



## **Memorandum** | Department of Community School

Date: November 29, 2021

To: Tomorrow Center Administrators and Governing Board Members

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

Subject: November Monthly Updates

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### **General Update**

Hello Everyone,

As a sponsor of the Tomorrow Center, one of the requirements is to collect data from at least three stakeholder groups over the course of a school year. One of the stakeholder groups I recently collected data from was the Tomorrow Center's staff. They were asked to take a Microsoft survey, with a total of 11 responses completed. This represented 69% of the 16 total Tomorrow Center's staff. The sponsor wanted to obtain information about the general operation of the school and how the staff felt about a number of issues. The results of the survey were shared with the Tomorrow Center's Director of School who will also share these results with her staff.

Below is a summary of the survey results, which are rounded to the nearest whole number. The actual graphs as well as comments made by the staff are attached to this newsletter.

1. **Staff members treat one another with respect.**
  - a. 5 or 45% of the staff members strongly agree
  - b. 6 or 55% of the staff members agree
2. **Students and staff members treat each other with respect.**
  - a. 1 or 9% of the staff members strongly agree
  - b. 9 or 82% of the staff members agree
  - c. 1 or 9% of the staff members neither agree nor disagree
3. **Most staff members are enthusiastic about teaching and communicate this to students.**
  - a. 7 or 64% of the staff members strongly agree
  - b. 4 or 36% of the staff members agree

4. **The school consistently enforces the code of student conduct.**
  - a. 3 or 27% of the staff members strongly agree
  - b. 4 or 36% of the staff members agree
  - c. 3 or 27% of the staff members neither agree nor disagree
  - d. 1 or 9% of the staff members disagree
5. **The school community has high expectations of all students.**
  - a. 3 or 27% of the staff members strongly agree
  - b. 6 or 55% of the staff members agree
  - c. 2 or 18% of the staff members neither agree nor disagree
6. **I have access to the tools I need to do my job.**
  - a. 7 or 64% of the staff members strongly agree
  - b. 4 or 36% of the staff members agree
7. **I am satisfied with opportunities for my professional growth.\***
  - a. 5 or 50% of the staff members strongly agree
  - b. 3 or 30% of the staff members agree
  - c. 2 or 20% of the staff members replied not applicable
8. **I understand what is expected of me in my roles and responsibilities as a staff member.**
  - a. 7 or 64% of the staff members strongly agree
  - b. 4 or 36% of the staff members agree
9. **School administrators and staff members communicate with each other effectively.**
  - a. 5 or 45% of the staff members strongly agree
  - b. 6 or 55% of the staff members agree
10. **Parents know what is going on in this school.**
  - a. 3 or 27% of the staff members strongly agree
  - b. 6 or 55% of the staff members agree
  - c. 1 or 9% of the staff members neither agree nor disagree
  - d. 1 or 9% of the staff members replied not applicable

\*Only 10 responses received for this question.

If you have any questions, please contact me. As always, thank you for all you do to support the students and staff at the Tomorrow Center.

## **Legislative and Policy Updates**

**SB-1**, which does impact K-12 schools, has been signed into law by Governor DeWine. Although the law's Financial Literacy provisions are not effective until late January

2022, and then are phased in over several years. One provision of particular importance was considered an emergency and was effective immediately. The legislation's emergency provision relates to the licensing and employment of substitute teachers. Because of the continuing severe shortage of substitute teachers, SB-1 carries forward last year's emergency rules that permitted local boards of education to establish the education requirements needed to serve as a substitute teacher within that district/school. The Ohio Department of Education was required to issue a substitute teaching license to an individual meeting the local education requirement if she/he also was of good moral character and had successful FBI and BCI background reports. These rules now carry forward for this school year.

Beginning with the 2022 school year, incoming 9th grade students will be required to complete a 1/2 credit course in Financial Literacy. Although most students may complete this course as an "elective," some students may be able to apply the credit towards their math requirement. Eventually teachers providing instruction in Financial Literacy will need to hold a validation to do so. However, teachers holding a license to teach Business, Family and Consumer Science, and Social Studies will be exempt from the requirement to hold a validation.

