



Memorandum | Department of Community School

Date: December 26, 2023

To: Tomorrow Center Administrators and Governing Board Members

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

Subject: December Monthly Updates

General Update

Hello everyone,

As a sponsor of the Tomorrow Center, one of the requirements is that the sponsor submits evidence its community schools complete a Needs Assessment to determine what type of professional development opportunities and the type of technical assistance it offers to its schools. The Needs Assessment was completed by most of the leadership team from the Tomorrow Center in September, with one individual completing it in early October and the last person in early November.

During the school year, the sponsor is required to regularly share information about professional development opportunities with its community schools, which it does. The Tomorrow Center's faculty is aware that they can view available learning opportunities on the Mid-Ohio ESC website at www.moesc.net by clicking on the professional learning tool bar.

The sponsor must use the results of the Needs Assessment to determine which professional development opportunities it offers that are specific to the needs of the Tomorrow Center. At the request of the Tomorrow Center, the Dropout Prevention and Recovery School Network Group that was established two years ago continues. The DOPR School Network Group was formed by sponsors from the ESC of Central Ohio, North Central Ohio ESC, and Mid-Ohio ESC to address some of the professional development needs of DOPR schools and to connect these schools with each other for networking, collaboration, and support. Professional development has been provided in Instructional Technology and Artificial Intelligence (September 28, 2023) and Science of Reading (November 9, 2023).

During the school year, the sponsor must provide timely assistance to its schools in response to issues, problems, and/or concerns once they are identified by either the school or the sponsor. The sponsor is required to provide at least three different instances of technical assistance to its

schools throughout the school year. The sponsor is also required to solicit feedback on the quality and impact of the technical assistance that it provides to its schools through a survey.

To date, technical assistance has been provided in several areas. Monthly community school updates are emailed to the administrative team, and the sponsor has provided the Tomorrow Center's School Director with a template and a guidance document for her to complete the school's Annual Report. Mid-Ohio ESC's Amy Wood, Director of Special Projects, presented information regarding two grants, Ready to Hire and Workforce Development, that were made available to the Tomorrow Center.

If you have any questions, please contact us. As always, thank you for all you do to support the students and staff at the Tomorrow Center.

Legislative and Policy Updates

The newly created **Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (DEW)** and the residual **State Board of Education** now have permanent leaders. The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) is no more. DEW has adopted ODE's former web address: www.education.ohio.gov. The web address for the State Board of Education is: sboe.gov.

Steve Dackin has been confirmed by the Ohio Senate to be the inaugural Director of DEW. Steve has been a rural and suburban educator. He also was an administrator at ODE and served as an appointed member of the State Board of Education. During its December meeting, the State Board appointed Paul Craft as the new State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Most recently, Paul has been the Superintendent of the Buckeye Local Schools. He previously served as Superintendent of the Delaware City Schools. Both gentlemen officially begin their new positions on January 1.

Under the provisions of the state budget bill (**HB-33**) most functions of the former ODE were transferred to DEW. The residual State Board of Education retains responsibility for licensing, professional conduct, the transfer of school district territory, and the Teacher of the Year program. Shortly after approval of the state budget, Representative Fowler-Arthur, a former member of the State Board of Education, introduced **HB-235**, which seeks to provide the Board with at least some responsibility relative to education policy. The bill also seeks to change the membership of the Board. If enacted, HB-235 would require the Board to meet at least once a month and conduct public hearings on rules being proposed by DEW. The Board would then prepare a summary of any hearing, which DEW would be required to post on its website. HB-235 also proposes to return the State Board to an all-elected board with the number of members and the districts they represent to be based on Ohio's U.S. House districts. HB-235 was assigned to the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee for initial consideration. The Committee has conducted one hearing on Representative Fowler-Arthur's proposal during which she presented sponsor testimony. As of this writing no further hearings on HB-235 have been conducted by the Committee. To view LSC's analysis of HB-235, Representative Fowler-Arthur's testimony and other documents related to the bill, visit: <https://ohiosenate.gov/legislation/135/hb235/committee>.

Introduced in mid-December, **HB-361** seeks to expand the eligibility for the 40-hour Teaching Permit. If approved, HB-361 would expand the availability of the Permit to Dropout Prevention and Recovery Schools. The bill has not yet been assigned to a committee for initial consideration and analysis is not yet available. The text of the bill may be viewed at: https://search-prod.lis.state.oh.us/solarapi/v1/general_assembly_135/bills/hb361/IN/00/hb361_00_IN?format=pdf.

Introduced in early December, **HB-348** seeks to create a pilot program to increase attendance and graduation rates. Under the proposed program, graduating seniors would receive at least \$250 and could receive up to \$750 depending upon the student's GPA. Attendance incentives would focus on kindergarteners and ninth graders. Depending upon the frequency of the payout, students (9th graders) or their parents (kindergarteners), with a 90% attendance rate could receive \$25 (2-week payments) up to \$500 (one time for the school year). No hearings have been held and an analysis of the bill is not available. The complete text of the bill may be viewed at: https://search-prod.lis.state.oh.us/solarapi/v1/general_assembly_135/bills/hb348/IN/00/hb348_00_IN?format=pdf.