



Memorandum | Department of Community School

Date: February 28, 2024

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: February Monthly Updates

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 we recently collected data from was the students at the Tomorrow Center. They were asked to complete a survey, with a total of 64 responses completed. This represented 74% of the approximately 87 active students enrolled at the Tomorrow Center. The sponsor wanted to obtain information on how students felt about the school. The results of the survey are being shared with the Tomorrow Center's Director of School, and in turn, she will share these results with her staff.

Below is a summary of the survey results, rounded to the nearest whole number. The actual graphs as well as comments made by the students are attached to this newsletter.

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.

1. I like my school.

- a. 49 or 77% of the students strongly agree.
- b. 13 or 20% of the students agree.
- c. 1 or 2% of the students neither agree nor disagree.
- d. 1 or 2% of the students strongly disagree.
- e. 0 or 0% of the students disagree.
- f. 0 or 0% of the students replied, "not applicable."
- g. 0 or 0% of the students replied "other."

2. I feel successful at my school.

- a. 35 or 55% of the students strongly agree.
- b. 24 or 38% of the students agree.
- c. 5 or 8% of the students neither agree nor disagree.
- d. 0 or 0% of the students strongly disagree.
- e. 0 or 0% of the students disagree.
- f. 0 or 0% of the students replied, "not applicable."
- g. 0 or 0% of the students replied "other."

3. At my school, I develop good work habits such as being responsible, on time, and disciplined.

- a. 34 or 53% of the students strongly agree.
- b. 21 or 33% of the students agree.
- c. 8 or 13% of the students neither agree nor disagree.
- d. 0 or 0% of the students strongly disagree.
- e. 1 or 2% of the students disagree.
- f. 0 or 0% of the students replied, "not applicable."
- g. 0 or 0% of the students replied "other."

4. Staff members at my school treat students with respect.

- a. 45 or 70% of the students strongly agree.
- b. 13 or 20% of the students agree.
- c. 5 or 8% of the students neither agree nor disagree.
- d. 0 or 0% of the students strongly disagree.
- e. 0 or 0% of the students disagree.
- f. 0 or 0% of the students replied, "not applicable."
- g. 1 or 2% of the students replied "other."

5. At my school, I develop values of hard work, honesty, and tolerance of others.

- a. 36 or 56% of the students strongly agree.
- b. 19 or 30% of the students agree.
- c. 7 or 11% of the students neither agree nor disagree.
- d. 0 or 0% of the students strongly disagree.
- e. 2 or 3% of the students disagree.
- f. 0 or 0% of the students replied, "not applicable."
- g. 0 or 0% of the students replied "other."

6. I feel safe in my school.

- a. 43 or 67% of the students strongly agree.
- b. 16 or 25% of the students agree.
- c. 4 or 6% of the students neither agree nor disagree.
- d. 1 or 2% of the students strongly disagree.
- e. 0 or 0% of the students disagree.
- f. 0 or 0% of the students replied, "not applicable."
- g. 0 or 0% of the students replied "other."

7. **Staff members really care about me.**
 - a. 44 or 69% of the students strongly agree.
 - b. 14 or 22% of the students agree.
 - c. 4 or 6% of the students neither agree nor disagree.
 - d. 0 or 0% of the students strongly disagree.
 - e. 1 or 2% of the students disagree.
 - f. 0 or 0% of the students replied, “not applicable.”
 - g. 1 or 2% of the students replied “other.”
8. **Staff members and other adults at my school listen to students’ ideas about the school.**
 - a. 35 or 55% of the students strongly agree.
 - b. 22 or 34% of the students agree.
 - c. 4 or 6% of the students neither agree nor disagree.
 - d. 2 or 3% of the students strongly disagree.
 - e. 1 or 2% of the students disagree.
 - f. 0 or 0% of the students replied, “not applicable.”
 - g. 0 or 0% of the students replied “other.”
9. **I attend school regularly and try not to be absent.**
 - a. 42 or 66% of the students strongly agree.
 - b. 14 or 22% of the students agree.
 - c. 7 or 11% of the students neither agree nor disagree.
 - d. 0 or 0% of the students strongly disagree.
 - e. 0 or 0% of the students disagree.
 - f. 0 or 0% of the students replied, “not applicable.”
 - g. 1 or 2% of the students replied “other.”
10. **My school provides me with technologies to find, organize, and present information.**
 - a. 42 or 66% of the students strongly agree.
 - b. 19 or 30% of the students agree.
 - c. 3 or 5% of the students neither agree nor disagree.
 - d. 0 or 0% of the students strongly disagree.
 - e. 0 or 0% of the students disagree.
 - f. 0 or 0% of the students replied, “not applicable.”
 - g. 0 or 0% of the students replied “other.”
11. **My school assists me in establishing both personal and career goals.**
 - a. 40 or 63% of the students strongly agree.
 - b. 21 or 33% of the students agree.
 - c. 1 or 2% of the students neither agree nor disagree.
 - d. 0 or 0% of the students strongly disagree.
 - e. 2 or 3% of the students disagree.
 - f. 0 or 0% of the students replied, “not applicable.”
 - g. 0 or 0% of the students replied “other.”

