

JANUARY 2025

MID-OHIO ESC COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

REMINDERS

- Review OEDS and Ensure Information is Correct
- DOPR In-Person Workshop
 - February 21, 2025
 - **RSVP Coming Soon!**
- Career Tech and Workforce Literacy Webinar
 - February 6, 2025
 - [Register](#)
- Ohio EdTech Conference
 - February 11-13, 2025
 - [Register](#)
- Digital Learning Annual Conference
 - February 24-26, 2025
 - [More Information](#)
- Sponsor Governing Board Survey
 - [Link](#)
- Grow Your Own Teacher Scholarship Program
 - Due February 14, 2025
 - [More Information](#)

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

UPCOMING MOESC PD OPPORTUNITIES

- SLP Network
 - **2/4/25**
- Physical Therapist Network
 - **2/5/25**
- Testing Coordinator Network
 - **2/7/25**
- Art Network
 - **2/7/25**
- School Counselor Network
 - **2/18/2024**

**To Register visit
www.moesc.net/register.**

GENERAL UPDATES

Community School Leaders and Board Members,

We were notified on January 17, 2025, that based on 2024-2025 enrollment data reported in the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce's Educational Management Information System (EMIS) as of December 20, 2024, our school has met the requirements to receive the **Dropout Prevention and Recovery Report Card designation** for the 2024-2025 school year.

This designation is based on meeting the enrollment requirement outlined in Ohio Administrative Code 3301-102-10(A)(2)(a), which specifies that a majority (more than 50%) of enrolled students are between the ages of 16 and 21. Schools must apply for this designation annually.

In addition to primarily serving students ages 16–21, schools with this designation are required to administer the **Renaissance STAR assessments** in reading and mathematics twice per year to all students in grade 9 and above, regardless of age. Maintaining dropout prevention and recovery status is contingent upon fulfilling all requirements outlined in state law and administrative rules. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out.

Thank you for your continued support of our students and staff!

LEGAL AND POLICY

The 136th Ohio General Assembly and the 119th U.S. Congress are now open for business. While Republicans remain firmly in control of Ohio's General Assembly, the Party has gained control of both the US Senate and the US House of Representatives by slim margins.

During the 119th Congress Ohio will be represented by two new senators: newly elected Bernie Moreno and newly appointed former Lt. Governor Jon Husted. Senator Husted was appointed to replace now Vice President Vance and will need to stand for election to the remainder of Vance's term during the 2026 General Election cycle. Although, initially, Senator Moreno has not been appointed to serve on a committee of importance to Ohio educators, Senator Husted has been appointed to the Senate's Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee.

Although no member of Ohio's delegation to the House of Representatives serves on the Education and Workforce Committee, Reps. Marcy Kaptur (D) and Mike Carey (R) serve on the Budget Committee. In addition, Rep. Kaptur is an appropriator. Her longtime service in the House and on the important Appropriations Committee has led to her being appointed as Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development of House Appropriation Committee. This is an important position for her to hold for her district which stretches across much of Ohio's Lake Erie coast. She is the first woman to hold this post.

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LEGAL AND POLICY CONTINUED

During his initial two weeks in office, President Trump has issued a series of Executive Orders some of which directly or indirectly impact K-12 Education. Although the order pausing federal funding has been rescinded, it should be noted that current funding for such programs as Title 1 was not in doubt. Programs, such as Title 1, are forward funded, meaning the money that schools are expending on these programs in their FY-'25 budgets came from the federal government's FY-'24 budget. In addition, it's been stated that the intent was not to pause funding for programs directly serving individuals, such as the federal school meals program. Another order directs the Secretary of Education (yet to be confirmed) to create a plan for eliminating "federal funding/support for illegal and discriminatory treatment and indoctrination in K-12 schools."

Speaking of Secretary of Education designee Linda Mahon, it is expected that the Senate's HELP Committee will begin confirmation hearings soon. President Trump recently nominated Penny Schwinn, a former Commissioner of Education for the State of Tennessee, to be Deputy Secretary.

Previous guidance given by the Dept. of Homeland Security to ICE restricted immigration enforcement in sensitive and protected areas, such as schools. NAESP (the National Association of Elementary School Principals) reports that the Dept. of Homeland Security has rescinded this guidance. NAESP suggests that school leaders may want to consider with their legal counsel how to proceed if ICE agents should visit the school.

And now onto Ohio

As expected, newly elected State Representative Matt Huffman, was chosen to be Speaker of the Ohio House. Most recently, Rep. Huffman was President of the Ohio Senate. Rep. Sarah Fowler Arthur has been appointed Chair of the House Education Committee. Rep Brian Stewart will Chair Finance. On the Senate side, Senator Rob McColley is the new Senate President. Senator Andy Brenner will continue to Chair the Senate Education Committee. Senator Jerry Cirino will lead the Finance Committee as Chair. Visit the House and Senate websites (ohiohouse.gov and ohiosenate.gov respectively) to learn the committee assignments of your state representative and senator.

In the brief time that the 136th General Assembly has been in session, 25 bills have been introduced into the Ohio Senate for consideration. Three of these proposals specifically relate to K-12 Education:

1. SB-7 seeks to require instruction in the harmful effects of substance abuse.
2. SB-8 seeks to prohibit public employees from taking paid leave for certain union activities
3. SB-19 focuses on academic intervention services offered in public schools with a particular interest in mathematics improvement.

Twenty-nine bills, as of this writing, have been introduced into the House for consideration, with 2 directly impacting K-12 education, although not directly impacting Community/Charter schools:

1. HB-3 seeks to improve school bus safety. If approved the bill would designate August as School Bus Safety Month. More importantly the bill seeks to create a fund that schools could tap into to improve the safety features on their school buses.
2. HB-28 seeks to eliminate the replacement levy.