



Memorandum | Department of Community School

Date: September 27, 2023

To: Tomorrow Center Administrative Team and Governing Board Members

From: Jim Smith, Sponsor Liaison, Dave Jones, Director of Community Schools, and Mid-Ohio ESC Sponsoring Staff

Subject: September Newsletter

General Updates

Hello Everyone,

We would like to share the Tomorrow Center's Ohio School 2022-2023 Report Card results with you. The school's overall rating was **"Exceeds Standards."** Schools, like the Tomorrow Center, that receive the Dropout Prevention and Recovery report card are given ratings (Exceeds Standards, Meets Standards, or Does Not Meet Standards) on four components: **Achievement, Progress, Gap Closing, and Graduation Rate.**

The Tomorrow Center received a **"Does Not Meet Standards"** in the **Achievement** Component, previously called the High School Test Passage Rate Component, which represents the number of students who meet applicable criteria on assessments that are required for graduation.

The Tomorrow Center earned an **"Exceeds Standards"** in **Progress**, which looks closely at the growth that all students are making during the school year.

The Tomorrow Center received an **"Exceeds Standards"** in **Gap Closing**, which shows how well they are improving or meeting the performance expectations for all students in English language arts, math, graduation, and English language proficiency.

Finally, the Tomorrow Center obtained an **"Exceeds Standards"** in their **Graduation Rate**, which looks at the percent of students who are successfully finishing high school with a diploma in four, five, six, seven, or eight years. When looking at last year's graduation rates among all Dropout Prevention and Recovery Schools (DOPR), the Tomorrow Center compares favorably in all categories. See the chart below.

Graduation Rates	4 Year	5 Year	6 Year	7 Year	8 Year	Combined Rates
Tomorrow Center	65.5%	61.5%	80.8%	63.4%	60.9%	66.2%
All DOPR Schools	40.5%	44.7%	46%	44.2%	43.1%	43.7%

Click on the link below to view the Tomorrow Center's report card.

<https://reportcard.education.ohio.gov/dorp/overview/148981>

As always, thank you for all you do to support the students and staff at the Tomorrow Center.

Legislative and Policy Updates

During the first week of October, the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) will sunset, and the newly created Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) will take its place as provided in the Biennial Budget Bill (HB-33). A 90-day transition period has been established during which staff, funding, and other assets will be transferred from ODE to DEW. During the transition, the Governor will need to appoint, and the Senate confirm, a Director for the Department. In addition, the Governor needs to appoint, and the Senate confirm, Deputy Directors for the Departments two major divisions: Primary and Secondary Education and Career/Technical Education. DEW will join other executive departments under the Governor. As of this writing, there has been no official announcement about who the Governor might appoint to these positions, just speculation.

Although most functions of ODE will be transferred to DEW, the State Board of Education will continue in place as a separate entity. The Board retains responsibility for such functions as the transfer of school district territory, educator licensing and discipline, support for the Educator Standards Board, and the operation of the *Teacher of the Year* program. Representative Fowler Arthur, a former member of the State Board, has introduced legislation (HB-235) seeking to increase the responsibilities of the Board beyond those provided in the budget bill. If approved, HB-235 would require the Board to hold monthly meetings for the purpose of conducting a hearing on rules proposed by the Director and Deputy Directors of DEW. The Director and Deputy Directors would be required to attend these meetings. Following each hearing, the Board would be responsible for preparing a report summarizing the oral and written testimony provided. DEW will be required to post the Board's report on its website. HB-235 also proposes to eliminate the appointed positions on the State Board and reduce, over time, the size of the Board to match the number of Ohio congressional districts from which the members will be elected. Currently, members of the State Board run in non-partisan elections, however, HB-235 proposes to make these partisan positions with primary elections to be held. Rep. Fowler Arthur's bill was recently assigned to the Primary and Secondary Education Committee for initial consideration by the House. The Committee has received Rep. Fowler Arthur's sponsor testimony which explains her reasons for offering this bill. A copy of her testimony may be viewed at: [HB-235-Testimony](#). HB-235 currently has 27 co-sponsors. The Legislative Services Commission's (LSC) analysis of HB-235 may be viewed at: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/download?key=21340&format=pdf>. Representative

Loychik has introduced legislation (HB-267) that would make positions on the State Board, as well as local boards of education, partisan positions.

We have seen increasing activity to address the teacher shortage, particularly as it relates to substitute teachers. For instance, during the past year or so schools have been granted permissive authority to employ individuals who do not hold a bachelor's degree as substitute teachers. The budget bill included a provision creating the Pre-service Teacher Permit which, when implemented, will allow individuals in teacher training programs to substitute. During its September meeting, the State Board of Education considered a proposal to establish rules under which the Board might issue a teaching license to someone who had previously been permanently denied a license or had a license permanently revoked. A copy of the resolution discussed by the Board may be viewed

at: [https://public.education.ohio.gov/StateBoardBooks/2023%20-](https://public.education.ohio.gov/StateBoardBooks/2023%20-%20Board%20Books/September%20-)
[%20Board%20Books/September%20-](https://public.education.ohio.gov/StateBoardBooks/September%20-)

[%202023/Member%20Proposed%20Resolutions/Licensure%20Resolution%20-](https://public.education.ohio.gov/StateBoardBooks/September%20-)
[%20J. Hagan%20-%20Sept%202023.pdf](https://public.education.ohio.gov/StateBoardBooks/September%20-). Ohio Revised Code requires the revocation of an

individual's educator license, or the denial of a license application, when an individual is convicted of certain offenses. The law also grants the Board permissive authority to take similar action for a conviction for certain other offenses (ORC 3319.31 - <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-3319.31>). The Board is discussing revocations/denials for those offenses where it has permissive authority.



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