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# Messages From the Department of Education

December 2014

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## ACCOUNTABILITY, ASSESSMENT, INSTRUCTION, AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

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### A. Smarter Balanced Digital Library

The Governor and Executive Council approved the Memorandum of Understanding with the University of California at Los Angeles, National Center for Research on Evaluation, Standards and Student Testing (Smarter Balanced Assessment). This approval now allows all New Hampshire educators to have access to the Smarter Balanced Digital Library. This library contains numerous resources that teachers can use to improve instruction, student learning and application of assessment and to provide a better understanding of the common core state standards.

In order to provide access to the digital library, please designate a contact person (can be more than one person) for your school district that will provide access to your school administrators, teachers and/or staff members. Please provide the contact information for the designated staff member(s) to Tamara Feener at the NHDOE at (603) 271-0054 or [Tamara.Feener@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Tamara.Feener@doe.nh.gov).

Contact: Scott Mantie, (603) 271-3844, [Scott.Mantie@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Scott.Mantie@doe.nh.gov)

### B. Smarter Balanced States Approve Achievement Level Recommendations

Members of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium have voted to approve initial achievement levels for the mathematics and English language arts/literacy (ELA) assessments that will be administered in 17 states and one territory this school year. The vote marks an important milestone in the development of the assessment system.

To read the press release go to <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/news/smarter-balanced-states-approve-achievement-level-recommendations>.

To learn more about achievement levels go to <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/achievement-levels>

Contact: Scott Mantie, (603) 271-3844, [Scott.Mantie@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Scott.Mantie@doe.nh.gov)

## DATA

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### A. Using Local Assessments To Improve Instruction

The NHDOE data team can help you develop local NH College and Career Ready State Standards aligned common assessments for reading, writing or math. We will work with your school to input the data from those assessments into PerformancePLUS, then guide data teams in their analysis of the data to improve instruction. There is no cost to the schools for this support.

Contact Irene Koffink - [Irene.Koffink@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Irene.Koffink@doe.nh.gov)

### B. i4see Activity

#### a. F & R

These files were due on November 8, 2014, on the i4see workbench. Please be sure these are completed as they help determine your Title I status and are used in the determination of Adequacy Aid. These files only need to be "Batch Verified."

**b. BOY Files**

All BOY files should be complete at this time. However, there are several districts/charter schools that have not certified their files. Once the BOY is certified, please print, sign, and send the report "Public Fall Enrollment Sign Off" located under the Analysis tab, Anomaly and State Reports, BOY screen. This report was due on December 1, 2014.

**c. Completers, Dropouts and Cohort Reports**

These reports are located below the Fall Enrollment Sign-Off report on the workbench. Please have your guidance department confirm that they are correct. Once confirmed, please sign and send to the DOE. Before sending to the DOE, please be sure your BOY is certified, as that action also certifies these High School Reports. These were due on December 1, 2014.

Contact: Sandy Hyslop, (603) 271-2831, [Sandy.Hyslop@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Sandy.Hyslop@doe.nh.gov)

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**GRANTS and REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS**

**ALL RFPs Can be Found on the Department Website at**  
[www.education.nh.gov/rfp/index.htm](http://www.education.nh.gov/rfp/index.htm)

**A. Program Year (PY) 15 & 16 In-School Youth and Out-of-School Youth**

The purpose of these RFPs is to identify appropriate service provider(s) to provide employment and training services. Youth activities for PY 15 and PY16 (4/1/2015- 6/30/17) are contingent on annual funding and evaluation of successful performance. Due Date: January 20, 2015 Noon (12:00 EST)

All questions and requests for clarification should be submitted in writing to Kim Runion, Administrator, NH Department of Education, Bureau of Youth Workforce, 21 South Fruit Street, Suite 20, Concord, NH 03301, e-mail: [Kim.Runion@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Kim.Runion@doe.nh.gov).

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**TEACHER AND LEADER EFFECTIVENESS****B. Educator Evaluation System**

As part of the Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS) grant, we are offering a new tool that will help schools manage your educator evaluation process. We recognize the data is confidential and the system is being developed with the understanding that the data is the sole property of the school district and that the NH DOE will not have access to the data. Using the Educator Evaluation System, you can track the status of evaluations, collect "indicators of effectiveness" (e.g. evidence such as a classroom walkthrough), develop a formal rubric, and manage the overall process. We are currently looking for schools who would like to pilot this new system. You can also learn more via a short video at <http://youtu.be/JbKRerINV8>.