Recently introduced legislation that, if approved, will impact schools includes **HB-426**. If enacted, this proposal would require all public and private schools to have an Automatic External Defibrillator. The Ohio Department of Health would be required to develop a plan for the use of this type of defibrillator in schools. The proposal also seeks to require (now permitted) schools to conduct an information meeting about the symptoms/warning signs of **sudden cardiac arrest**. The bill would require schools to conduct such a meeting prior to each sport season.

If enacted, **HB-477** would prohibit schools from expelling a student who is not vaccinated against COVID. The legislation would also prohibit schools from discharging an unvaccinated employee. Students/employees would provide a statement declining the vaccination, but a reason for declining would not be required.

**HB-467** is recently introduced legislation that should be of interest to community schools, particularly those operated by a for-profit entity. Moving forward, community schools operated by a for-profit would no longer be considered a public school. Operators, however, would have until January 2023 to change their status from for-profit to non-profit. Schools facing the loss of their public-school status would have until July 2023 to designate an ESC as their new operator. If a school in this situation fails to designate an ESC as its operator by July 2023, the school would need to close. An ESC could not serve both as a sponsor and an operator. The bill also seeks to require the State Auditor to annually audit operators.

Finally, **SB-248** would require (now permitted) schools to provide for a daily moment of silence for reflection on specified topics. In addition to sponsor testimony, the bill has had one hearing (November 9, 2021) during which one speaker provided testimony in support of the proposal.

## **Updates regarding previously reported legislative proposals:**

**HB-403** (reporting of teachers retiring while under investigation) - on November 9, 2021, the sponsors of the bill had an opportunity to provide testimony to the committee initially considering their proposal. The sponsors (Representatives Fowler and Miller) indicated a concern that under current law a teacher can retire from one district while under investigation, causing no report to be made to ODE, and then seek employment as a retire/rehire in another district. The sponsors want to close this loophole. Representative Fowler further indicated that there may be loopholes in the Rapback system (program to protect Ohioans by providing additional safeguards against allowing convicted criminals to remain in positions of trust), which may require additional legislation to close.

**HB-370/373** (seizure action plans) have been assigned to the Primary and Secondary Education Committee for initial consideration; however, no action has yet been taken on either bill.

**HB-322/327** (teaching of divisive subject matter) have received extensive testimony from both proponents and opponents. HB-327 last appeared on the committee's schedule at the end of October.

**SB-240**, which addresses the merger of community schools, has received no additional attention since June.

**SB-214** (teaching of Asian American History) has been assigned to the Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee where Senator Maharath explained her reasons for sponsoring the bill during the committee's September 21, 2021, meeting.

The General Assembly maintains a publicly searchable database of all legislation under consideration at: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/search>

The **State Board of Education's** Performance and Impact Committee discussed proposed rules for Dropout Prevention and Recovery Schools during the Board's November meeting. Although ODE was required to review the current rules, no changes to the current rules have been proposed as a result. Andrew Huffman of the Greater Recovery and Dropout Schools (GRADS) submitted a letter to the committee supporting the position of no changes.

[http://public.education.ohio.gov/StateBoardBooks/November-2021/Performance%20and%20Impact%20Committee/4A%20Huffman%20\(Andrew\).pdf](http://public.education.ohio.gov/StateBoardBooks/November-2021/Performance%20and%20Impact%20Committee/4A%20Huffman%20(Andrew).pdf)

Also, during the November meeting the Board's Emerging Issues Committee discussed changes to rules relating to community school sponsors. Documents discussed by the committee can be viewed at: <http://public.education.ohio.gov/StateBoardBooks/November-2021/Emerging%20Issues%20and%20Operational%20Standards%20Committee/>. See documents 2a-2g. The committee's discussion is step 3 of an 8-step process that culminates in the 119 Rules hearing, which may be held as soon as February or March 2022.

Information regarding the State Board of Education meetings may be found at: <https://education.ohio.gov/State-Board/State-Board-Meetings/State-Board-Meetings-for-2021>.



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