

OCTOBER 2024

MID-OHIO ESC COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

REMINDERS

- Review OEDS and Ensure Information is Correct
- Ensure Website is up to date
- Review Onsite Visit Guidance email

Don't Forget to Review Epicenter regularly to stay current!

OTHER PD OPPORTUNITIES

- ODE Comprehensive School Safety Webinar
 - 11/06/24
 - [Register Here](#)
- FY 25 School Improvement Grant Webinar
 - 11/21/24
 - [Register Here](#)

UPCOMING MOESC PD OPPORTUNITIES

- CPI Refresher
 - 11/4/204
- Principal Network
 - 11/7/24
- School Psychologist Network
 - 11/12/24
- CPI Initial
 - 11/15/24
- Curriculum Instruction and Assessment Network
 - 11/15/24

To Register visit
www.moesc.net/register.

FINDLAY DIGITAL ACADEMY

GENERAL UPDATES

As the sponsor of the Findlay Digital Academy, one of the requirements is that the sponsor conducts Onsite Visit Reviews, beyond the monthly financial reviews. The Onsite Visit Reviews must occur at least twice per year while the school is in session, with one review occurring during the first semester of the review year, and the other review occurring during the second semester of the review year. The Onsite Visit Review includes an examination of the school's compliance with all applicable laws, rules, contractual obligations, and academic performance measures.

Besides collecting data regarding the compliance with laws and rules, contractual obligations, and how well the school is doing academically during the Onsite Visit Review, the sponsor must also collect data from school employees, including at least one administrator and one or more instructors.

Prior to any Onsite Visit Review, the sponsor is required to provide the school with a written visit protocol that explains the goal of the visit and prescribed adherence to a specific set of actions or procedures for the collection of data and their sources, types of data being collected, observation and interview guidance, and instruments being used during the visit.

The first semester Onsite Visit Review will be conducted on November 20, 2024 at Findlay Digital Academy. A report that includes the information collected, a summary of findings, including areas of strength, and if applicable, areas needing improvement will be emailed to the governing board members and school leaders after the visit.

As always, thank you for all you do to support the students and staff at Findlay Digital Academy.

LEGAL AND POLICY

SB-29, which was approved this past summer, became effective last week (10/29). The focus of this legislation is on the security of student records that may be created, received, maintained, or disseminated by an outside technology provider with which a school or school district may contract. A school's or school district's contract with an outside provider must contain provisions to ensure the proper security of student records. Providers are prohibited from selling or sharing records for a commercial purpose. Parents and students must be notified about each provider having access to educational records and identify the records impacted by a provider's contract. Parents must be provided with information about each contract and whom to contact with their questions. Schools and providers are prohibited from electronically accessing or monitoring such information as location tracking and keystrokes. There are six exemptions to this prohibition, including monitoring that may be required under a judicial warrant, if the device is thought to have been stolen, or when necessary to respond to a threat to life or safety, etc.

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LEGAL AND POLICY CONTINUED

Also taking effect last week is **SB-168**, sometimes referred to as a deregulation bill. For instance, SB-168 allows schools to develop their own framework for evaluating teachers instead of using the framework developed by the State Board of Education. This law also changes the new license grade bands established in the state budget from 6th–12th grade to 7th–12th grade and requires the State Board to issue an Alternative Resident Educator license to an individual who holds a Master's degree and passes a subject matter exam in the subject to be taught. The law also requires the establishment of a principal apprenticeship program and the development of alternative pathways for individuals with a Bachelor's degree to become a principal or superintendent.

Legislative agents (a.k.a. lobbyists) have begun to speculate on what bills might move forward in a lame-duck session held after the election. In terms of education-related matters, the speculation focuses on three bills, any of which could become a "Christmas Tree" for other pending education-related proposals. Of the three education-related measures that lobbyists speculate as most likely to move forward in the lame-duck session, **SB-104** is the proposal that would have the greatest impact on primary and secondary education. SB-104 began as a measure to modify the College Credit Plus program. Notably, the bill seeks to permit parents and students to indicate their interest in participating before the start of the school year for full-year participation and later in the school year if interested in participating during the spring term. Along its legislative path, SB-104 was amended to include provisions related to student restrooms, locker rooms, etc. Notably, if approved in its current form, the bill would prohibit biological females from using facilities designated for biological males and vice versa.

There has also been speculation as to what may lie ahead in the next General Assembly, which will begin in January. The Speakership is of particular interest—if reelected to his House seat, will Speaker Stephens maintain the Speakership? Will Senate President Huffman's bid to join the House be successful, and if so, will he challenge Speaker Stephens for the post? Will a Huffman challenge be successful? The next biennial budget is a concern due to the variance in FY '24/'25 budget revenue projections and actual revenue received. If state revenue continues to track as it has been, actual revenue will be about \$900 million below projections. Such a shortfall could impact FY '26/'27 revenue projections on which the budget will be based.

The State Board of Education is currently accepting public comment on proposed rules relating to the status of individuals who may have had their educator license, permit, etc., suspended or revoked due to a conviction and have since had the conviction overturned, a pardon granted, etc.