

DOE Weekly Field Memo – September 28, 2011

From the Department of Education:

- [Student Attendance Day Waiver Guidance for Schools Affected by Hurricane Irene](#)
- [FEMA Public Assistance for Vermont Schools](#)
- [Press Release: NECAP Science Assessment Results Released](#)
- [Teacher and Principal Evaluation Surveys](#)
- [Quality Science, Technology, Engineering and Math \(STEM\) Education Curriculum](#)
- [Science Online Webinar: Understanding the 2011 NECAP Science Reports](#)
- [Vermont Interdisciplinary Team \(I-Team\) at the University of Vermont \(UVM\), Center on Disability and Community Inclusion \(CDCI\)](#)
- [Crisis Prevention Institute Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Instructor Training \(CPI\)](#)
- [NECAP 2011 Science Released Items](#)
- [Preparing for E-rate Season FY2012](#)
- [Press Release: Vermont Teacher of the Year Announced](#)
- [State Board of Education Monthly Report](#)

Other News:

- [Fall Conference: Vermont Council for Exceptional Children](#)
- [Reminder: 7th Annual Northeast States Forum on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports](#)
- [Reminder: An Introductory Forum on Vermont's School-wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports \(VTPBiS\) with Susan Barrett](#)
- [Vermont Higher Education Collaborative – Special Education Workshop Series](#)
- [Vermont Higher Education Collaborative – Introduction to the Brain Compatible Classroom Workshop](#)
- [Vermont Higher Education Collaborative – Functional Behavior Analysis to Behavior Intervention Planning](#)
- [Vermont Higher Education Collaborative – The Struggling Learner: Research on the Brain and Learning](#)
- [5th Annual Vermont Tech Jam](#)
- [From the White House: Repairing and Modernizing America's Schools](#)

From the Department of Education:

[Student Attendance Day Waiver Guidance for Schools Affected by Hurricane Irene](#)

Audience: Principals, Superintendents, School Board Members

The Commissioner and the State Board of Education urge all schools whose school year starting dates were affected by Hurricane Irene damage to review their 2011-2012 school calendars as soon as possible in order to explore all reasonably available opportunities to re-schedule the days that were lost at the beginning of the school year. With winter fast approaching, and with no idea of how many (if any) snow days will be needed, it is too early in the school year for schools to be requesting waivers of the 175-day student attendance days. Waiver requests will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis after February 1, 2012, and careful consideration will be given to whether the affected schools acted diligently, and in a timely manner, in attempting to make up the missed days. In the cases of those schools affected by the hurricane, the requirement that waiver requests be submitted within 10 days of the incident will be waived. See SBE Rule 2300.

Contact: Carol King at Carol.C.King@state.vt.us or (802) 828-5101

[FEMA Public Assistance for Vermont Schools](#)

Audience: Principals, Superintendents, School Board Members

Under the FEMA Public Assistance Program, which is authorized by the Stafford Act, FEMA awards grants to assist State and local governments and certain Private Nonprofit entities with the response and recovery from disasters. Specifically, the program provides assistance for debris removal, emergency protective measures, and permanent restoration of infrastructure. The Federal share is 75% of eligible costs. Under State law, school districts are considered "other municipalities" and are responsible for the first \$10,000 of the nonfederal share of eligible costs. The remaining nonfederal share is covered by the State of Vermont, coming from the Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund. Applicants have 30 days from the disaster declaration date to submit their Request for Public Assistance (RPA). For all counties except Grand Isle, that deadline is **October 1, 2011**. In the case of Grand Isle County, that deadline is October 17, 2011. That is because Grand Isle was added after the initial declaration.

Contact: Alec Portalupi, Vermont Agency of Transportation, at 802 828-3889 or alec.portalupi@state.vt.us

Press Release: NECAP Science Assessment Results Released

Audience: All

Statewide science assessment results for Spring 2011 were released by the Vermont Department of Education today. The results are from the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) Science assessments, given to Vermont public school students in grades 4, 8 and 11 in May 2011.

To view the complete release, go to: http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/press_releases.html.

To view the complete results, go to:

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_assessment/data.html#necap.

Contact: Michael Hock at (802) 828-3115 or Michael.hock@state.vt.us

Teacher and Principal Evaluation Surveys

Audience: Superintendents, Principals

The Vermont Department of Education is required to report information on teacher and principal evaluation practices and results for every public school in Vermont as part of receiving The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds. Therefore, DOE will be sending a mandatory survey asking for information on teacher and principal evaluation systems on September 30, 2011. The survey is due October 14, 2011. Thank you for supporting us in this data collection.

Contact: Glenn Bailey at (802) 828-2141 or glenn.bailey@state.vt.us

Quality Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Education Curriculum

Audience: Superintendents, Principals, Tech Directors, Curriculum Coordinators, Special Ed Administrators

The Department of Education, High School and Adult Division is interested in supporting the implementation of quality STEM education curriculum in Vermont high schools and career and technology centers.

Project Lead the Way (PLTW) courses are considered a high quality approach to engaging students in engineering and biosciences learning pathways. Although typically more expensive than most STEM programs, PLTW has been adopted in several Vermont schools and articulates with many engineering schools and postsecondary STEM programs. PLTW also offers curriculum for middle schools.