12. I would recommend my school to others?

- a.** 60 or 94% of the students replied “yes.”
- b.** 1 or 2% of the students replied “no.”
- c.** 3 or 5% of the students replied “other.”

Legislative and Policy Updates

The Ohio **Senate** has one more scheduled session day (February 28, 2024) prior to the Easter Holiday, while the Ohio **House** is not scheduled to meet in session again until April. Both chambers are then scheduled to meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month, April - June, after which they are likely to go on their summer recess.

As reported last month, Senator Ingram, who represents areas of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, introduced **SB-219** which seeks to restore the PK-5, 4-9, and 7-12 educator license grade bands. You may recall that **HB-33**, the state's biennial budget approved last summer, consolidated the existing three license grade bands to two: PK-8 and 6-12. Although introduced in late January, SB-219, has not yet been assigned to a committee for initial consideration by the Senate. Senator Reynolds' proposal (**SB-168**) to provide regulatory relief to K-12 schools, has, on the other hand, been approved by the Senate and forwarded to the House for consideration. SB-168 has been assigned to the Primary and Secondary Education Committee for initial consideration by the House. The Committee held its first hearing on the bill in mid-February.

If approved in its current form, SB-168 will:

- 1. Eliminate the e-school enrollment limits.
- 2. Eliminate the requirement that community schools conduct monthly reviews of student residency.
- 3. Permit exemplary community school sponsors to sponsor up to 200 community schools.

In addition, SB-168 seeks to:

- 1. Permit school districts to develop their own framework for evaluating teachers.
- 2. Provide an opportunity for individuals who do not hold a master's degree (i.e. have a bachelor's degree) to obtain a senior or lead professional educator's license, or a professional administrator's license.
- 3. Allow schools to employ unlicensed individuals as teachers provided, they hold a master's degree and have successfully completed an examination prescribed by the State Board of Education. Such individuals would be required to complete 15 credit hours of coursework, or the equivalent, every five years, as approved by the Local Professional Development Committee (LPDC).

SB-168, in its current form, clarifies that:

- 1. Required public hearings on the school calendar can be part of another hearing or a board meeting.
- 2. That those schools which have been granted a three-year exemption from certain regulations because of the school's state report card rating, can renew their exemption every three years provided the school continues to qualify for the exemptions.

Bills recently introduced in the House for consideration, which may be of interest include:

1. **HB-427** is supported by about a third of the members of the House. Current law permits persons with physical or mental disabilities to be paid a subminimum wage. If enacted, HB-427 would eliminate this authority.
2. **HB-411** calls for an increase in the state minimum teacher salary schedule. As proposed in HB-411, the minimum salary for a teacher with a bachelor's degree and no experience would be set at \$50,000.
3. **HB-386** seeks to phase out the state's non-business income tax over a six-year period. The bill also proposes to eliminate the commercial activity tax after 2029.
4. **HB-422** seeks to extend the employment provision of Ohio's Civil Rights Law to unpaid interns (such as possibly student teachers).
5. If enacted, **HB-395** would lower the minimum age to obtain a temporary driving permit from 15 1/2 to 15. An individual would, however, be required to drive under the permit for at least a year before obtaining a driver's license, thus maintain 16 as the minimum age to obtain a driver's license.

More information about the aforementioned pending legislation in the Ohio General Assembly can be found

at: <https://ohiosenate.gov/legislation/search?start=1&pageSize=25&sort=Number&generalAssemblyNumber=135>

At the federal level, the expiration dates for the **Continuing Resolution (CR)**, which was approved this past fall and has kept the federal government operating, are rapidly approaching. The CR provision, which has kept most federal agencies operating expires on Friday, March 1, 2024, while the provision that has kept the Department of Education operating expires the following week, March 8, 2024. The American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) reports that Members of Congress are saying progress is being made on a funding measure, those negotiating the provisions of a funding bill have indicated that another, short-term CR may be needed. Speaker Johnson has indicated that he will not bring forward another CR. The conservative members of the Freedom Caucus have indicated that they will likely not support a bill that does not include some of their policy priorities, and liberal members of the House, where spending measures are supposed to originate are not likely to support the policy priorities of the Freedom caucus. Of course, these could all be negotiating positions that could change as the deadline for action draws closer. Congress is not scheduled to return to Washington until the middle of the week of February 26, 2024.



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