

P.O. Box 341348
6344 Nicholas Drive
Columbus, OH 43234-1348
1.877.PASSING (727-7464)
www.passtheoat.com



A newsletter to keep Ohio teachers and school administrators up-to-date on current OAT and OGT issues.



Show What You Know® Publishing Newsletter

THE LEADING PUBLISHER OF K-12 TEST-PREPARATION MATERIALS

FALL 2007 ISSUE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Scores indicate more attention needed to prepare for Social Studies, Science tests1

Fall testing schedule2

Flash Cards bring some TV glitz, glam into classrooms2

Upcoming conferences2

NCLB tidbit2

SALE2

Scores indicate more attention needed to prepare for Social Studies, Science tests

Eloise Boehm-Sasala
Vice President, Managing Editor

According to the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), overall student performance in Ohio has continued to improve since the implementation of No Child Left Behind, but this year's OGT and OAT scores for Science and Social Studies indicate that students need more attention on these subjects.

According to Mitchell Chester of the ODE, it is not unusual for scores to be lower on the new Science and Social Studies tests. When new tests are added, scores tend to be lower. Chester noted, "We had concerns sufficient attention was not being paid to Science and Social Studies."

Educators are re-examining their Social Studies programs, contending the No Child Left Behind act placed too much emphasis on Reading and Mathematics and left subjects such as Social Studies competing for students' time.

According to the ODE's *2006-2007 Annual Report on Educational Progress in Ohio*, for tests previously administered in 2005-06, the Performance Index improved from 92.9 to 93.5 in 2006-07. The addition of fifth- and eighth-grade Science and Social Studies tests, however, offset the gains that Ohio made in the other subjects and grades. With the inclusion of the new Science and Social Studies tests, the Performance Index declined from 92.9 in 2005-06, to 92.1 in 2006-07.

On a hopeful note, most districts and schools maintained the rating they earned in 2005-06. The ODE educational progress report stated that 80 percent of Ohio districts are rated Excellent or Effective and, for the second year in a row, no

district is in Academic Emergency. Fewer districts and schools are rated Excellent this year compared to 2005-06, however, the number is higher than in earlier years. This drop in Excellent districts and schools is largely attributed to lower performance on the new Science and Social Studies tests.

In Mathematics, Ohio students made overall gains for a second year. Proficiency rates for grades 3, 6, 7, and 8 jumped considerably. The 4th, 5th and 10th grades saw slight decreases of about one point in proficiency rates compared to 2005-06.

Reading scores improved in the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 8th grades, but declined in the 6th, 7th and 10th grades. Compared to other subjects, scores on the Writing tests are some of the strongest, with more than 80 percent of students scoring proficient or higher.

Commenting on the results of the Science and Social Studies test scores, Dr. Susan Tave Zelman, Ohio Superintendent of Public Instruction, stated, "I know that the introduction of Science and Social Studies tests this year caused a decline in overall test scores for districts and the state. But the complete assessment system is now in place, and I want to thank you for focusing on these core subjects as we prepare our students with 21st century learning skills. While achievement gaps between groups of students have narrowed at most grade levels and subjects, closing these unacceptable gaps remains one of our most important challenges."

Flash Cards bring some TV glitz, glam into classrooms

Courtney Huckabay
Show What You Know® Publishing

The nationally broadcast "Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?" Fox Broadcasting Company's TV show might be a flashy way to integrate education into entertainment, but the Show What You Know® Publishing Flash Cards are bringing it to the classroom.

Teachers can play their own version of the game show using Show What You Know® Publishing Flash Cards for students in 3rd through 8th grades, and for the OGT.

Whether it's just a few minutes before that last bell rings, or it's time to brush up on the previous grade's standards, the Flash Cards provide a fun way to study for the OAT without being intimidating.

"The students will gain confidence in their knowledge and their ability to answer test questions correctly by using the Show What You Know® Flash Cards," Show What You Know® Publishing President Cindi Englefield said.

Just embody the Jeff Foxworthy stage presence and start with a deck of Flash

Cards from one grade level below the students' current standing – and you're off! Because the Flash Cards all are specifically aligned with the Ohio Academic Content Standards, students will be preparing for the test without even realizing it. The affordability of the Flash Cards allows for playing the game like the actual TV show as well – with several grade-level decks for students to pick from a previous year's testing knowledge. One deck, containing more than 100 cards, is a great value at only \$14.95.

Englefield agreed, "The students have fun with this activity and don't even realize that

they are learning the skills needed to succeed on the OAT."

If the show's top fifth-grade students Alana, Jacob, Kyle, Marki, and Spencer can contend with adult Marines, teachers, engineers and attorneys, surely students everywhere can face the state testing with all the confidence of a game-show contestant. Be sure to check out a sample Flash Card inside the new Fall Catalog, or contact Show What You Know® Publishing for a free sample at 1.877.PASSING. Find even more ways to incorporate Flash Cards into your curriculum at <http://www.eapublishing.com/PDF/NationalFlashCardArticle.pdf>.



"NCLB Tidbit"



Recent headline on NCLB in the state of Ohio Draft bill heats up NCLB-renewal debate
Lobbyists spent the last week of the August congressional recess reading through the 435-page draft bill that outlines key House members' plans to change the accountability system by measuring students' academic growth and adding other indicators to those in Reading and Mathematics.

September 5, 2007, by David J. Hoff, in EdWeek
http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2007/09/05/02_miller.h27.html?tmp=851779238



Fall Testing Dates

October 1–5

Grade 3
Reading Achievement
Results due Nov. 9

October 15–28

Proficiency only students
Ninth-grade proficiency
(all 5 tests)
Final reports due Jan. 2

October 22–November 4

Grades 11 & 12
OGT (all 5 tests)
Results due Jan. 3

Overstock

SALE

30% off

**OGT Student Self-Study Workbooks for
Mathematics, English Language Arts, and Social Studies**

Order in time for the next test!

Item #: OH1112, OH1113, OH1115

Please stop by our booth to review our complete line of test-preparation materials and get a free Flash Card sample!

Upcoming
Conferences
& Exhibits

Ohio Council of the International Reading Association

Celebrating Literacy on the River!
Cincinnati
October 5 & 6

Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators

Columbus, Booth #2
October 14-16

Ohio Catholic Education Association

Cincinnati, Booth #932
October 11 & 12

Ohio Council of Teachers of Mathematics

Columbus
October 19 & 20

Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators

Columbus, Booth #511
October 22

Kent State Literacy

Celebrate Ohio Literacy
Kent
October 26