Engineering by Design is a comprehensive engineering and IT program that is built on Standards for Technological Literacy, Principles and Standards for School Mathematics, and Benchmarks for Science Literacy. Still relatively new, there is emerging interest in Engineering by Design at Vermont schools. If there is enough interest in Engineering by Design, a statewide license will be made available. Funding resources are available for both PLTW and EbD.

Contact: Doug Webster at doug.webster@state.vt.us or (802) 828-5145; or John Fischer at john.fischer@state.vt.us or (802) 828-0488

Science Online Webinar: Understanding the 2011 NECAP Science Reports

Audience: Superintendents, Principals, Science Chairs and Teachers

The Vermont Department of Education and Measured Progress will be conducting a NECAP Science Reporting Webinar on October 5 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. The webinar is designed for principals, superintendents, and any staff members who are directly involved with student data and analysis of results. The webinar will

provide an introduction to the NECAP Analysis and Reporting System, including an overview of the various NECAP science reports and support materials. Participants will receive instruction about how to sort and apply filters to Item Analysis Reports, access released item information, and view the Longitudinal Student Report. To register, go to <http://iregister.measuredprogress.org>.

Contact: Mary Ann Minardo, Assessment Consultant, (802) 828-5410 or maryann.minardo@state.vt.us

Vermont Interdisciplinary Team (I-Team) at the University of Vermont (UVM), Center on Disability and Community Inclusion (CDCI)

Audience: Principals, Superintendents and Special Education Directors

Please review this important document to provide you with information related to the technical assistance and educational support you may obtain from the Vermont Interdisciplinary Team (I-Team) at the University of Vermont (UVM), Center on Disability and Community Inclusion (CDCI) for students who experience low incidence disabilities including severe disabilities, severe autism spectrum disorders, deaf-blindness, and severe cognitive impairments. Go to:

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_interagency.html#i_team.

Contact: Mary O’Niell at (802) 828-5416 or mary.oneill@state.vt.us

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

NECAP 2011 Science Released Items

Audience: Principals, Curriculum Coordinators, Science Chairs and Science Teachers

Each year, 25% or more of the NECAP Science test items are released for professional development, program planning and communication with students, parents and community. Click on the following link for the released items that are available

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_assessment/necap/resources/released_items.html

Test items, inquiry tasks and support materials from the Spring, 2011, NECAP Science Assessment for grades 4, 8 and 11.

Contact: Gail Hall at (802) 828- 0156 or gail.hall@state.vt.us (Middle/HS); Kathy Renfrew at (802) 828-6561 or kathy.renfrew@state.vt.us (Elementary); Mary Ann Minardo, Assessment Consultant, (802) 828-5410 or maryann.minardo@state.vt.us

Preparing for E-rate Season FY2012

Audience: Technology Coordinators, Principals, Superintendents and Anyone Involved in Connectivity for Telecommunications at Schools

This workshop, sponsored by the Vermont Department of Education, is meant to address questions schools may have on upcoming E-rate season and to introduce schools to the services that Education Networks of America (ENA) can provide in terms of broadband needs. ENA is currently under a state contract wherein

schools may avail themselves of their services under the Vermont Department of Education USAC 470 Process. This meeting is intended for technology coordinators, principals, superintendents and anyone involved in connectivity for telecommunications at the schools. Please limit the number of individuals attending from each supervisory union to no more than three (3). EACH attendee must register separately. Registration link: <http://creator.zoho.com/pdrescher/e-rate-season-fy2012>
Contact: Peter.drescher@state.vt.us or Sabine.baldwin@state.vt.us

Press Release: Vermont Teacher of the Year Announced

Audience: All

Tong Chen, a middle and high school Chinese teacher at Leland & Gray Union High School in Townsend, was named by Commissioner Armando Vilaseca as the 2012 Vermont Teacher of the Year. Also honored were Jeff Johnson of Mt. Anthony Union Middle and High School, Mark Weikert of Flood Brook Union School in Londonderry, and Glenda Allen of Barre Town Elementary School. Read the complete release at: <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/awards.html#teacheroftheyear>.
Contact: Jill Remick at (802) 828-3154 or jill.remick@state.vt.us

State Board of Education Monthly Report

Audience: All

The State Board of Education produces a monthly report that is intended to update the public on Board activities and priorities. View the September report at: http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/board/schedule.html#monthly_reports.
Contact: Carol King at (802) 828-5101 or carol.c.king@state.vt.us

Other News:

Fall Conference: Vermont Council for Exceptional Children

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

Reminder: 7th Annual Northeast States Forum on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports

Audience: All

Learn about advances in school-wide PBIS, academic interventions, successful interventions with students with challenging behaviors, effective data-based decision making, as well as bully behavior prevention. The forum costs \$175/person and will be held on Thursday, October 6 from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Four Points by Sheraton in Norwood, MA. For more information or to register: <http://www.mayinstitute.org/events/calendar.html?id=928>.

