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TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF

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TEAMTN
Tennessee Educator Acceleration Model

October 28, 2014

In this issue...

- [Standards Review Process](#)
- [Achievement Measure Selection Verification Process](#)
- [Staying on Pace for Observations](#)

- [Coaching Module](#)
- [Questioning Tips](#)
- [10 Ways to Prepare Kids for Life After High School](#)
- [RTI2 Cheat Sheet](#)
- [Upcoming Deadlines](#)
- [Contact Information](#)

Standards Review Process

As you know, while our schools have been implementing the Common Core State Standards for the past several years, we have seen significant academic progress. At the same time, we have heard many assertions about the standards, their origin, their implementation and their effectiveness. As such, the governor has asked the State Board of Education to lead a process of reviewing our standards in ELA and math, gathering feedback and seeking recommendations for improvement. There will be a significant time allotted for public comment, and we urge any of you who have thoughts on the standards to make sure your voice is heard. For a fact sheet of frequently asked questions, please [click here](#).

Achievement Measure Selection Verification Process

As a reminder, any achievement scores requiring TDOE verification [per PC 885](#), must be submitted by ***Friday, Oct. 31***. You can find the template for submissions [here](#). All submissions should be sent to TEAM.Questions@tn.gov. If you have any questions or

anticipate issues with meeting the submission deadline please contact us immediately. Completing this process in a timely manner is an important part of ensuring all teachers know their goals for the year as early as possible.

Staying on Pace for Observations

Starting observations early in the school year, especially with teachers who struggled in the previous year, is an important part of starting the year strong. For your teachers who need four classroom visits during the year, wrapping up that first visit by the end of October will keep you on pace to complete all observations on time. Currently, nearly 50 percent of teachers who earned a one on individual growth or a one on overall level of effectiveness have at least one observation entered in CODE. Last year, we were above 80 percent by the first week of November.

As we approach the holiday season it can be harder to schedule observations, so please ensure you are observing your teachers and entering their data now in order to avoid a backlog at the end of the semester. By submitting now, it also provides more time for teachers to review and for corrections to be made in case there are data entry errors. The [Observation Completion Summary](#) is a helpful tool in CODE for tracking observation completion.

Coaching Module

Now that most districts have completed their first round of observations, it is important to take a closer look at coaching to ensure the feedback teachers receive during their post-conferences is leading to changes and growth in their classrooms. For a deeper dive on

coaching that includes sample video clips, resources, and reflection questions, take a look at [this module](#) on the NIET Best Practices Portal. If you are a current Tennessee educator and do not have access to the portal, please send an email to TEAM.Questions@tn.gov so we can get you signed up.

Questioning Tips

Last spring, we worked with principals, instructional coaches, and teachers across the state to develop a toolkit to support strong questioning in the classroom. If you have teachers who are struggling with this indicator or would like some additional support on giving feedback around this indicator, check out the following resources:

- [Tips for Teachers](#): focuses on five strategies teachers can employ to improve their questioning skills, as well as links to helpful resources.
- [Guidance for Principals](#): includes post-conference questions to ask, strategies for improvement, and sample professional development action plans.

If you have any additional tips to share, we would love to hear them! We'll be asking for your feedback on another indicator in the next couple of weeks, so please start thinking about any great resources you may have to share.

10 Ways to Prepare Kids for Life After High School

What do local workforces need? How can we improve and enhance student learning? How can we help students get a head start on life after high school? These are the

questions the Tennessee Council for Career and Technical Education (TCCTE) dove into in a recently released [report](#). The council developed 10 recommendations to provide even more opportunities to Tennessee students. To read their suggestions, check out this [blog post](#) on Classroom Chronicles.

RTI² Cheat Sheet

Our most clicked on link last week was the [RTI2 Cheat Sheet](#). In this post, Theresa Nicholls, Director of Special Education Eligibility at the Tennessee Department of Education, discusses key tools schools use, such as universal screeners and progress monitoring, to ensure students are on track. If you haven't check it out yet, give it a read!

Upcoming Deadlines

- Achievement measure selections requiring TDOE verification must be submitted to TDOE by **Friday, Oct. 31**.

Contact Information

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