



Excellence, Preparation for Life, Opportunities for All

Offices of Curriculum and Instruction

Preparing for Ohio's State Assessments 2017

As we end January, we think more about state testing which is right around the corner. With so much riding on these tests – both for our students and staff – this semester can be very stressful for everyone. I'd like to take a moment to share four quick thoughts.

1. Thank you. The work that you do every day for our students – no matter what your job title – is important. Thank you for giving to our students each and every day.
2. For our teaching staff, be sure you are teaching the standards. Use your curriculum calendar, the common assessments, and the other resources in Office 365. Use the research based instructional strategies we know work – Marzano, FIP, Kagan, OWP, etc. Sometimes it's easy to think of these strategies as "separate initiatives". As you know, however, they all have one purpose – engaging students in learning. Find the strategies that work for your students and use them to ensure students are learning the standards.
3. Focus on growing our kids. This is an area of great strength for our district. Find out what our kids know and what they don't. Help them fill the holes in

4. their learning. When you fill the holes ***and*** teach the standards, you have created an ideal learning environment for all students.
5. Lastly, be sure to give attention to our student groups. As you know, like many districts across our state, we have many student groups who need extra attention to ensure success. Be sure to reach out to those who need it.

While state testing is not anyone's favorite topic, it is an important for our students, their families, our teachers, and our district.

Our students are capable of great things, and we have a chance to help them shine. Let's work together to ensure that they do!

The Fairfield City School District Offices of Curriculum and Instruction

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“When you are at the end of your rope, tie a knot in it and just hang on.”

Thomas Jefferson

PDExpress Reminder

As you already know, we have moved from Ascriptica to PDExpress to record district professional development opportunities. With PD Express, you can register for district offerings and keep tabs on your previous work.

Please remember to register for staff meetings and other PD opportunities PRIOR to the scheduled event. This will save significant time in verifying your attendance and giving you CEUs for credit.

To login, click PDExpress on the links page. Enter your computer username (jeffers_d) and your computer password. From there, click ‘In-District PD’ and select ‘In-District PD Catalog’ from the drop-down. Find the course for which you wish to register. You can search by start date by clicking ‘Start Date’ in the header of the catalog. Click on the course. Here you will find a pop-up window with details about the course. Click the gray ‘Register’ button in the top right corner. That’s it! You are now registered. Your name will appear on the sign-in sheet when you arrive.

If you are unable to find the course, please contact your building administrator (for building meetings) or the Department of Curriculum and Instruction (for district events).

Thanks for your help!

ODE Student Practice Site:

https://login1.cloud2.tds.airast.org/student/170/Pages/LoginShell.aspx?c=Ohio_PT&v=170

Other Practice Sites:

- [Arizona State Test Portal](#)
- [Connecticut Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal](#)
- [Florida Standards Assessment Portal](#)
- [PARCC Practice Tests](#)
- [Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium](#)
- [Utah SAGE Practice Tests](#)
- [Washington State Test Portal](#)
- [West Virginia Test Portal](#)

