



Memorandum | Department of Community School

Date: September 29, 2022

To: Tomorrow Center Administrative Team and Governing Board Members

From: Jim Smith, Sponsor Liaison and Mid-Ohio ESC Sponsoring Staff

Subject: September Newsletter

General Updates

Hello Everyone,

I would like to share with you the Tomorrow Center's Ohio School 2021-2022 Report Card results. The school's overall rating was "Exceeds Standards." Schools, like the Tomorrow Center, that receive the Dropout Prevention and Recovery report card are given ratings on four components: Achievement, Progress, Gap Closing, and Graduation Rate.

The Tomorrow Center received a "Meets Standards" in the Achievement Component, previously called the High School Test Passage Rate Component, which represents the number of students who meet applicable criteria on assessments that are required for graduation.

The Tomorrow Center received an "Exceeds Standards" in Progress, which looks closely at the growth that all students are making during the school year.

The Tomorrow Center earned a "Meets Standards" in Gap Closing, which shows how well they are improving or meeting the performance expectations for all students in English language arts, math, graduation, and English language proficiency.

Finally, the Tomorrow Center obtained an "Exceeds Standards" in their Graduation Rate, which looks at the percent of students who are successfully finishing high school with a diploma in four, five, six, seven, or eight years. When looking at last year's graduation rates among all Dropout Prevention and Recovery Schools (DOPR), the Tomorrow Center compares favorably in all categories. See the chart below.

Graduation Rates	4 Year	5 Year	6 Year	7 Year	8 Year	Combined Rates
Tomorrow Center	56%	80.8%	63.4%	60.9%	76.5%	66.7%
All DOPR Schools	38.7%	43.3%	43.2%	43.3%	41.3%	42%

Click on the link below to view the Tomorrow Center's report card.

<https://reportcard.education.ohio.gov/dorp/overview/148981>

As always, thank you for all you do to support the students and staff at the Tomorrow Center.

Policy Updates

Although members of the General Assembly were in Columbus briefly in late September for committee meetings and session days, and the Senate has scheduled committee meetings for the first Monday in October (October 3), members will now be working in their districts and campaigning for reelection until Election Day 2022 in November (the first Tuesday after the first Monday or November 8). Following the election, members of the 134th General Assembly will return to Columbus for several busy weeks of committee meetings and session days. These few weeks are often referred to as the "Lameduck Session" as some of the participating members, either due to retirement or not being reelected, will not return in January 2023 for the 135th General Assembly. Members will be pushing for approval of pending measures that are well along in the legislative process, working to amend a favored proposal that is not quite as far along in the legislative process to a related bill having perhaps a better chance of approval before the close of the 134th Assembly at the end of December, and looking towards the 135th General Assembly, which will begin in January 2023. Pending legislation that has not been approved by both chambers of the General Assembly and signed by the Governor by the close of the 134th Assembly will sunset and need to be reintroduced into the 135th General Assembly for further consideration.

One recently introduced legislative proposal that is unlikely to complete the legislative process this term but may be considered by the 135th General Assembly (perhaps as part of a budget bill), is **HB-719**. Sponsored by Representatives (Adam) Miller and Brent, HB 719 seeks to add services provided to English Language Learners and services related to reading instruction/literacy to the services provided by ESC's to both public and nonpublic schools. While many, if not all, ESC's may already be providing such services, passage of HB-719 would include such services as a requirement of Ohio law. On a related note, perhaps of some interest to the reader, federal law defines an English Language Learner as a student who has difficulty with English because (s)he is new to the United States or is a Native American/Alaskan Native and has a first language other than English at home.

Other recently introduced legislation that, while unlikely to complete the legislative process this term, might be reintroduced for consideration by the 135th General Assembly include:

SB-356 - Jointly sponsored by Senators Maharath and O'Brien, SB-356 seeks to add students who are developmentally delayed to the section on school funding related to funding received for students identified as specific learning disabled or developmentally disabled. Under current law, a "child with a disability" includes students who are developmentally delayed provided (s)he is at least three years old and not yet six. SB-356 would increase the upper age limit to "less than 10 years of age."

HB-667 - Offered by Representative Lightbody, proposes to create the *Grow Your Own Teacher College Scholarship Program*. HB-667 currently envisions a four-year scholarship of up to \$7,500/year awarded to eligible applicants committing to teach in a qualified school for at least four years within the first six years of completing their teacher training.

An eligible applicant is an individual who:

1. Is a graduating senior and was qualified for free/reduced price school meals during all four years of high school, or
2. Is employed at a school where at least 50% of the students are eligible for free/reduced price school meals, and holds an educational aide permit, an educational paraprofessional license, or a substitute teacher license.

A qualified school is a school building:

1. Identified by the Chancellor as being "high need,"
2. In which at least 50% of the students qualify for free/reduced price school meals, and
3. Is operated by the school system from which the scholarship recipient graduated or is employed.

Should HB-667 move forward this term, or be reintroduced into the 135th General Assembly, there is a need to modify the qualification for a scholarship recipient, as well as a qualified school. Linking qualifications to eligibility for free/reduced price school meals would eliminate online schools and their graduates from participation.

One proposal, **SB-306** sponsored by Senator Brenner, may have a chance of approval prior to the conclusion of the 134th Assembly as it has been approved by Committee, but not yet voted on by the Senate. SB-306 seeks to establish a tutoring and remedial education service to schools throughout the state. The ESC of Central Ohio would be the coordinating body and would be responsible for compensating tutors. To serve as a tutor in this program an individual would need to be a retired teacher, a substitute teacher, or meet such other qualifications as determined by ODE. The educator's license of a tutor would not need to be current, but it could not have been denied, suspended, or revoked.

Early in the 135th General Assembly members will need to consider a FY '24-'25 biennial budget, which would begin in July 2023. State agencies, including ODE, have been working on their budget requests. The State Board of Education's Budget Committee has been formulating a budget proposal to be considered by the full Board prior to the end of the year. The Budget Committee and the ODE's staff are currently evaluating existing staffing and programs, exploring opportunities for program re-alignment and to reduce redundancies in support to schools, and potential legislative changes to identify budget reductions of about \$26 to \$29 million. Three key areas that are being examined for possible enhancements include: Workforce Readiness (possible increased funding of about \$50 million over the biennium), Literacy Programs (possible increased funding of over \$90 million) and what is now being labeled as "Learning Acceleration" (need to remediate learning loss experienced during the pandemic school closures) depending upon alternatives selected could increase funding of about \$5.5 to \$45 million. For more information about the Budget Committee's current discussions visit the Committee's webpage for the September 2022 meeting:

<http://public.education.ohio.gov/StateBoardBooks/2022%20-%20Board%20Books/September%20-%202022/Budget%20Committee/>



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