Contact: Irene Koffink, (603) 271-3865, [Irene.Koffink@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Irene.Koffink@doe.nh.gov) or  
Mike Schwartz, (603) 271-7455, [Michael.Schwartz@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Michael.Schwartz@doe.nh.gov)

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## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ADVISORY

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### A. Statewide Assessment and Student Participation

The NH DOE has issued a technical assistance advisory pertaining to the Statewide Assessment and Student Participation. This advisory, as well as previous advisories, can be found on the Department's Web site at

[www.education.nh.gov/standards/tech\\_advisories.htm](http://www.education.nh.gov/standards/tech_advisories.htm).

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## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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### A. Brain Friendly Strategies for Igniting Student Engagement, Memory, and Learning

This NHASCD Conference is being held January 9, 2015, from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord. Participants will learn how to use advances in neuroscience research to:

- Ignite student motivation and improve student attention and focus;
- Enhance students' effort, growth mindsets and overall perseverance;
- Understand how the brain's response to stressors, including boredom and frustration, can reduce memory and result in the involuntary reactive behaviors of "acting out" and "zoning out;"
- Improve student participation by reducing stress and promoting confidence and resilience;
- Promote accurate working and long-term memories through the use of patterning, mental manipulation and metacognition;
- Help students transfer their learning to novel situations; and
- Learn more about the video game model that increases students' effort and perseverance to achieve at higher levels of challenge.

To register or for more information go to <http://www.cvent.com/events/jan-9th-2015-nhascd-conf-with-dr-judith-willis/event-summary-7c0ffb53fef14969b295b637c5beebf9.aspx>.

### B. NEA-NH Spring Conference – Save the Date

The NEA-NH Spring Instructional Conference will be held on Saturday, March 28, 2015.

Information will be posted at [www.neanh.org](http://www.neanh.org) or contact Allison (Ally) Snyder at [asnyder@nhnea.org](mailto:asnyder@nhnea.org).

### C. NHDOE Title III/ESOL Office & Accountability and Assessment Department

- a. **WIDA ELD Standards in Action: Unit Planning - January 28 & 29, 2015, 8:30 a.m. -3:30 p.m., Plymouth State University, 2 Pillsbury Street, Concord, NH, 5th Floor**  
Participants will utilize resources from the WIDA ELD Standards Framework to plan units of instruction which integrate content and language standards. In school teams, participants will engage in identifying the academic language demands embedded in state content standards, planning and designing a custom unit of instruction, identifying ways to support and differentiate for language development; and planning and designing methods for formative language assessment. Teams will have ample opportunities for developing materials; therefore, participants are encouraged to bring curriculum materials and student ACCESS for ELLs scores. For more information or to register please go to <http://goo.gl/FkbAEh>.

**b. Leadership Support for Collaboration and Co-teaching - March 2, 2015, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Local Government Center, 25 Triangle Park, Concord, NH**

One of the 21st century competencies proclaimed by the Partnership for 21st Century Skills is collaboration. This all-day workshop takes a broad-based look at what effective teacher collaboration looks like, what essential frameworks need to be established for ESL and mainstream teachers to work together, and how administrators, coaches and teacher leaders can support an integrated approach to ESL services. For more information or to register please go to <http://goo.gl/3kSqOj>.

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## RESOURCES

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### **A. Next Steps NH Web site**

The Next Steps NH Project Team is happy to announce the release of a new Web site ([www.NextSteps-NH.org](http://www.NextSteps-NH.org)) to help students, parents and educators work together to plan for life after high school. The Web site is filled with information to directly address the transition questions and needs of each of these three different audiences. The Next Steps NH project provides professional development and coaching to selected New Hampshire high schools for the purpose of increasing the graduation rate of students with disabilities, and students at risk. Grant schools are implementing transition planning and family involvement practices that help students prepare for college, career and adult life. Developed by Keene State College with input from all project partners, this Web site houses all tools and resources developed as part of the grant.

### **B. The Period of PURPLE Crying for Teens: Understanding Infant Crying**

The Injury Prevention Center at Dartmouth has been awarded a third round of funding from the Children's Hospital at Dartmouth-Hitchcock (CHaD) and Kohl's Cares® to provide 20 resource kits to high schools in New Hampshire. The project is called: The Period of PURPLE Crying for Teens: Understanding Infant Crying. This is a primary prevention project to prevent abusive head trauma in infants. The Injury Prevention Center at Dartmouth has been working with the Abusive Head Trauma Coalition in New Hampshire for several years to explore primary prevention strategies to prevent abusive head trauma, or what was formerly known as shaken baby syndrome. This form of child maltreatment is the most lethal form of child abuse and infants are at highest risk for death. It has been identified that crying is the most common trigger in these abusive events. For more information contact: Debra Samaha, Program Director/Injury Prevention Center at Dartmouth at [debra.samaha@dartmouth.edu](mailto:debra.samaha@dartmouth.edu) or (603) 653-8360.

