



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

Date: April 28, 2022  
To: Tomorrow Center Administrators and Governing Board Members  
From: Jim Smith, Sponsor Liaison and Mid-Ohio ESC Sponsoring Staff  
Subject: April 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 stakeholder groups over the course of a school year. One of the stakeholder groups from which I recently collected data was the parents at the Tomorrow Center. The sponsor wanted to obtain information about how the parents felt about several school-related issues. Parents were asked to complete a Microsoft survey, with a total of 20 completed responses. While this does not represent most of the Tomorrow Center's families, the results from those who took the survey were positive. The results of the survey are being shared with the Tomorrow Center's school director and her administrative team.

Below is a summary of the survey results. The actual graphs as well as the comments made by the parents are attached to this newsletter.

**1. The learning environment at my child's school is excellent.**

- a. 8 parents strongly agree
- b. 5 parents agree
- c. 4 parents neither agree nor disagree
- d. 2 parents strongly disagree
- e. 1 parent disagrees
- f. 0 parents replied not applicable
- g. 0 parents replied other

**2. My child feels safe at school.**

- a. 4 parents strongly agree
- b. 9 parents agree
- c. 4 parents neither agree nor disagree
- d. 1 parent strongly disagrees
- e. 2 parents disagree
- f. 0 parents replied not applicable
- g. 0 parents replied other

**3. Communication with families occurs in an open and respectful manner.**

- a. 9 parents strongly agree
- b. 7 parents agree
- c. 0 parents neither agree nor disagree
- d. 3 parents strongly disagree
- e. 0 parents disagree
- f. 0 parents replied not applicable
- g. 1 parent replied other

**4. Staff members at my child's school set high standards for students.**

- a. 7 parents strongly agree
- b. 5 parents agree
- c. 5 parents neither agree nor disagree
- d. 2 parents strongly disagree
- e. 1 parent disagrees
- f. 0 parents replied not applicable
- g. 0 parents replied other

**5. The academic needs of students are met at my child's school.**

- a. 7 parents strongly agree
- b. 9 parents agree
- c. 2 parents neither agree nor disagree
- d. 1 parent strongly disagrees
- e. 1 parent disagrees
- f. 0 parents replied not applicable
- g. 0 parents replied other

**6. The rules for student conduct are consistently enforced at my child's school.**

- a. 6 parents strongly agree
- b. 6 parents agree
- c. 3 parents neither agree nor disagree
- d. 3 parents strongly disagree
- e. 1 parent disagrees
- f. 0 parents replied not applicable
- g. 1 parent replied other

**7. The staff members in the school have built strong relationships with my child.**

- a. 8 parents strongly agree
- b. 8 parents agree
- c. 2 parents neither agree nor disagree
- d. 1 parent strongly disagrees
- e. 1 parent disagrees
- f. 0 parents replied not applicable
- g. 0 parents replied other

8. **I feel comfortable talking with my child's teachers.**
- a. 9 parents strongly agree
  - b. 8 parents agree
  - c. 2 parents neither agree nor disagree
  - d. 1 parent strongly disagrees
  - e. 0 parents disagree
  - f. 0 parents replied not applicable
  - g. 0 parents replied other
9. **I am well-informed about how my child is doing in school.**
- a. 6 parents strongly agree
  - b. 7 parents agree
  - c. 3 parents neither agree nor disagree
  - d. 2 parents strongly disagree
  - e. 1 parent disagrees
  - f. 0 parents replied not applicable
  - g. 1 parent replied other
10. **My child has pride in his/her school.**
- a. 5 parents strongly agree
  - b. 7 parents agree
  - c. 4 parents neither agree nor disagree
  - d. 2 parents strongly disagree
  - e. 2 parents disagree
  - f. 0 parents replied not applicable
  - g. 0 parents replied other

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**

The **State Board of Education** has narrowed its search for a new State Superintendent of Schools to seven candidates including a former member of the Board, a Christian School educator, and an out-of-state district superintendent. Four of the candidates are sitting superintendents of Ohio public school systems. In addition, two of the other candidates (the former Board member and the Christian School educator) have extensive Ohio public school administrative experience, including stints as district superintendents. A list of the finalists can be found on ODE's website at:

