



## Memorandum | Department of Community School

Date: May 30, 2023  
To: Tomorrow Center Administrators and Governing Board Members  
From: Jim Smith, Sponsor Liaison and Mid-Ohio ESC Sponsoring Staff  
Subject: May Monthly Updates

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### General Update

Hello Everyone,

The Tomorrow Center honored its graduating class of 2023 on Friday, May 19 at 6:00 pm., with 18 students receiving diplomas.

The commencement speaker was Jamie Brucker, Morrow County Operations Manager, a position that plans and oversees growth in the county. He talked about what he dreamed of doing and what he ended up doing, and that it is fine not to always know and to change your mind.

The state of Ohio has twelve graduation seals that students can earn during their high school years. The Tomorrow Center graduates earned anywhere from two to five of the six graduation seals listed below (six graduation seals, College Ready, Technology, Military, Student Engagement, Honors, and Biliteracy were not earned by graduates): **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 governing board), **Ohio Means Jobs Readiness** (demonstrated work readiness and professional competencies), **Community Service** (completed a community service project aligned with guidelines adopted by the governing board).

Besides the graduation ceremony, several other events occurred concluding the school year. A graduation breakfast was held on Friday, May 19 at 9:00 at the Edison Depot. On the last day of school, May 26, 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.

## Legislative and Policy Update

Stephanie Siddens, who is serving as Interim State Superintendent for the second time, will be leaving that position this summer to assume the post of Deputy Superintendent in the Upper Arlington Schools. The **State Board** considered two internal candidates to assume the post of Interim Superintendent when Staphanie Siddens vacates the position. Ultimately the Board selected Chris Woolard, who currently serves as ODE's Chief Program Officer, to become the new Interim Superintendent. In related action, the Board also approved employing Ray and Associates, a search firm from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to conduct the search for a new superintendent.

During its May meeting, the State Board of Education considered a resolution to seek an opinion from the Ohio Attorney General regarding SB-1 as approved by the Senate. SB-1 is proposed legislation seeking to transfer most duties of the State Board of Education and the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) to a new office under the Governor. A copy of the resolution may be viewed at:

<http://public.education.ohio.gov/StateBoardBooks/2023%20-%20Board%20Books/May%20-%202023/Member%20Proposed%20Resolutions/Resolution%20in%20Support%20of%20SB79>

The Board also considered a resolution in support of SB-79. A copy of this resolution may be viewed at:

<http://public.education.ohio.gov/StateBoardBooks/2023%20-%20Board%20Books/May%20-%202023/Member%20Proposed%20Resolutions/Resolution%20in%20Support%20of%20SB79%20-%20B.%20Shea.pdf>

SB-79 seeks to provide new flexibility to Dropout Prevention and Recovery Schools (DOPR) and would create a DOPR advisory committee within ODE. The bill may be viewed at:

<https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/download?key=20652&format=pdf>.

The **General Assembly**, and particularly the Senate, is focused on approving a new state budget for the 2023-2025 biennium (HB-33), which must be approved by the end of June. After approving a substitute version of HB-33 (now Sub HB-33), the bill moved to the Senate for consideration. The Senate will likely approve its own version of the budget within the next couple of weeks after which a House-Senate Conference Committee will be convened to work out the differences between the two bills.

The Legislative Services Commission (LSC) has prepared a comparison document of HB-33 as introduced to Sub HB-33 as approved by the House which is available 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>

Readers may be particularly interested in community school/DOPR funding items on pages 3, 6, and 11 of the comparison document. The sub bill also includes provisions to increase the state minimum teacher salary to \$40,000 (pg.17), consolidate the current three bands of teacher license to two: PreK-8 and 6-12 (pg. 18), create a teacher loan repayment program (pg. 23), and require the development of seizure action plans (pg. 30). The complete LSC comparison document (94 pages) as it relates to primary and secondary education may be view 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>

Columns will be added to the comparison document as the Senate approves its version of the budget, and the Conference Committee creates a compromise budget.



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