### **C. Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child**

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) recently unveiled a new school health model called Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child Model (WSCC). The prior model, Coordinated School Health, focused primarily on health; the new model incorporates the whole child tenets, with additional emphasis placed on the social-emotional climate, alignment of policies and community involvement. CDC and ASCD officials say they hope schools will adopt the new model to help guide health advisory board and policy decisions. More information can be found at [www.ascd.org/programs/learning-and-health/wsc-model.aspx](http://www.ascd.org/programs/learning-and-health/wsc-model.aspx).

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**OTHER**

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**Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST)**

Nominations for outstanding 7-12 grade mathematics and science (including computer science) teachers are now open for the 2015 awards. The PAEMST are the nation's highest honors for K-12 teachers of mathematics and science. Awardees serve as models for their colleagues, inspiration to their communities, and leaders in the improvement of mathematics and science education. If you know great teachers, nominate them to join this prestigious network of professionals. The deadline for nominations is April 1, 2015. The nomination form should be completed early enough to ensure that the nominated teacher is given enough time to thoroughly prepare an application that reflects exemplary teaching prior to the application deadline. Applications are due by May 1, 2015. For more information, visit [www.education.nh.gov/recognition/math\\_science.htm](http://www.education.nh.gov/recognition/math_science.htm).

Contact: Jiffi Rainie, (603) 271-7450, [Jennifer.Rainie@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Rainie@doe.nh.gov)

**NH School Nurse of the Year**

This award recognizes an outstanding school nurse for her contributions to the school and community. To be eligible for this award your school nurse must meet the following criteria:

- is a registered professional nurse
- has been practicing school nursing for a minimum of three (3) years
- is a member of the New Hampshire School Nurse Association (NHSNA) this year and the prior year without lapse of membership
- show evidence of excellence in school nursing practice.

Nomination forms can be accessed online at the NHSNA web page ([www.nhschoolnurses.org](http://www.nhschoolnurses.org)) or by contacting Cathy Forrest at [cforrest@conval.edu](mailto:cforrest@conval.edu). Deadline for nominations is February 1, 2015.

**Fishman Prize**

Applications and nominations are now open for TNTP's \$25,000 Fishman Prize for Superlative Classroom Practice, which recognizes exceptional teachers working in high-poverty public schools. Fishman Prize winners participate in an intensive summer residency during which they reflect deeply on their classroom practice, explore the larger issues that shape their profession, and write a short paper on their teaching practices to share with other educators and leaders worldwide. The residency allows the winners to share their expertise with educators across the country without taking time away from the classrooms where they do their best work. You don't need to be nominated to apply for the Fishman Prize, but nominating is an easy way to show a teacher they matter. Take a few seconds right now to nominate a great teacher. The final deadline is December 16, 2014. For more information go to <http://tntp.org/fishman-prize>.

**Cubes in Space**

idoodlesoftware inc, the Colorado Space Grant Consortium and NASA's Science Mission Directorate are offering a free science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics focused education program for students ages 11-18. Cubes in Space™ provides students an opportunity to design and compete to launch an experiment into space. Using formal or informal learning environments, students and educators will be exposed to engaging online

content and activities in preparation for the design and development of an experimental payload to be integrated into a small Cube. For more information, visit [www.CubesInSpace.com](http://www.CubesInSpace.com). The deadline for program registration is January 12, 2015.

### **Drive Smart: No Distractions, No Excuses, Teen PSA Contest**

Who better than teens to come up with a way to convince other teens not to drive distracted? Have students ages 13-18 create a PSA persuading other teens to drive smart and not use wireless devices behind the wheel. Teens can enter their PSAs in the Wireless Foundation Drive Smart Challenge for a chance to win amazing prizes, including a \$5,000 scholarship. Teachers can also win up to \$500. To enter or for more information go to <http://drivesmartnow.com/about-the-contest>. Deadline to enter is January 30, 2015.

### **Letters About Literature 2014**

A \$1,000 cash award is the national prize in Letters About Literature, a writing contest sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress and coordinated in New Hampshire by the Center for the Book at the New Hampshire State Library. To enter, readers in grades 4 -12 write a personal letter to an author, explaining how his or her work changed their view of the world or themselves. State winners will advance to national competition and the first-place winner for New Hampshire at each of three competition levels will receive a \$100 cash prize. Deadline for entries at Level III (grades 9-12) is December 15, 2014. All other entries must be postmarked by January 15, 2015. To obtain the required entry coupon visit <http://lal.nhbookcenter.org>. While you're there, sign up to get email updates on the NH competition and check out the complete entry guidelines and winning essays from previous years.

