



Memorandum | Department of Community School

Date: May 25, 2022
To: Tomorrow Center Administrators and Governing Board Members
From: Jim Smith, Sponsor Liaison and Mid-Ohio ESC Sponsoring Staff
Subject: May Monthly Updates

General Update

Hello Everyone,

The Tomorrow Center honored its graduating class of 2022 on Friday, May 20 at 6:00 pm., with 21 students receiving diplomas. Several students earned the following graduation seals: Industry-Recognized Credential (earned 12 points in an industry-recognized credential program aligned to a job considered in demand), Citizenship (achieved a proficient score on the American history and government end-of-course exams), Science (earned a proficient score on the biology end-of-course exam), Fine and Performing Arts (demonstrated skill in the fine or performing arts according to an evaluation aligned to guidelines developed by the school board), Ohio MeansJobs – Readiness (demonstrated work readiness and professional competencies), Community Service (completed a community service project aligned with guidelines adopted by the governing board), and Technology (earned a score that is equivalent to proficient on an appropriate AP exam, or earned a final course grade that is equivalent to a “B” or higher in an appropriate CCP class, or completed a course offered through the school that meets the guidelines developed by ODE).

The commencement speaker was Earl Linder, the owner of Mid-Ohio Sanitation. His address centered on how he created a successful business without a high school degree. Following the ceremony, treats and refreshments were served to the graduates and their families.

Besides the graduation ceremony, several other events occurred concluding the school year. A graduation breakfast was held on Friday, May 20 at 9:00 at the Edison Depot. On the last day of school, May 25, all students attended an awards assembly, participated in games and activities, and enjoyed an end-of-year cookout.

The Tomorrow Center will be participating in an Extended Learning Program this summer. The school will extend in-person learning for students for two weeks following the traditional last day of school, with local public school districts bussing students to the Tomorrow Center for the first week, and the Tomorrow Center then contracting with MCAT to provide transportation for students in week two. After the two-week in-person learning, the faculty will be working with some students remotely. The school will provide students with a computer and Wi-Fi.

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.

Policy Update

The **State Board of Education** has named Steve Dackin to be Ohio's next State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Superintendent-designee Dackin brings to the position many years of experience as a building principal, central office administrator, and district superintendent. He was previously employed as an administrator at the Ohio Department of Education, and most recently served in an administrative capacity at Columbus State Community College. Earlier this year, Mr. Dackin resigned his position as Chair of the State Board's Superintendent Search Committee, as well as his position as a member of the State Board, in order to apply for the position. To learn more about Ohio's new State Superintendent visit: <https://education.ohio.gov/Media/Ed-Connection/May-16-2022/Stephen-Dackin-selected-as-Ohio%E2%80%99s-next-superintend>.

This month the **Ohio Department of Education** released its new Dyslexia Guidebook. You can view ODE's guidance document online at: <https://education.ohio.gov/Media/Ed-Connection/May-16-2022/Now-available-Ohio-s-Dyslexia-Guidebook>.

The **Biden Administration** has delivered its proposed FY '23 federal budget to Congress for consideration. Funding at the federal level is a two-step process. The first step is the approval of a budget, then using the approved budget for guidance, the appropriators approve specific funding bills for each federal department/agency. The big "winner" in the administration's proposed budget for K-12 education is Title 1, which if sustained through the budget/appropriations process, would double Title 1 funding. The long-term goal of the administration is to triple Title 1 funding. Another winner, Special Education, is proposed to receive a funding increase of more than \$3 billion. Within the proposed funding for Special Education is a set aside to help increase staff serving special needs children. Staffing seems to be a theme in the budget proposal with the inclusion of a \$1 billion line item for counselors and over \$350 million to assist with the recruitment and retention of staff in general.

The **Ohio General Assembly** is rushing towards its scheduled summer recess with the last scheduled session day for both the House and Senate being June 8. Being an election year, the summer recess may be a bit longer than in a non-election year, and the fall session will be shorter. Currently there are no session days or committee meetings scheduled during the months of July and August. Both chambers are planning to return to Columbus during the week of September 12. The month of October and early November (through election week) will find legislators working in their districts, with a planned return to Columbus in mid-November. Recently introduced legislation, but with few remaining legislative days for consideration before the end of the term, includes:

- **HB-633** seeks to require parental permission for the release of Directory Information. Although federal law (FERPA) and Ohio law protect much personally identifiable information about a student from being released without a parent's permission, Directory Information now is public information.
- **HB-663** seeks to ease the burden of student loans for a select group of teachers. The legislation proposes the creation of a fund to reimburse/forgive up to \$40,000 in student loans. Licensed teachers in grades 7-12 working in low performing schools that also have a high need for science and math teachers would be eligible.

- **HB-643** would create an excused absence from school when students are participating in 4-H activities.
- **HB-639** seeks to require that self-defense instruction be incorporated into high school health classes.

Information regarding these legislative proposals, and any bill currently being considered by the Ohio General Assembly, may be found on the Legislative Service Commissions website at: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/search>



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