



Memorandum | Department of Community School

Date: March 25, 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: March Monthly Updates

General Update

Hello Everyone,

The Ohio Department of Education uses a Quality Practices Rubric to evaluate community school sponsors on their adherence to quality sponsoring practices. The rubric consists of 33 standards designed to evaluate sponsors on various sponsoring practices. These standards are aligned with the National Association of Charter Schools Authorizers (NACSA) standards and Ohio laws and rules.

One of the standards (F.04), “Relationships with Schools’ Governing Authorities” requires that the sponsor takes steps to build a positive working relationship with each school’s governing authority. The sponsor must adhere to the following two key indicators to achieve the maximum number of points for this standard.

- The sponsor attends at least three governing authority meetings annually for each school.
- The sponsor communicates with and provides information about the school and written guidance on rules, laws, and/or policies that impact community schools at least quarterly, beyond the monthly financial and enrollment reviews.

This month, I am asking each school’s governing authority member to complete the survey (see link below). Over the course of the school year, I am required to collect data from stakeholder groups associated with the school. The responses to the survey questions provide the sponsor with valuable feedback regarding sponsorship practices.

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.

[Governing Board Member Survey](#)

Legislative and Policy Updates

The **State Board of Education** will soon be moving to a new office space, but not the Department of Agriculture's campus east of Columbus as was talked about earlier. It is now expected that the Board will move to the **William Green Building, located at 30 East Spring St., Columbus**, sometime in April. The Board's offices will be on the 20th floor.

During its March meeting, the Board began the rule making process to implement HB-33's (the state's biennial budget) provision creating the **Pre-Service Teacher Permit**. Although the Permit largely impacts the state's teacher preparation programs, one important provision impacts K-12 schools. The Permit will allow holders to be a substitute teacher. Teacher preparation programs need to ensure that their students complete the field experiences, internships, and student teaching to hold a valid Pre-Service Teacher Permit before going into the K-12 environment. Holders of the Permit will, as is the case for other educators, be part of the state's Rapback system.

Members of the **General Assembly** took a break in March for the Primary Election. Both the House and Senate will return to Columbus after Easter. After their return, both chambers are scheduled to meet in session (when proposed bills can be voted on) twice each month through the end of June. Although the House and Senate will only meet in session six times between now and the end of June, that does not preclude committees from meeting during the interim periods to consider proposed legislation for recommendation to the full chamber

Recently, Representative Loychik introduced **HB-447**. Although the representative's proposal does not directly impact community schools, it could have a dramatic impact on the finances of traditional K-12 schools. Ohio's method of funding traditional K-12 schools includes a provision that reduces voted millage as property values increase so that the resulting income from a levy remains the same. The provision, however, also sets 20 mills as the floor, the level below which voted levies will not be reduced. HB-447 seeks to gradually eliminate the floor. HB-447 has not yet been assigned to a committee for initial consideration.

During the last General Assembly legislation was introduced that would have required schools to provide students with release time for religious instruction. Although that proposal was intentionally phased out with the close of the previous General Assembly, it has been recently reintroduced in the form of **HB-445** for consideration by the current General Assembly.

HB-33 included a provision to restructure Ohio's teacher license grade bands from the current PK-5, 4-9, and 7-12, to just two grade bands; PK-8 and 6-12, with a provision that would permit a teacher to provide instruction in two grade bands outside of his/her license. **SB-219** seeks to restore the current three grade bands, however, it would retain HB-33's provision to permit a teacher to provide instruction two years outside of the grade band of his/her license. SB-219 has been assigned to the Senate Education Committee for initial consideration, but the committee has not yet conducted any hearings.

Introduced in early February, **HB-411** seeks to increase Ohio's minimum teacher salary schedule. If enacted, HB-411 would increase the base pay for a first-year teacher with a bachelor's degree to \$50,000. As of this writing, the bill has not been assigned to a committee for initial consideration.

SB-168, offered by Senator Reynolds, seeks to relieve schools of numerous regulations, several of which have been defined as outdated. SB-168 has been approved by the Senate and moved to the House for consideration by the chamber. The Education Committee conducted its first hearing on SB-168 prior to the legislature's recess for the primary election. Another proposal by Senator Reynolds, **SB-79**, which seeks changes to the administration of state assessments at Dropout Prevention and Recovery Schools was assigned to the Senate Education Committee for initial consideration. The committee conducted a hearing of the proposal in March 2023, but has had no further hearings.



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