Department to annually increase the promotion score on Ohio’s State Test (OST) for grade 3 English language arts (ELA) until it reaches proficient for the 2024-2025 school year. Any student who scores 690 or higher on the ELA OST is eligible for promotion to fourth grade at the end of the 2023-2024 school year.
- The summer testing administration window is June 24-28.
- Districts and schools must offer retained third grade students intervention or tutoring services from at least one provider other than the district.
- A revised RIMP template for the 2024-2025 school year is now available on the District Resources webpage.

Intervention Specialist (IS) Licensure

The general rule for special education teacher assignments is here. While an Education Degree–Unlimited substitute license allows an individual to substitute teach in any classroom (including special education) for an unlimited number of days, they would not meet the proper certification for teaching in a special education classroom and could not be the teacher of record. IS licenses that are a properly certified credential to teach in a classroom with a special education population are: Resident Educator License, Alternative Resident Education License, Professional Teaching License, Out-of-State License (1 Year), Supplemental Teaching License (1 Year). The license must include the intervention specialist teaching field or endorsement.
Third Thursday Virtual Networking Meetings

Thursday, June 20th at 11:00 am - This month's topic will be Science of Reading Professional Development (PD). We'll be diving into the guidance for professional development under House Bill 33, which was updated in May 2024, as well as reviewing the Dyslexia PD requirements. School leaders will receive a calendar invitation in advance. Please let us know if you would like anyone added to the invitation list.

June: Reading & Literacy: Science of Reading & PD Requirements
July: Chronic Absenteeism & Tier Interventions
August: Report Card Technical Guidance & Reporting
September: Finance/Transportation Updates & Compliance Deadlines

Literacy Updates

- Updated Science of Reading list of approved core curriculum and instructional materials
- Initial list of approved evidence-based reading intervention programs
- More information regarding materials selection is available for districts and schools, including timeline updates and supports
- New PD (Course Pathway F: Ohio’s Introduction to the Science of Reading Course, Administrators K-12) is now available. Find more here.

Cell Phones in Schools

Newly revised ORC 3313.753 calls for every school district in the state to establish an official policy governing cell phone usage and emphasizes limiting cell phones to the greatest extent possible. School districts can either adopt ODEW’s model policy or create their own policy. All schools will be required to adopt cell phone policies no later than July 1, 2025; ahead of the 2025-2026 school year.

Other Resources

- NCSRC Grant Opportunities
- The Voice of Ethics 2024 Quarter 2, Ohio Ethics Committee
- Summer EBT Program (SUN Bucks): This program provides cash grocery benefits to households with children who qualify for free or reduced-price meals.

Fine Arts Standards

Check out the Department’s newly adopted Learning Standards for Fine Arts. Districts and schools may choose to implement Ohio’s new Learning Standards for Fine Arts in the 2024-2025 school year, with full implementation occurring in the 2025-2026 school year.

State Board of Education Email Subscription

Follow the steps to sign up here and choose from four topics of interest (General State Board of Education information, Education Licensure, Professional Conduct, and Educator Standards & Programs).

Training & Events

- Ohio Materials Matter: statewide webinar series on high-quality instructional materials (HQIM)
  - Panel: Best Practices for Preparing for Effective Implementation – June 13, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.
- Engaging School Communities, Inspiring Attendance Convening – June 14, 9:00 to 2:30, in Columbus
  - The attendance convening is hosted by Stay in the Game!, the Cleveland Browns Foundation, and the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce. It is designed to elevate and promote the recommendations of the Ohio Attendance Task Force while emphasizing the connection between attendance and engagement.
- AOS 2024 Community Schools Training – August 27, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Thank you for sharing your wonderful celebration pictures with us! More will be shared next month. Best wishes to all students ready for their next stage of learning and congratulations to your 2024 graduates!

Congratulations!
Compliance and Epicenter Requirements

Please remember that we roll over Epicenter requirements to the new school year in July. We will send out an invitation for an Epicenter coordinator update and review session for both new and continuing coordinators later this month and ask for submissions beginning the week of July 29.

- Truancy Documentation - 6/6/2024
- Employee Reporting and Investigation - 6/7/2024
- Fire and Safety Drill Log - 6/7/2024
- Semi-Annual Health and Safety Inspection - 6/7/2024
- High School Compliance Requirements - 6/12/2024
- Board Minutes (Health and Safety Review) - 6/16/2024
- Fire and Safety Drill Log - 6/21/2024
- CMO/EMO Contracts - 6/23/2024
- Monthly Enrollment Verification - 6/24/2024
- Restraint and Seclusion - 6/25/2024
- Final Approved Board Minutes - 6/27/2024
- Physical Education Data - 6/27/2024
- Governing Authority Annual Disclosure - 6/30/2024
- Public Record Training - 6/30/2024
- Spring Assessment Data - 6/30/2024
- Monthly Financial and Enrollment Report - 6/30/2024

Compliance Refresher

Dyslexia Screening - ORC 3323.251
Under this law, students in Kindergarten through sixth grade must be administered a universal screening measure (Tier 1 dyslexia screening). Schools must select universal screening measures (Tier 1 dyslexia screening measures) from the list of ODEW approved assessments. A list of approved assessments that meet the requirements of Tier 1 dyslexia screening and/or the K-3 diagnostic can be found here.

Administration for the 2024-2025 school year and beyond:
- **Kindergarten students:** Universal (Tier 1) screening must occur between the first day of January of their kindergarten year and prior to the first day of January of the following school year.
- **Grades 1-6:** Upon parent request or teacher request with parent permission.
- **Transfer kindergarten students:** During the school’s regularly scheduled screening of the kindergarten class or within 30 days after the student’s enrollment if the screening already has been completed, or within thirty days after the student’s parent requests the screening or grants permission for a screening.
- **Transfer students in grades 1-6:** Within 30 days of the student’s parent requests the screening or grants permission for the screening.
- A district or school is not required to administer a Tier 1 dyslexia screening measure to a student in grades K-6 who transfers into the district or school midyear if the student’s records indicate a screening was administered to the student by the district or school from which the student transferred during that year.

How we verify compliance:
- Schools’ contracts, as a responsibility of the governing authority, include compliance with the code sections noted above.
- Schools must submit documentation of the screening measure and the request and permission process as an Epicenter requirement.

IMPORTANT DATES

**6/28 - Request Menstrual Product Reimbursement**
This deadline has been extended for districts and schools who have not yet completed their reimbursement form.

**7/1 - Submit Blended Learning Declarations**
This is only for schools who wish to begin or cease to use a blended learning instructional model, per ORC 3302.41 (A). This would require an amendment to the school’s sponsorship contract for community schools.

**8/1 - Adopt Online Day Plans**
Online day plans are an alternative to making up hours due to school closure under specific circumstances and replace the use of blizzard bags. Schools or districts, including community schools, may use an online day plan to make up the equivalent of up to three school days via online delivery. Schools are required to adopt online day plans by August 1 for the 2024-25 school year.