### **LifeChanger of the Year**

LifeChanger of the Year is an annual program that recognizes and rewards K-12 educators and school employees from around the country. A LifeChanger could be a math teacher who stays after school to tutor struggling students, a guidance counselor who encourages every student to reach their full potential, or a custodian who offers encouraging words. This program aims to honor those who are making a significant difference in the lives of students by exemplifying excellence, positive influence and leadership. Nominating them for LifeChanger of the Year is a great way to recognize them, and give them the chance to win \$10,000. Nominations will be accepted until January 31, 2015. To nominate someone or for more information go to <http://lifechangeroftheyearnominees.com>.

### **National Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Poster Contest**

CPSC is sponsoring a nationwide carbon monoxide safety poster contest to help warn people about the dangers of CO. The contest is open to U.S. residents in grades six, seven, or eight. Posters must be created by the middle school student, on the student's own, without help from family, friends, or others. A few years ago an 11 year old from Merrimack, NH won the runner-up place in the contest. We would love to see more artists from New Hampshire get involved and perhaps win the contest. CO and the importance of CO alarms has been a focus for a campaign throughout the country and in the New Hampshire. To enter or for more information go to [www.cpsc.gov/cocontest](http://www.cpsc.gov/cocontest).

### **The Political Classroom**

Authors Diana E. Hess and Paula McAvoy will deliver a keynote address on their new book, *The Political Classroom: Evidence and Ethics in Democratic Education*. The keynote will

address the challenge of teaching controversial issues with adolescents and young adults within an era of political polarization and present findings from a longitudinal study about what students experience and learn in classes that engage them in discussions of controversial political issues. This event is being held December 13th, from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the New Hampshire Institute of Politics at Saint Anselm College. The keynote will be followed by lunch and workshops. This event is free. The keynote address is open to the public. Those planning to stay for late morning and afternoon workshops are required to register. For more information or to register go to

[http://calendar.anselm.edu/EventList.aspx?fromdate=12/1/2014&todate=12/31/2014&display=Week&type=public&eventidn=2884&view=EventDetails&information\\_id=6274](http://calendar.anselm.edu/EventList.aspx?fromdate=12/1/2014&todate=12/31/2014&display=Week&type=public&eventidn=2884&view=EventDetails&information_id=6274).

### **Project Lead The Way Conference**

This professional development conference is for school counselors, curriculum specialists, principals, teachers, district administrators, and interested business and industry professionals to learn all about the Project Lead The Way K-12 STEM Curriculum. PLTW teachers are facilitators and their students apply STEM to define and solve open-ended problems in a real-world context. The PLTW curriculum, combined with high-quality teacher professional development and an engaged network, helps students develop the skills to succeed in our global economy. The conference is being held at NHTI, Concord's Community College on Friday, January 9, 2015 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. To register or for more information go to <https://www.nhti.edu/pltw-conference-registration> or contact Mary Larnau, Director of School Engagement: ME, NH, VT, at [mlarnau@pltw.org](mailto:mlarnau@pltw.org) or Joe Cunningham, NHTI, at [jcunningham@nhti.edu](mailto:jcunningham@nhti.edu).

### **Rethinking the Gilded Age and Progressive Era: Capitalism, Democracy, and Progressivisms, 1877 to 1920**

The Chicago Metro History Education Center, University of Illinois at Chicago, and Loyola University Chicago would like to invite K-12 teachers to apply for the National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute. NEH Summer Scholars will spend four weeks in Chicago, a center of Progressive Era reform, engaging in vigorous discussions about this critical time period in American history and creating materials to use in their classrooms. To apply or for more information go to [www.gildedandprogressive.org](http://www.gildedandprogressive.org) or email [cjohnson@chicagohistoryfair.org](mailto:cjohnson@chicagohistoryfair.org). Application Deadline: March 2, 2015.

### **Most Southern Place Workshop**

The National Endowment for the Humanities, through its Landmarks in American History and Culture Program, will support two week-long workshops celebrating the heritage of the Mississippi Delta. The Most Southern Place on Earth: Music, Culture and History in the Mississippi Delta will explore the region's impact on America's music, foodways, civil rights, literary heritage, and political landscape. Workshops will be offered to thirty seven participants each between June 21-17 and July 12-18, 2015. They are open to K-12 teachers, including public, private, and home school, and librarians. Five graduate credit hours may be earned. This will be the sixth year of NEH support for this exciting workshop. Stipends of \$1200 are available. Complete information and application materials are available from the Delta Center for Culture and Learning at <http://deltacenterforcultureandlearning.com/southern-place-workshop/> and additional information is provided by NEH at <http://www.neh.gov/projects/landmarks-schools.html>.