



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

Date: April 28, 2023  
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 survey, with a total of 25 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. 15 or 60% of the parents strongly agree
- b. 9 or 36% of the parents agree
- c. 1 or 4% of the parents neither agree nor disagree
- d. 0 or 0% of the parents strongly disagree
- e. 0 or 0% of the parents disagrees
- f. 0 or 0% of the parents replied not applicable
- g. 0 or 0% of the parents replied other

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

- a. 15 or 60% of the parents strongly agree
- b. 9 or 36% of the parents agree
- c. 0 or 0% of the parents neither agree nor disagree
- d. 0 or 0% of the parents strongly disagrees
- e. 1 or 4% of the parents disagree

- f. 0 or 0% of the parents replied not applicable
- g. 0 or 0% of the parents replied other

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

- a. 17 or 68% of the parents strongly agree
- b. 7 or 28% of the parents agree
- c. 1 or 4% of the parents neither agree nor disagree
- d. 0 or 0% of the parents strongly disagree
- e. 0 or 0% of the parents disagree
- f. 0 or 0% of the parents replied not applicable
- g. 0 or 0% of the parents replied other

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

- a. 14 or 56% of the parents strongly agree
- b. 8 or 32% of the parents agree
- c. 3 or 12% of the parents neither agree nor disagree
- d. 0 or 0% of the parents strongly disagree
- e. 0 or 0% of the parents disagrees
- f. 0 or 0% of the parents replied not applicable
- g. 0 or 0% or the parents replied other

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

- a. 16 or 64% of the parents strongly agree
- b. 9 or 36% of the parents agree
- c. 0 or 0% of the parents neither agree nor disagree
- d. 0 or 0% of the parents strongly disagrees
- e. 0 or 0% of the parents disagrees
- f. 0 or 0% of the parents replied not applicable
- g. 0 or 0% of the parents replied other

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

- a. 12 or 48% of the parents strongly agree
- b. 8 or 32% of the parents agree
- c. 5 or 20% of the parents neither agree nor disagree
- d. 0 or 0% of the parents strongly disagree
- e. 0 or 0% of the parents disagrees
- f. 0 or 0% of the parents replied not applicable
- g. 0 or 0% of the parents replied other

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

- a. 19 or 76% of the parents strongly agree
- b. 5 or 20% of the parents agree
- c. 1 or 4% of the parents neither agree nor disagree

- d. 0 or 0% of the parents strongly disagrees
- e. 0 or 0% of the parents disagrees
- f. 0 or 0% of the parents replied not applicable
- g. 0 or 0% of the parents replied other

**8. I feel comfortable talking with my child's teachers.**

- a. 18 or 72% of the parents strongly agree
- b. 5 or 20% of the parents agree
- c. 0 or 0% of the parents neither agree nor disagree
- d. 0 or 0% of the parents strongly disagrees
- e. 0 or 0% of the parents disagree
- f. 2 or 8% of the parents replied not applicable
- g. 0 or 0% of the parents replied other

**9. I am well-informed about how my child is doing in school.**

- a. 15 or 60% of the parents strongly agree
- b. 6 or 24% of the parents agree
- c. 0 or 0% of the parents neither agree nor disagree
- d. 0 or 0% of the parents strongly disagree
- e. 4 or 16% of the parents disagrees
- f. 0 or 0% of the parents replied not applicable
- g. 0 or 0% of the parents replied other

**10. My child has pride in his/her school.**

- a. 13 or 52% of the parents strongly agree
- b. 11 or 44% of the parents agree
- c. 1 or 4% of the parents neither agree nor disagree
- d. 0 or 0% of the parents strongly disagree
- e. 0 or 0% of the parents disagree
- f. 0 or 0% of the parents replied not applicable
- g. 0 or 0% of the 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**

During the last week of April, the (Ohio) House Finance Committee completed its work on FY'24-'25 Biennial Budget (Substitute HB-33). The full House voted to approve the bill and forwarded it to the Senate for consideration. The Senate will begin its work on the budget in early May.

Substitute HB-33 includes several additions, deletions, and changes from the "As Introduced" version of the budget. For instance, several education programs were granted additional funding in the substitute bill, including community schools. Proposed funding for community schools was increased by \$53 million in FY'24 and more than \$74 million in FY'25 over what was proposed in the original budget. The substitute bill also proposes to make the DOPR Pilot (funding) program permanent. Proposed changes to the pilot program would base funding on the statewide average base per pupil cost and make ODE's enrollment review permissive. Proposed funding for ESCs is unchanged from the original bill. Other changes contained in the substitute bill that might impact community schools include:

1. Increase the income level for a first-time EdChoice scholarship from the current 200% of the federal poverty level and the 400% proposed in the original bill to 450%.
2. Require ODE to submit any changes in the manual relating to the review and audit of community school enrollment (FTE) to the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR). As part of its review, JCARR would be required to determine if it can reasonably comply with the proposed change(s).
3. Propose to increase the state minimum base teacher salary from \$30,000 to \$40,000. The step increments in the state's Minimum Teacher Salary Schedule are unchanged.
4. Propose changing the current three general license grade bands from PK-5, 4-9, and 7-12 to PK-8 and 6-12.
5. Require schools to provide teachers with one day of annual leave to observe an experienced teacher in the classroom.
6. Require all currently licensed school counselors to complete four hours of training in the building/construction trades at a construction site or training facility. (Pre-service counselors would need to complete 12 hours of training.)
7. Propose seeking to require instruction related to FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) to be included in the required part of the financial literacy requirement for high school graduation. The budget, as originally proposed, included a provision requiring the completion of the FAFSA form for graduation.
8. Eliminate the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Guarantee and the administration of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade English/Language Arts exam. The requirement to provide intervention services to students not reading on grade level is maintained.
9. Eliminate from the budget the Governor's proposal related to School Resource Officers.
10. Decrease over \$40 million in funding for literacy improvement from what was originally proposed by the Governor.

Several pending bills have also been amended into ODE's section of the budget including pending legislation seeking to require the development of individual seizure plans, a requirement to transmit student records within five days of receiving a records request and create the *Grow Your Own Teacher Program*. Finally, Substitute HB-33 retains a provision creating a Pre-service Teacher Permit. All student teachers would be required to obtain this permit, which would also enable pre-service teachers to serve as substitutes.

The Legislative Services Commission's (LSC) comparison document comparing the ODE section of the "As Introduced" version of the biennial budget to the Substitute HB-33 as approved by the House can be viewed

at: <https://www.lsc.ohio.gov/assets/legislation/135/hb33/ph/files/hb33-edu-comparison-document-as-passed-by-the-house-135th-general-assembly.pdf>

Although the House has been focused on approving a new budget, other proposed legislation continues to be introduced. One new proposal of interest to community schools is HB-96. If approved, HB-96 would increase Ohio minimum wage by \$1 per hour until \$15 per hour is reached in 2028. SB-112 seeks to increase school security by strengthening school doors to a higher standard. The sponsor has suggested that the standards should be like those that exist for hospitals. The sponsor has also indicated that while he would like to require bullet proof glass in entrance doors, the installation cost of such glass is cost prohibitive at this time. Although SB-112 does not include an appropriation for the needed upgrades, schools would have one year to determine necessary upgrades and a second year to complete the work.



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