



Gathering the Public's Input

~ Meetings bring out passion, dedication for students ~

Last month I had the privilege of representing the department at three public meetings throughout the state to collect input on Florida's math and English language arts standards. It was great to see so many education professionals, parents and community members make the effort to attend and share their viewpoints.

Some attendees made comments for or against the standards in general, and some voiced detailed concerns relating to specific standards. During the more than 13 hours of public meeting discussion, one message was loud and clear: Floridians care about their students.

For those who could not attend in person, the department also accepted feedback via the web and email. When our public comment period closed at the end of October, we had received more than 19,000 comments. I assure you that we take your input seriously and will use all feedback thoughtfully to ensure Florida has the best math and English language arts standards possible.

If you are one of the thousands of teachers who contributed to this important review, I thank you for adding your expertise. Any changes we recommend to strengthen the standards will be presented to the State Board of Education for formal adoption. It is important to note that any future changes will not take effect during the 2013-2014 school year.

If you have questions or comments about other aspects of Florida's education system, contact me at Commissioner@fldoe.org. Thank you for all you do to prepare and support your students during this transition to higher expectations and a stronger foundation for success in college, career and life.

Pam Stewart, Commissioner of Education

Teacher Opportunities

Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship Program Accepting Applications

The Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship Program is now accepting applications for the 2014-15 fellowship year. The Einstein Fellowship seeks experienced and distinguished K-12 educators in fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) to serve an 11-month fellowship appointment in a federal agency or U.S. Congressional office. Applications are due December 4, 2013 by 5:00 p.m. EST and must be submitted through the online application system.

To learn more about the program and participant eligibility visit, [Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship \(AEF\) Program](#).

CenturyLink Offers up to \$5,000 for "Teachers & Technology" Initiative

CenturyLink is partnering with the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations to offer teachers, schools and school districts grants of up to \$5,000 through their Teachers & Technology program! Projects can involve professional development for teachers as well as innovative teacher-led projects involving technology-driven classroom instruction.

Eligible applicants may apply for this opportunity through the CFEF grants management platform beginning October 15, 2013, through January 15, 2014. Visit [Teachers & Technology Initiative](#) for more information.

2014 Fishman Prize Now Accepting Applications and Nominations

The \$25,000 Fishman Prize for Superlative Classroom Practice is an annual award for exceptionally effective teachers working in high-poverty public schools. No more than five teachers are awarded the prize each year. Applicants who submit by the early deadline of December 3, 2013 will learn whether they have been selected for the next round in advance of other applicants. The final deadline is January 21, 2014.

Learn more at [Fishman Prize for Superlative Classroom Practice](#).

Events

Cambridge Global Perspectives Colloquium

December 10, 2013
8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld Orlando, Fla

The free seminar will include

- a forum with school leaders and universities on critical college and career competencies such as argumentation and research skills;
- an overview of the Cambridge Global Perspectives program; and
- a practicum: Cambridge Global Perspectives in action.

Register online at [Cambridge Global Perspectives](#).

Celebrate Literacy Week 2013

January 13-17, 2014
Visit [2014 Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!](#) for more information.

Florida Makes National Gains

~Teachers Instrumental in Student Success~

Florida's results on the 2013 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) show that the state's fourth grade students continue to outpace the national average in reading. Also in fourth grade reading, all Florida subgroups outperformed their national counterparts in the percentage of students scoring at or above Basic.

Visit [the 2013 NAEP reading and mathematics results](#) for more highlights.

More than 35 Districts have Approved Teacher Pay Raises

The governor pledged \$480 million during the 2013 legislative session to reward teachers and thank them for their nationally-recognized efforts to raise student achievement.

For more information, visit [Teacher Pay Raise](#).

