



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

Date: February 25, 2022

To: Tomorrow Center Administrators and Governing Board Members

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

Subject: February Monthly Updates

---

### **General Update**

Hello Everyone,

As a sponsor of the Tomorrow Center, one of the requirements is that the sponsor submits evidence its community schools complete a Needs Assessment to determine what type of technical assistance and which professional development opportunities it offers to its schools. The Needs Assessment was completed by the leadership team from the Tomorrow Center this past October.

During the school year, the sponsor must provide timely assistance to its schools in response to issues, problems, and/or concerns once they are identified by either the school or the sponsor. The sponsor is required to provide at least three different instances of technical assistance to its schools. The sponsor is also required to solicit feedback on the quality and impact of the technical assistance that it provides to its schools through a survey.

As of this date, Mid-Ohio ESC has assisted the Tomorrow Center in technology (MiFi and Kajeet devices, updates to phones, changes in Google, student systems and staff updates, and consultation services) and in attendance to assist the school's new attendance officer.

Also, during the school year, the sponsor is required to regularly share information about professional development opportunities with its community schools, which it does. The Tomorrow Center's faculty is aware that they can view available learning opportunities on the Mid-Ohio ESC website at [www.moesc.net](http://www.moesc.net) by clicking on the professional learning tool bar.

The sponsor must use the results of the Needs Assessment to determine which professional development opportunities it offers that are specific to the needs of the Tomorrow Center. At the request of the Tomorrow Center, the Dropout Prevention and Recovery School Network Group that was established last school year continues. The DOPR School Network Group was formed by sponsors from the ESC of Central Ohio, North Central Ohio ESC, and Mid-Ohio ESC to address some of the professional development needs of DOPR schools and to connect these schools with each other for networking, collaboration, and support. Professional development

opportunities have been provided in the following area: Renaissance STAR Assessments (November 17, 2021, and December 7, 2021). Also, several teachers from the Tomorrow Center have participated in Mid-Ohio ESC's District Test Coordinators Network meetings this year.

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

Growing inflation, supply chain issues, regional conflict and, yes, continuing COVID concerns are issues facing the nation. Each year the President, through the **State of the Union** address to Congress, shares with members of the House and Senate, and the nation at large, successes of the past year, ongoing concerns, and future plans. President Biden is scheduled to offer his 2022 State of the Union message on Tuesday, March 1, 2022. Sometime following the President's address, Governor DeWine will offer his **State of the State** message to members of the General Assembly and all Ohioans. This message, too, will review Ohio's successes of the past year, discuss on-going concerns, and plans for the future. While the Governor's message is expected to be delivered in March to a joint session of the General Assembly, as of this writing a date has not been publicly announced.

The **Ohio House and Senate** continue to receive new legislative proposals from members for consideration. Although no new legislation has been introduced since the last update that specifically relates to primary and secondary education, several newly introduced bills are of interest to educators as they relate to STRS (State Teachers' Retirement System) operations and benefits. Legislation introduced in the House (**HB 539, HB 540, and HB 541**) seek to provide more transparency in the operations of the retirement system. These bills relate to access to STRS meetings and who the system does business with. On the Senate side, legislation (**SB 280**) has been introduced seeking to adjust the cap on cost of living increases to retirees. Although currently, the system has frozen the cost-of-living adjustment to retirees as part of the effort to correct the funding period, under current law, should cost of living increases be reinstated, those increases would be limited. SB 280 seeks to give STRS the ability to provide increases beyond the cap should inflation and the system's return on investment warrant and permit a larger increase. The complete text of these bills can be found at:

[https://search-prod.lis.state.oh.us/solarapi/v1/general\\_assembly\\_134/bills/hb554/IN/00/hb554\\_00\\_IN?format=pdf](https://search-prod.lis.state.oh.us/solarapi/v1/general_assembly_134/bills/hb554/IN/00/hb554_00_IN?format=pdf) (House bills), or <https://ohiosenate.gov/legislation> (Senate bill).

The **Department of Education** and the State Board have been actively involved in the required regular view of rules and regulations impacting the operations of K-12 schools and the education of K-12 students. During the February Board meeting, various Board committee rules relating to the instruction of Phonics, the Achievement Component of the State Report Card, and the addition of a new and temporary license for individuals with an expired educator license seeking to return to the field. In addition, the State Board has been reviewing a new guidebook related to Dyslexia. Rule proposals currently being reviewed, and a draft copy of the Dyslexia Guidebook may be found on ODE's website at the addresses indicated:

Phonics Rule: [http://public.education.ohio.gov/StateBoardBooks/2022%20-%20Board%20Books/February%20-%202022/Teaching,%20Leading%20and%20Learning%20Committee/04\\_OAC\\_3301-33-01\\_Rule\\_for\\_Phonics\\_Feb2022.pdf](http://public.education.ohio.gov/StateBoardBooks/2022%20-%20Board%20Books/February%20-%202022/Teaching,%20Leading%20and%20Learning%20Committee/04_OAC_3301-33-01_Rule_for_Phonics_Feb2022.pdf)

Report Card Achievement Component:

<http://public.education.ohio.gov/StateBoardBooks/2022%20-%20Board%20Books/February%20-%202022/Performance%20and%20Impact%20Committee/>

Temporary, two-year license for individuals with an expired license: [https://search-prod.lis.state.oh.us/solarapi/v1/general\\_assembly\\_134/bills/hb554/IN/00/hb554\\_00\\_IN?format=pdf](https://search-prod.lis.state.oh.us/solarapi/v1/general_assembly_134/bills/hb554/IN/00/hb554_00_IN?format=pdf)

Dyslexia Guidebook:

[http://public.education.ohio.gov/StateBoardBooks/2022%20-%20Board%20Books/February%20-%202022/Teaching,%20Leading%20and%20Learning%20Committee/02\\_OH\\_Dyslexia\\_Guidebook\\_DRAFT\\_Feb2022.pdf](http://public.education.ohio.gov/StateBoardBooks/2022%20-%20Board%20Books/February%20-%202022/Teaching,%20Leading%20and%20Learning%20Committee/02_OH_Dyslexia_Guidebook_DRAFT_Feb2022.pdf)



**CONFIDENTLY LEADING THROUGH  
COLLABORATION, CUSTOMIZATION AND CREATIVITY**

890 West Fourth Street, Suite 100, Mansfield, Ohio 44906 | Phone: 419-774-5520 | Fax: 419-774-5523 | [www.moesc.net](http://www.moesc.net)