



Office for Exceptional Children (December 2011)

## **ODE Updates**

### **Braille Immersion Weekend Workshop Series**

The Center for Instructional Supports and Accessible Materials (CISAM) is a statewide project funded by the Ohio Department of Education, Office for Exceptional Children. CISAM's role is to assist school personnel in locating large print and braille textbooks; audio and digital textbooks (publishers' files/NIMAS files); instructional aids and tools; and specialized equipment for students with visual impairments and print disabilities in Ohio. For additional information on CISAM visit the website at <http://cisam.ossb.oh.gov/index.php>

CISAM's Braille Excellence for Students and Teachers Grant (BEST), a statewide project of professional development, technical assistance and product development dedicated to braille literacy, braille instruction, braille materials and braille technology in Ohio schools, has free braille weekend workshops for students in grades 7-12 who are blind or visually impaired. The Braille Weekend Workshop series consists of three Saturday workshops at the Ohio State School for the Blind, 5220 N. High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43214: February 11, 2012; March 10, 2012; and April 21, 2012. The workshops will start at 9:00 a.m. and conclude at 3:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided. Parents must make transportation arrangements as no housing or transportation is being provided. The theme for the series is improving braille skills through music. Activities will include music reviews; DJ for a Day, favorite artists, sharing lyrics, Name That Tune and a pizza party.

If you have students who could benefit from these workshops, please call (614) 752-1152. The registration deadline is January 14, 2012.

## **Other News**

### **eNEWS from the IDEA Partnership**

The [IDEA Partnership](#) reflects the collaborative work of more than 50 national organizations, technical assistance providers and organizations and agencies at the state and local level. Together with the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), the Partner Organizations form a community with the potential to transform the way we work and improve outcomes for students and youth with disabilities. Learn more about the IDEA Partnership's collaborative work - Communities of Practice, collections, dialogue guides and much more on their website!

eNEWS contains an assortment of new products, reports and information from a variety of sources that are important to our partners at the state and local level. We hope you find them valuable in your practice.

Link to the most recent eNEWS:

[http://www.ideapartnership.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=20&Itemid=75](http://www.ideapartnership.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=20&Itemid=75)

## **Ohio Association of Pupil Services Administrators (OAPSA)**

The Ohio Association of Pupil Services Administrators (OAPSA) is a state organization of school administrators currently charged with district-wide administrative responsibilities for Pupil Services. OAPSA may be a good resource for you if you are an administrator and oversee programs such as: Attendance & Student Accounting; Pupil Appraisal; Guidance; At-Risk Programs; Nursing; Discipline; School Psychology; Gifted/Talented Programs; School Social Work; State or Federal Grants; Exceptional or Special Education and/or Speech and Language Services.

OAPSA hosts four workshops a year to provide Pupil Service Administrators with updates in the field, and also provides members with a list serve to distribute timely information.

Visit the OAPSA website at <http://ww2.highlandschools.org/oapsa/index.html>; the membership form is available under the heading Join OAPSA.

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