

## DOE Weekly Field Memo – October 26, 2011

### From the Department of Education:

- **Commissioner Vilaseca Op Ed on ESEA Waiver**
- **Corrected: Alternate Graduation Requirements**
- **FEMA Resources for Schools – Deadline Extended to November 15**
- **Reminder: Kindergarten Readiness Survey**
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### From the Department of Education:

#### **Commissioner Vilaseca Op Ed on ESEA Flexibility Waiver Request**

##### **Audience: All**

“Vermont and the rest of the country have been given a wonderful opportunity to shed the flawed aspects of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) and refocus our efforts on true success for all students.” Read the rest of the opinion piece at [http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/maindept.html#oped\\_esea](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/maindept.html#oped_esea).

Contact: Jill Remick at (802) 828-3154 or [jill.remick@state.vt.us](mailto:jill.remick@state.vt.us)

#### **Corrected: Alternate Graduation Requirements**

##### **Audience: All**

If a district wants to find an alternative way of meeting a graduation requirement, no waiver is required from the Commissioner. State Board Rule 2120.8.7(1) specifically allows local school boards to approve alternative graduation requirements, when “the student demonstrates that he or she has attained or exceeded the standards contained in the Framework or comparable standards as measured by results on performance-based assessments.” Since the Framework incorporates the Grade Expectations, demonstration of the attainment or exceeding of the relevant grade-appropriate Grade Expectation is required as well.

Furthermore, the proof of the attainment of those standards must be verified by a licensed teacher with an endorsement in the relevant subject matter area. We encourage schools to look at alternative models of graduation requirements beyond Carnegie Units.

*Corrected* Contact: John Fischer at (802) 828-0488 or [john.fischer@state.vt.us](mailto:john.fischer@state.vt.us)

#### **FEMA Resources for Schools – Deadline Extended to November 15**

##### **Audience: Schools and Communities Affected by Hurricane Irene**

For the latest information on how schools and members of their communities can apply for public assistance, go to: [http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm\\_construction.html#fema](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_construction.html#fema).

#### **Reminder: Kindergarten Readiness Survey**

##### **Audience: Superintendents, Elementary School Principals, and Kindergarten Teachers**

The Department of Education and the Agency of Human Services request the support and assistance of superintendents, principals, and kindergarten teachers in completing the online Ready Kindergartners Survey. This annual data collection enables us to monitor Vermont’s progress toward the outcome of “all children are ready for school.” This year we ask that teachers identify their school and the supervisory union (SU) or school district (SD) in which the school is located so that we will be able to report survey results at the SU/SD level. We’re able to ask for this information and still adhere to FERPA requirements since we now are using secure

survey software. The link to the Ready Kindergartners Survey is: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/K-ReadinessSurvey2011-12> . The deadline for completing the online surveys is **November 23, 2011**. Copies of the letters sent to superintendents, elementary school principals, and kindergarten teachers about this survey are available on the Department of Education website, along with Vermont's Statewide Report on Kindergarten Readiness for 2010-2010, at [http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm\\_earlyed.html#survey](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_earlyed.html#survey).  
Contact: Manuela Fonseca at (802) 828-3850 or [Manuela.fonseca@state.vt.us](mailto:Manuela.fonseca@state.vt.us)

### **Reminder: Crisis Prevention Institute Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Instructor Training (CPI)**

#### **Audience: All**

On Oct. 1, 2011 the training requirement for State Board Rule 4500 (regarding the prevention and safe use of physical restraint) goes into effect. Candidates who successfully complete this training event will be certified to train staff in your supervisory union using the methods taught by this program. This program is included on the commissioner's list of recommended programs for teaching the prevention and safe use of physical restraint.

All participants must be nominated by both their superintendent and building administrator. Cost: Registration and all materials are free to qualified candidates who make the commitment to provide a minimum of 3 annual trainings for staff in the Supervisory Union/District and who agree to maintain their certification as a trainer for three years. Associated costs not covered are evening food and lodging, if necessary, and travel.

Registration: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/9H6893W> or

Additionally, one-day CPI training and half day CPI refresher trainings are also being offered this fall by the Vermont BEST Team. To register go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NKNNPWK>

Contact: Richard Boltax at (802) 828 5125 or [Richard.boltax@state.vt.us](mailto:Richard.boltax@state.vt.us)

### **Last Chance: Vermont Council for Exceptional Children Featuring George Sugai**

#### **Audience: All**

Response to Intervention: Where's The Behavior? This conference will describe the features that define school-wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), and illustrate how these features align with the larger response-to-intervention (RTI) framework. The school-wide PBIS approach will be presented as an example of RTI for social behavior support in schools.

Featuring: George Sugai, Ph.D. November 10, 2011; Killington Grand Resort Hotel & Conference Center; Killington, VT. Go to <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html#sugai>.

For more information contact Mary Barton – (W) 802-228-3738, (H) 802-228-8105

### **Other News:**

#### **Health Department to Host 2011 Immunization Conference**

##### **Audience: Principals, School Health Contacts, School Nurses**

Vermont's childhood immunization rate is among the lowest in the U.S., but this was not always the case. A decade ago, Vermont was ranked one of the best states in the percentage of children who were fully immunized. When immunization rates drop, a window opens for serious childhood illnesses to spread throughout the community. Recent outbreaks of diseases like measles and whooping cough highlight the importance of immunizing children according to the schedule published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). More than 250 health care providers and public health workers from around the state will gather at the **2011 Immunization Conference on Friday, October 28th** at the **Stoweflake Resort (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.)** to learn about the newest recommendations, and what health care providers and parents want to know about vaccines for children. For the full conference agenda visit:

<http://healthvermont.gov/hc/imm/2011VTImmunizationConference.aspx>.

#### **Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence**

##### **Audience: Principals, Educators, Students**

Applications are now being accepted for the 2012 Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence. The annual awards honor the actions taken by Vermonters to conserve and protect natural resources, prevent pollution and promote sustainability.

**Applications are encouraged from:**

- Business, Industry, and Trade or Professional Organizations;
- Environmental, Community, and Non-Profit Organizations;
- Individual Citizens;
- Institutions (such as schools, hospitals, and municipalities);
- Teachers and Students; and
- Public Agencies.

Applications must be received electronically, no later than Friday, January 20, 2012. Application materials are available on the Internet [Click HERE for application link](#). For questions or to obtain email copies of the application, contact Emma Schumann at [emma.schumann@state.vt.us](mailto:emma.schumann@state.vt.us), 802-241-3600.

**National Coalition for Core Arts Standards (NCCAS)**

**Audience: School Dance, Music, Theatre and Visual Arts Educators**

The National Coalition for Core Arts Standards (NCCAS) next generation arts standards project is moving forward. NCCAS has launched the online application process, hired a project director, and named writing chairs for the four content areas of dance, music, theatre, and visual arts.

The coalition is seeking teams of 10 content experts for each of the discipline areas of dance, music, theatre and visual arts to help develop the next generation of voluntary arts standards. Each discipline writing team will include a balance of members across specific areas of expertise, geography, diversity and experience.

Individuals interested in serving on a writing committee can apply at <http://tinyurl.com/67lxbtd>.

*The application process will close October 27, 2011.*

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This Field Memo is posted weekly by the Department of Education to better organize our e-communications to the field. There may be times when separate messages from the department will still be sent. In addition, the DOE Weekly Field Memo is [archived](#) on the Department of Education website. For information which is three months or older, or for other questions, please contact Jill Remick, Communications Director, at (802) 828-3154 or [jill.remick@state.vt.us](mailto:jill.remick@state.vt.us).

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