Reminder: An Introductory Forum on Vermont's School-wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (VTPBiS) with Susan Barrett

Audience: All

This forum is designed for school staff, family and community members interested in exploring PBiS basics and the process for new schools wishing to implement the framework. The forum will be held at the Lake Morey Inn in Fairlee, VT on Wednesday, October 12, 2011 and will be repeated on Friday, March 30, 2012. To register for the forum visit: <http://www.uvm.edu/~cdci/best/1112trainings/IntroForum.pdf>.

Vermont Higher Education Collaborative – Special Education Workshop Series

Audience: Special Educators and Service Providers

VT-HEC has developed the following series of full-day workshops to be held at the Capitol Plaza, Montpelier, VT. Main presenter is Jen Patenaude. Each day will offer interactive work sessions with specialists in each disability area to ensure that participants leave with information that would directly relate to their daily work as special educators. Workshops include: Comprehensive Evaluation – November 7th, IEP Development – January 20th, Specialized Instruction – February 17th. \$175 per day. For more information and to register, go to www.vthec.org or contact: Kim McKellar, Operations Coordinator (802) 498-3350 / kim.mckeller@vthec.org

Vermont Higher Education Collaborative – Introduction to the Brain Compatible Classroom Workshop

Audience: All

What can the integration of the fields of cognitive science and educational research tell us about how to design optimal learning environments? And what, exactly, do these principles look like when put into practice in our schools? Come find out by spending a day with Dr. G. Christian Jernstedt, a renowned researcher on learning and the brain and Bill Rich, a veteran teacher who has put these findings into practice. Together they will help you begin to use these findings to improve learning for all students. Hartford High School, Harford, VT November 11th. For more information and to register, go to www.vthec.org or contact: Kim McKellar, Operations Coordinator (802) 498-3350 / kim.mckeller@vthec.org

Vermont Higher Education Collaborative – Functional Behavior Analysis to Behavior Intervention Planning

Audience: Educators, Administrators, and Service Providers

Two-day workshop opportunity for teachers, special educators, administrators and counselors to gain in-depth knowledge and confidence in using data to inform best practices in providing positive behavior interventions and supports for students with challenging behavior. \$175 per day (can attend day one only, or both days). Presented by Tiffany Cassano. Oct. 13th and 14th, Hampton Inn, Colchester, VT. For more information and to register, go to www.vthec.org or contact: Kim McKellar, Operations Coordinator (802) 498-3350 / kim.mckeller@vthec.org

Vermont Higher Education Collaborative – The Struggling Learner: Research on the Brain and Learning

Audience: Educators, Administrators, and Service Providers

Dr. G. Christian Jernstedt & Jen Patenaude present what you need to know about the brain and learning to support the progress of the struggling learner. Chris will talk about the findings of cognitive research on learning while he and Jen will share how the application of those findings can help support the learning of struggling learners. December 9th, Holiday Inn, Burlington. \$185, includes lunch. For more information and to register, go to www.vthec.org or contact: Kim McKellar, Operations Coordinator (802) 498-3350 / kim.mckeller@vthec.org

5th Annual Vermont Tech Jam

Audience: All

Can't take your students on a field trip to Silicon Valley? Get them out of the classroom and into the real world at the 5th annual Vermont Tech Jam, presented by Dealer.com. At this exciting, FREE career fair and tech expo, your students can meet representatives from more than 60 of the state's most innovative companies, learn how to prepare for a science- or technology-focused career, get leads on internships, attend or participate in tech demos, and program a Lego robot.

John Cohn, IBM fellow and "mad scientist" will be speaking at 11 a.m. Check out his brilliant "Engineering Paradise" video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y0DxmthvKKU>. And we'll have a women in science and technology panel at 12:30. Exhibitors include: Dealer.com, Champlain College, MyWebGrocer, Greensea Systems, Draker Labs, BioTek, Microstrain, Competitive Computing (C2), Logic Supply and many, many more. The Tech Jam takes place Friday and Saturday, October 28 and 29, at the Borders building on Church Street.

Classes and field trips are welcome from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, October 28. Organizers will have an activity prepared to guide students through the Jam, and help them have a meaningful and productive experience. Hours for the rest of the Jam — parents, bring your kids! Friday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Please let us know you're coming! RSVP with your school's name and the approximate number of students to techjam@sevendaysvt.com. Find more information about the Tech Jam at techjamvt.com.

From the White House: Repairing and Modernizing America's Schools

Audience: All

Monday, President Obama submitted to Congress the American Jobs Act, a bill designed to jumpstart economic growth and job creation. The President is proposing a \$25 billion investment in school infrastructure and modernization, which includes a priority for rural schools and dedicated funding for Bureau of Indian Education-funded schools. The President is also proposing a \$5 billion investment in modernizing community colleges, including tribal colleges. The White House fact sheet on "Repairing and Modernizing America's Schools" can be found online at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/09/13/fact-sheet-repairing-and-modernizing-americas-schools>.

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.

Vermont Department of Education
120 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2501

education.vermont.gov | [facebook.com/VTEducation](https://www.facebook.com/VTEducation) | twitter.com/VTEducation