<https://education.ohio.gov/Media/Media-Releases/2022-Media-Releases/State-Board-to-Interview-Candidates-for-Next-Super#.YmiJucjMLIU>

Would you like to know a bit more about the finalists? Visit Spectrum News 1's website: <https://spectrumnews1.com/oh/columbus/news/2022/04/01/ohio-education-superintendent-of-public-instruction-seven-candidate-interviews>

Twenty-eight individuals from Ohio and elsewhere applied for the position. To learn who applied and the positions they hold now visit the Columbus Dispatch's website: <https://www.dispatch.com/story/news/education/2022/03/07/who-applied-ohio-state-superintendent-heres-list/9345071002/>

The news from the state capital has been filled with discussion related to redistricting, the pending primary election, and Critical Race Theory. Of interest to educators and their employers is the talk around STRS/SERS COLA (Cost-of-Living Adjustment), as well as the years of service and age requirements for retirement. Several bills have been introduced in the past year seeking to address the COLA, with the most recent bill, **HB 601**, being sponsored by two former educators. The sponsors of HB 601 suggest that their bill is the first to not only provide for cost-of-living increases, but a way to pay for them. HB-601 proposes to pay for COLA's by gradually increasing the employer contribution to the retirement systems in 0.5% increments until the employer contribution reaches 18%. Under the bill, the increase in employer contributions would pay for a 1%-2% COLA on the first \$30,000 of retirement income. The bill leaves the door open for possible increases on income over \$30,000. HB 601 has been assigned to the House Insurance Committee for initial consideration. As of this writing, only sponsor testimony has been provided. To view an analysis of the bill, read the testimony of the sponsors, learn more about the sponsors, etc. by visiting:

<https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-601>

In a move that seeks to begin to address concerns about the COLA and the years of service/age requirements, the **STRS Board** recently took two actions. First, the Board approved a one-time 3% cost of living increase beginning in FY 23 for those individuals who retired in 2018 or before. Second, the Board also eliminated the retirement age requirement for those individuals with 35 years of service. An individual with 35 years of service will now be able to retire at any age instead of having to wait until age 60.

**HB 322 and 327**, which focus on the teaching of divisive subjects, continue to be topics of conversation as they are considered by the House. HB 322 has had three hearings in committee, while HB 327 has had five hearings and has seen several substitute versions introduced to replace the original bill. These bills have recently been joined by **HB 616**. This latest proposal, also sometimes referred to as the "Don't Say Gay" bill, maintains provisions around divisive topics, but adds instruction related to gender identity, sex education, etc. If enacted, the bill would ban such instruction below fourth grade. While permitting instruction in fourth through twelfth grade; the legislation requires that instruction and instructional materials be age appropriate. (see: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-616>)

### **A recap of previously reported legislative proposals**

**HB 583** seeks to extend substitute flexibility through June 2025. The current substitute flexibility from **SB 1** applies only to the current school year. The bill is permissive, allowing local schools boards to determine the educational requirements of substitute teachers who are teaching five or fewer consecutive days in a classroom. The current temporary licensing of substitute teachers was approved by the full House at the end of March and sent to the Senate for consideration by that chamber. The bill received its first Senate hearing on April 5, 2022.

**HB 447** is concerned with eligibility for Workers' Compensation when working at home has been approved by the House and assigned to the Senate Insurance Committee for initial consideration by that chamber.

**HB 403** seeks to close the loophole that enables an individual to retire and forestall investigation of wrongdoing has been approved by the House and sent to the Senate.

**SB 248** seeks to require a moment of silent reflection in schools received a third hearing by the Senate Education Committee in mid-December but has seen no activity since then.

**SB 240**, which would establish community school networks, was given a fourth hearing by the Senate Education Committee in early April.

**HB 497** seeks to limit the number of tests associated with the Third Grade Guarantee now has had two hearings in the House Education Committee.

**Proposals that have not yet received a hearing** or have only received sponsor testimony include HB 426 (automatic defibrillators), HB 370/373 (Sarah's Law), SB 251 (extending the hours that a minor can work), and SB 214 (requiring instruction in Asian-American history).



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