



## Tech & PD Update

*April 17, 2015*

[New State Superintendent Named](#)  
[Complete the Professional Development Needs Assessment](#)  
[Does Your Class Need a \(Hapara\) Tune-Up?](#)  
[Learn 360 - It's Still Here!](#)  
[Mentor Logs Due May 15](#)  
[Year 2 Teacher Logs Due May 15](#)  
[Math Curriculum Alignment Team Meets May 27](#)  
[Free P.D. on Google, by Google](#)  
[PARCC Update](#)  
[PARCC Schedules](#)  
[Cyber Camp 2015](#)  
[Funding for National Board Candidates Released](#)  
[Professional Development Update](#)

---

### New State Superintendent Named

Recently the Illinois State Board of Education named Dr. Tony Smith to succeed Dr. Christopher Koch as Illinois' State Superintendent of Schools. [Read more about Dr. Smith in the official press release from ISBE.](#)

[Back to Top](#)

---

### Complete the Professional Development Needs Assessment

Please take a few minutes to complete the [Technology & Professional Development Needs Assessment Survey](#). The survey will help us understand current comfort levels with various technology tools and gather feedback on what you would like to learn more about,

tech-related or otherwise. You'll also have the opportunity to volunteer to present to or offer training for your colleagues if you wish.

This survey will be available throughout the month of April. Results will be made public through the [Tech & PD website](#).

Your input is very important! Many thanks to all who have completed the survey so far!

[Back to Top](#)

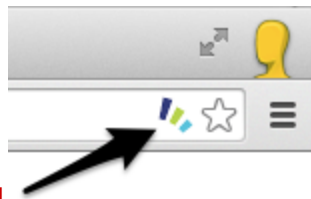
---

## Does Your Class Need a (Hapara) Tune-Up?

Recently several Hapara users (Grades 6-12) have reported not being able to “see” several students in a given class. With the recent update to the software - coupled with the large number of student devices in our secondary schools - there are bound to be a few issues.

If you have student devices that do not appear to be recognized or are “not connected” here are a few tips that might help out:

1. Restart the student device. Often times students do not shut down Chromebooks at all for weeks at a time. A restart is usually required for updates to take effect. This is always a quick way to cure a lot of problems.
2. Follow these steps from the [Hapara Interact Troubleshooting Guide](#):
  - Log into **Google** or **Chrome browser** under one of your **student's user accounts**, or just have the student log in and hand over the device, using the **same device** in the **same location** usually used by your student.
  - Browse to the URL <https://rc.hapara.com/diagnostics>
  - Open the diagnostics module by **clicking on the Hapara icon** displayed in the right-hand side of the address bar as shown below:



**CLICK THIS ICON**

- If this icon doesn't appear on the student device, make sure the Hapara Interact Extension is installed and enabled by following the instructions [HERE](#).
- Begin your tests by clicking the button '**Run Diagnostic Tests**' in your diagnostics pop-up window.
  - Once tests are complete, refer to the [Troubleshooting Guide, part 2: Interpreting the Results](#) for tips on correcting the issue.

As always, feel free to let me know if you'd like some assistance with this at any time.

[Back to Top](#)

---

## Learn 360 - It's Still Here!

[Learn 360](#) is an instructional video resource that District #205 has enjoyed for several years. (This service is similar to Discovery Streaming, which many have heard of elsewhere.) Discovery Streaming allows teachers to search for & download video resources from many popular sources, including PBS, BBC America, National Geographic, The History Channel, and many others!

Videos can be downloaded in .WMV format to play over teacher workstations/classroom projectors. Videos can also be streamed in MP4 format for use on mobile devices. However, for instructional purposes, downloading the video to your workstation and saving it will allow you to keep it for easy access in the future.

Our subscription to this service will continue into the next school year. (2015-2016) Contact Matt and make sure to include your name & building assignment to receive your passcode to access these curriculum support resources!

[Back to Top](#)

---

## Mentor Logs Due May 15

Currently Active Mentors should submit their logs to Angela James **no later than May 15** at 4PM. Please make sure you include the date, duration, and general topic of each regularly scheduled meeting with your protegee(s) as well as a total of all hours claimed on this log.

