

Literacy Matters

Breaking News! Now at ODE...Documents Comparing Ohio ELA Standards to the Common Core! Click [here!](#)



Photo: A. Nock

What's New in Education

For news on what's going on with HCESC, click here to visit our [Key Initiatives](#) web-page.

From [ODE](#)

Credit flexibility

Starting with the 2010-2011 school year, districts throughout Ohio will be implementing credit flexibility programming. Credit flexibility is available in all content areas. *HCESC can offer support to districts seeking creative solutions in Credit Flex.*

National Assessment of Educational Progress plans set for 2011

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) is conducting the 2011 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in mathematics, reading, science and writing. The 2011 NAEP assessments will be administered from Jan. 24 through March 4, 2011, and will produce results for grades 4 and 8 in Ohio and the nation, and for grade 12 nationally. NAEP is the only nationally representative assessment of what our nation's students know and can do in core subjects. More than 450 Ohio schools will be participating in NAEP 2011.

From US Department of Education (www.ed.gov)

US Department of Education Launches National Teacher Recruitment Campaign

1.5 Million New Teachers Needed Over Next Decade

U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan recently launched a national teacher recruitment campaign during a live MSNBC broadcast as part of the NBC Education Summit in New York. The campaign features a new website— www.teach.gov—dedicated to providing information and resources for students and prospective teachers.

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21st Century Skills: Hamilton County ESC is here to support you!

The National Council of Teachers of English adopted a 21st Century Curriculum and Assessment Framework Position Statement in 2008, which states:

Literacy has always been a collection of cultural and communicative practices shared among members of

particular groups. As society and technology change, so does literacy.... Twenty-first century readers and writers need to

Develop proficiency with the tools of technology

Build relationships with others to pose and solve prob-

lems collaboratively and cross-culturally

Design and share information for global communities to meet a variety of purposes....

Continued on page 2

21st Century Skills, continued from page 1

What NCTE writes in their Position Statement aligns with the 21st Century Skills outlined by the Partnership for 21st Century Skills.

The Partnership and NCTE created a [Skills Map](#) which can be found through the link here.

HCESC is a Professional Development Affiliate of the Partnership, and has consultants willing to work with districts as they begin to integrate 21st

Century Skills into existing curriculum.

Areas covered in the 21st Century Skills:

Learning & Innovation: Creativity, Critical Thinking, Communication, Collaboration (the 4 Cs)

Information, Media & Technology: Information Literacy, Media Literacy, ICT Literacy

Life and Career Skills: Flexibility & Adaptability, Initiative &

Self-Direction, Social & Cross-Cultural, Productivity & Accountability, Leadership & Responsibility

(click here to access the full [Position Statement from NCTE](#))



Image from <http://www.britannica.com>

Terms to Know: from the [21st Century Learning Commons Glossary](#)

Social Bookmarking

Similar to browser bookmarks, social bookmarking stores individual pages online and allows you to 'tag' them. For people who like to frequently bookmark Web pages, this can provide an easier way to organize the bookmarks. (Nations)

Bookmarking sites to try: Diigo, Delicious, reddit

Tags/ Tag Cloud

Commonly used in blogs, site authors attach keyword descriptions (called tags) to identify images or text within their site as a categories or topic. Web pages and blogs with identical tags can then be linked together allowing users to search for similar or related content. If the tags are made public, online pages that act as a Web-based bookmark

service are able to index them. Tags can be created using words, acronyms or numbers. Tags are also called tagging, blog tagging, folksonomies (short for folks and taxonomy), or social bookmarking. (Webopedia)

See the image to the left for a version of a tag cloud (created using www.wordle.net)



Web 2.0: Tools to Try

Podcasting: Digitalized audio files that are stored on the Internet and downloaded to listeners' computers or MP3 players. Although other file formats may be used, audio files are usually saved in the MP3 format. The term "podcast" comes from iPod™, the popular MP3 player. (NCTE)

Students can create podcasts using various programs; "how tos" are easy to find on the internet. Teachers might use these as ways to have elementary students listen to themselves reading for self-evaluation; high school students might create guides for students new to the school.

