

NOVEMBER 2024

# MID-OHIO ESC COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## REMINDERS

- Review OEDS and Ensure Information is Correct
- Ensure Website is up to date
- Attend ODEW Career Readiness Leaders Meetup
  - **12/10/24**
  - [RSVP](#)
- Register for ODEW Principal Chat
  - **12/11/24**
  - [RSVP](#)
- Reading Achievement Plan (If Applicable)
  - **Due 12/31/24**

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

## UPCOMING MOESC PD OPPORTUNITIES

- Technology Network
  - **12/03/24**
- Adolescent Literacy Network
  - **12/04/24 - 12/06/24**
- CPI Refresher
  - **01/07/25**
- Paraprofessional Specialist Training
  - **01/14/25**
- CPI Initial
  - **01/15/25**
- Curriculum Instruction and Assessment Network
  - **01/17/25**
- Special Education Coordinators Network
  - **1/17/25**

**To Register visit  
[www.moesc.net/register](http://www.moesc.net/register).**

## GENERAL UPDATES

As part of our sponsorship responsibilities, we are required to ensure that each sponsored school completes a Needs Assessment to identify professional development priorities and technical assistance needs. Leadership teams at each school will complete this assessment during the months of December and January, helping to shape the support we provide throughout the school year.

We regularly share professional development opportunities with all sponsored schools. Faculty and staff can access a wide range of learning opportunities through the Mid-Ohio ESC website at [www.moesc.net](http://www.moesc.net) by clicking on Professional Development at the top of the page.

Using the results of the Needs Assessment, we tailor professional development offerings to meet specific school needs. For example, the Dropout Prevention and Recovery (DOPR) School Network Group, formed through collaboration among multiple ESC sponsors, continues to provide targeted support for DOPR schools. Recent professional development sessions included a focus on the DOPR Report Card, held on October 25, 2024.

In addition to professional development, we provide timely assistance to schools to address issues and concerns as they arise. Each school will receive at least three documented instances of technical assistance throughout the school year. Feedback on the quality and impact of this assistance will be solicited through surveys to ensure continuous improvement.

To date, school personnel have participated in various Mid-Ohio ESC network sessions. We have also shared legal updates and other relevant information through monthly newsletters from the Office of Community Schools.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out. Thank you for your dedication to supporting students and staff at your schools!

## LEGAL AND POLICY

**Ohio's 135th General Assembly is rapidly approaching its sunset.** The gavel will fall for the final time in the 135th Assembly on December 31st and Ohio's 136th General Assembly will begin in January. Republicans will remain the majority party in both chambers of the General Assembly during the upcoming term. Running up to the November election there had been speculation as to who would hold the Speakership; current House Speaker Jason Stephens or Senate President Matt Huffman who was running for a seat in the House and had expressed interest in being Speaker. With the recent announcement by Speaker Stephens that he will not seek re-election to the Speaker's Chair, and Senate President Huffman's successful campaign to join the House, it now appears that the current Senate President is the leading candidate to become the next Speaker of the House. If his candidacy is successful, Huffman has the potential to serve 8 years as Speaker before facing term limits in the House.

OCTOBER 2024

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## LEGAL AND POLICY CONTINUED

Should Huffman serve a full 8 years as Speaker, he would become the longest serving Speaker since former Speaker Vern Riffe. Riffe, who served in the state legislature prior to term limits, held the Speakership for 20 of his 36 years of membership in the Ohio House.

**SB-104** has been approved by both chambers of the General Assembly and signed by the Governor. Its provisions will become effective in the new year. As introduced, SB-104 was focused on the operations of the College Credit Plus program, but House amendments saw the proposal gain the reference of being the "bathroom bill." When effective the law will require schools to clearly identify multi-use restrooms, locker rooms, etc. as being for boys or girls. Schools will be required to restrict the use of multi-use restrooms, etc. to use by individuals of the appropriate gender. Gender is determined by what is stated on the individual's birth record issued at the time of birth or closest to the time of birth. There are exceptions for individuals with disabilities and students under 10 needing assistance, as well as family facilities. The bill further prohibits mixed gender overnight accommodations.

Through the legislative process SB-104 did not lose its original purpose - modifications to the College Credit Plus program. Under former law students interested in participating in CCP needed to identify their interest in the spring for the full, upcoming academic year. SB104 provides for an additional time in the fall when students can express interest in participating in CCP during the upcoming spring term. The new law also requires the use of standardized CCP forms developed by the Chancellor of Higher Education, requires participating colleges/universities to provide a mandatory orientation program to CCP students, and provides for the creation of an alternative credentialing path for CCP instructors.

As the 135th General Assembly approaches its natural conclusion the **Senate has only the 3 remaining scheduled session days** when the chamber can approve proposed bills: 12/4/24, 12/11/24, and 12/18/24. The House also has just **3 remaining scheduled session days**, however, the **House has a 4th scheduled session day on hold**, if needed, 12/29/24. Pending legislation that is not approved by both chambers of the General Assembly and signed into law by the Governor by 12/31/24 will sunset, as the 135th Assembly sunsets, and will need to be reintroduced into the 136th General Assembly for further consideration. Bills with the greatest possibility of completing the legislative process before the end of December are those bills that have been approved by their originating chamber and have had several hearings in the opposite chamber.

These three bills have been approved in their originating chamber and are scheduled for their 3rd or 4th committee hearing in the opposite chamber during the week of 12/2/24:

1. **HB-432** (Career-Tech Licensing) - Under current law individuals seeking to obtain a Career-Tech license must apply for the license through an employing school. If enacted, HB-432 would permit individuals to self-apply. The legislation would also permit individuals to progress to licensing through two alternative licensing programs rather than a college/university-based teacher preparation. Finally, HB-432 seeks to establish pathways to a Career-Tech license for individuals holding other teacher licenses.
2. **HB-70** (Over-the-Counter Medications) - HB-70 seeks to require schools to develop a policy related to the administration of over-the-counter medications. SB-70 would permit schools to decide whether to allow employees to, or prohibit them from, administering over-the-counter medications. If a district decides to permit the administration of over-the-counter medications, the policy would need to include provisions on who is authorized to administer these medications, whether parent permission is required, etc. A district policy permitting the administration of over-the-counter medications cannot compel an individual to administer such medications over a religious objection.
3. **SB-208** (Open Enrollment) - Currently school districts may be closed to open enrollment, may permit open enrollment only from contiguous schools, or allow open enrollment from any district in the state. Regardless of the district's current policy, SB-208 seeks to require districts to open enroll any student of deployed military personnel.

**SB-168**, which became effective last month, redesignated the state's new **2-grade band teaching licenses to be PreK-8 and 7-12**. The **State Board of Education** is now in the process of developing rules to implement this license change. One rule under consideration is what to do about holders of the current PreK-5, 4-9, and 7-12 licenses. The Board is considering a rule that would permit holders of such licenses to either renew their current license or transition to the new licenses.