[Back To Top](#)

---

## Year 2 Teacher Logs Due May 15

Teachers completing their second year of employment with District #205 and/or KWSED should submit their logs of regular meetings with their Mentor as assigned to Angela James

**no later than May 15** at 4PM. After review, logs will be returned with a letter noting successful completion of our state-approved Mentoring & Induction Plan.

[Back To Top](#)

---

## Math Curriculum Alignment Team Meets May 27

Our ongoing Curriculum Alignment Teams will meet one more time before school ends. Our goal will be to finalize our first draft of assessment questions that align with our existing curriculum maps. Now that our calendar has been approved we can move forward with these. Meetings are held in the Board Room at Lincoln Education Center from 8AM-3PM on the following dates.

- **Math Team: May 27**

PLEASE NOTE: Absolutely no decisions have been finalized regarding District-wide adoption of any assessment at this time.

[Back to Top](#)

---

## Free P.D. on Google, by Google

Google is holding a FREE “virtual conference” called [Google Education On Air](#). Google recently released a listing of session topics for this event, on **Friday-Saturday, May 8-9**. Participants can log in at any time to learn more about using Google Tools in schools. You can drop in or out at any time as your interests and other duties & activities require.

From [Google for Education](#)'s [James Leonard](#):

- **Day 1- Leading for the future:** Tune in from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. ET to hear speakers who will challenge us to innovate and improve education. In our kickoff session, panelists will tackle the question “What are the skills of the future?”. Keynote speakers include actor and Reading Rainbow host & producer LeVar Burton, Google Senior Vice President Laszlo Bock, Google Science Fair 2012 winner Brittany Wenger, and education expert and government reformer Sir Michael Barber. Finally, learn from panel discussions featuring educators who will provide lessons on “transforming learning with technology” and “empowering students.”
- **Day 2- Shaping the classroom today:** From 7 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. ET you can tune in for any of the 100+ sessions led by educators from 12 countries and 29 U.S. states. All

sessions have been designed to offer practical advice and examples. Find ones you like and add them to your calendar.

To register or learn more about sessions, [please visit the Google Education On Air website!](#)

(No, I'm afraid I can't offer Professional Development credit for this since there's no way for me to verify actual contact time. However, this is a great learning opportunity - you won't want to miss it!)

[Back To Top](#)

---

## PARCC Update

High School students enrolled in Algebra 2 and/or English 11 this semester will complete the PBA test during the last week of April. All student in Grades 3-8, along with these high school students, will also complete the End of Year (EOY) test during the month of May. Results from all of these tests will be aggregated into a score report after completion. Recent communications from ISBE indicate the earliest we should expect to see these results may be some time in September. We'll keep you posted.

School Test Coordinators (usually building administrators) are now checking through students' Personal Needs Profiles to make sure they receive appropriate accommodations & accessibility features, like text-to-computer-speech, human read-aloud, etc. Some Accessibility Features do not require IEPs or 504 plans! Consult the [Accessibility & Accommodations manual](#) for details. Please assist by clearly communicating student needs to your School Test Coordinator as soon as possible.

[Back to Top](#)

---

## PARCC Schedules

School Test Coordinators set PARCC testing schedules for each building. On the technical end of things, however, we have very recently learned that we must purge all Performance Based Assessment (PBA) content from our server before we load up the End of Year (EOY) testing content. This requires that Grades 3-8 wait until the PBA testing is completed at the high school before EOY testing can begin elsewhere. Please understand that this process will take some time and testing by our Tech Department to ensure everything is ready to go, which normally takes a day or so. We thank you for your understanding and flexibility during this first year of PARCC. It is a learning process for everyone.

[Back to Top](#)

---

## Cyber Camp 2015

Carl Sandburg College will be hosting Cyber Camp again this year! This is a fantastic (and inexpensive) opportunity to learn about some nifty tools & tips to tech-up your classroom activities a bit!

This year's keynote speaker is Kathy Schrock, a globally-recognized leader in educational technology. Classroom teacher, instructional technologist, and technology director, she continues to blog and promote innovative technology use in education. Read [Kathy Schrock's Guide to Everything](#), [Kathy Schrock's Kaffeklatch](#), and [Kathy's Katch on the Discovery Education Network](#).