Educators at all levels may want to investigate *Ohio on iTunes U* on the iTunes library for podcasts specific to education in Ohio. Professional development resources as well as lesson plans are available. See eTech Ohio's fact sheet for information at [eTech Ohio iTunes U](#).



Excellent Reading Teachers: A Position Statement of the International Reading Association



The International Reading Association, like most associations, has issued several policy and position statements. The following is an excerpt from their 2000 policy regarding "Excellent Reading Teachers"

Excellent reading teachers share several critical qualities of knowledge and practice.

1. *They understand reading and writing development, and believe all children can learn to read and write.*
2. *They continually assess children's individual pro-*

gress and relate reading instruction to children's previous experiences.

3. *They know a variety of ways to teach reading, when to use each method, and how to combine the methods into an effective instructional program.*
4. *They offer a variety of materials and texts to read.*

To read more, follow this link to the Position Statement at www.reading.org.

Additional Policy and Position Statements on Literacy from NCTE are linked here:

[21st-Century Literacies](#)

[Adolescent Literacy](#)

[Literacy Learning in the 21st Century](#)

Teen Read Week, sponsored by the American Library Association



Image from American Library Association (www.ala.org)

Need Booklists for K-12 Readers? Try these links:

[Children's Choices \(K-6, from Reading.org\)](#)

[Young Adults' Choices \(from Reading.org\)](#)

[2010 Teens' Top Ten Nominations \(final books announced during Read Week\)](#)

[Reading List for Teen Week, Spanish edition](#)

Virtual Education Takes Off in Hamilton County and Beyond!



HCESC is Part of National Initiative to Train Student-Led Teams; Districts Sign Up to Participate

- HCESC has partnered with educational service agencies in Iowa and Connecticut to bring the Virtual Reality Education Pathfinders (VREP) program to southwest Ohio.

- VREP provides students the opportunity to lead and learn using three-dimensional (3D) virtual reality education.

- Student developers lead and facilitate this training with professional support.

- Students participate as both developers and users of 3D VR environments and applications.

- Teachers then use student-created applications in the classroom to facilitate learning for all.

For more information about the Virtual Reality Education Pathfinders (VREP) program, contact Renita Heideman at (513) 674-4312 or Renita.Heideman@hcesc.org

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Check out our website for more PD events and online courses! <http://www.hcesc.org/pde/Pages/Courses.aspx>

Literacy Matters is a publication of Hamilton County Educational Service Center, and is created by English Language Arts Specialists in the Instructional Services Center. Areas of interest and expertise of our Specialists range from early childhood to adolescent to adult literacy, technology integration to strategic planning to standards and graduation requirements. Contact these individuals through literacy@hcesc.org for more information on any topic related (however remotely) to literacy. Someone will happily respond to you.

Two eyes give us perspective. Two ears give us sound location. Two hands give us the ability to use tools. And the two sides of our brain give us the ability to grasp problems in the pincer grip of logic and intuition.

Marty Neumeier, *The Designful Company*



Image from edu.learnit-teachit.org

Looking Forward To...

...the end of the first quarter

...Dr. Marilyn Friend's scheduled workshop on Co-Teaching, at HCESC in February

...Dr. Robert Marzano's visit to HCESC in April

...NCTE's Fall Conference, Living Literate Lives, in Orlando Florida

...ASCD's Fall Conference, Closing the Learning Gap, during Halloween (in Chicago)

...the publication of *Teaching YA Lit through Differentiated Instruction* (NCTE) [promises chapters on all genres and resources to support DI]

...reading more of *iWrite* by Dana J. Wilber, who writes "While the incessant reading and writing that children are doing outside of school may not seem like the kind of reading and writing we would like them to do, there is something about the motivation, authenticity, and interest that I think we as literacy teachers can build on."

...rereading all the Harry Potter books in preparation for the last two movies (*Deathly Hallows Part One* is out in November)

...Thanksgiving (43 days!)