Additionally, several of our District #205 colleagues will be presenting! D205 presenters include Jon Bradburn from Gale, Miranda Hedden & TC Michels from Lombard, and Amanda Stenger from GHS! (...and yours truly...)

Click here to view the [DRAFT Agenda](#). Registration is only \$75 for 2 days of hands-on training.

[Back to Top](#)

---

## Funding for National Board Candidates Released

Recently ISBE announced that funding has been released to help support teachers wishing with pursue National Board Certification:

*The Illinois State Board of Education is pleased to announce the opening of the 2015 Spring Window for the Illinois \$1,900 NBPTS Candidate Fee Subsidy.*

The [National Board Resource Center at Illinois State University](#) will process applications for eligible Illinois teachers. Funding has been made available for 500 candidates. Please invite an outstanding teacher or counselor to become a National Board Certified Teacher by forwarding this message to them and adding a personal note of encouragement.

**National Board Certification offers a way for accomplished teachers to be assessed and recognized, and a way for parents to know their child's teacher has met high and rigorous**

standards. *The single most important action the nation can take to improve schools is to strengthen teaching.* NBPTS develops high and rigorous standards for accomplished teachers and 100,000 teachers across the country and 6,025 teachers in Illinois have demonstrated that they meet those standards by achieving National Board Certification.

National Board Certified Teachers are among the nation's most effective teachers who have demonstrated that they meet the highest teaching standards.

The NBPTS certification process takes from one to three years to complete. Throughout this period, candidates:

- Analyze and reflect on student learning, based on small and large group work with students, which is supported by video recordings of classroom teaching.
- Analyze and reflect on student learning using student work samples.
- Document accomplishments of working with families and the community, colleagues and the profession and show evidence of how that work impacts student learning.
- Respond to online assessment exercises that demonstrate subject-matter expertise.

Jodi Scott's office is accepting applications for a regional cohort to work through the process until next Friday, April 24:

Hello All,

I wanted to give one last push for our **National Board Cohort**. This cohort began this year meeting monthly at the ROE and will continue over the next two years. It is not too late to join us next year!!

The cohort will have worked to receive National Board Certification by the 2016-17 school year. This is an exciting opportunity and I wanted to make sure all teachers were aware.

**I have to have the name of anyone interested by Friday April 24<sup>th</sup>!!**

Once we have names and contact information we will be able to share information and answer any questions.

Jodi L. Scott  
Regional Superintendent of Schools  
Henderson, Mercer, Warren  
Regional Office of Education  
Phone: [\(309\)734-6822](tel:3097346822)

[Back to Top](#)

---

## Professional Development Update

For more activities, please visit [District #205's Professional Development Calendar](#)

**April 13-May 1:** PARCC PBA Test Window for block schedules (GHS only) - Exact dates established by school

**April 20:** Flipped Classroom (Basic Video Creation & Distribution), Discovery Depot, 6-7pm

**April 22:** [Dream Big Book Club](#), McGillicuddy's, 4-5 pm

**April 23:** Reading Recovery Meeting, Board Room

**April 27-May 22:** PARCC EOY Testing Window, Grades 3-8 - Exact dates established by school

**April 28:** Summer School Training, Board Room, 8AM-Noon

**April 30:** Fountas & Pinnell Training, Board Room, 830-11AM

**May 4-22:** PARCC EOY Test Window for block schedules (GHS only) - Exact dates established by school

**May 07:** Implementing Student Growth with Anne Weerda (Part 2 of 2), East Moline, 9-2

**May 08-09:** Google's [Education On Air](#) virtual conference, Online

**May 19:** [Lion's Quest](#), Board Room, All Day (Times TBA)

**May 25:** No School - Memorial Day

**May 27:** Math Curriculum Alignment Team, Board Room, 8-3

**June 4:** Last day of school for students

**June 5:** Institute Day

**June 11-12:** [Cyber Camp](#), Carl Sandburg College

**July 29-31:** [Leyden 1:1 Summer Symposium](#), East Leyden High School, Franklin Park, IL

[Back to Top](#)