

APRIL 2025

MID-OHIO ESC COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

REMINDERS

- Review OEDS and Ensure Information is Correct
- Northeast 2025 Ohio AI Summit @ Mid-Ohio ESC
 - **5/6/25**
 - [Register](#)
- Principal Chat (Staff Onboarding)
 - **5/14/25**
 - [Register](#)
- STAR Spring Testing Windows Closes
 - **5/23/25**
- Grow Ohio Grant Application
 - **5/28/25**
 - [More Information](#)
- Secure Data Center Training
 - **6/13/25**
 - [More Information](#)

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

UPCOMING MOESC PD OPPORTUNITIES

- Art Network
 - **5/9/2025**
- Technology Network
 - **5/13/25**

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

GENERAL UPDATES

Ohio Department of Education & Workforce (DEW) Updates

The DEW has announced several important updates for the 2025-2026 school year:

- **Licensure Changes:** Educators with 5-Year Professional teaching licenses eligible for renewal can now opt to convert to the new Elementary and Middle School (PK-8) or Adolescence to Young Adult (7-12) licenses. Additionally, new pathways for Career-Technical Workforce Development licensure have been introduced, and updates to disqualifying offenses for licensure have been made. Contact DEW for detailed requirements.
- **Key Deadlines:**
 - New school contracts are due by May 15, 2025.
 - Five-Year Forecasts must be submitted by May 31, 2025.
 - The Emergency Medical Waiver application window is open from May 12 to May 30, 2025.
- **School Improvement Initiatives:**
 - The One Needs Assessment and One Plan (Cohort 2) are underway to support data-driven school improvement. The Support Schools Tool (Cohort 3) has been completed, aiding schools in monitoring progress on their One Plans.
 - Schools identified under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) as Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI), Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI), or Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) can access resources and grant funding to support improvement efforts. Visit the Identification Dashboard at reportcard.education.ohio.gov for detailed data and criteria.
- **Testing and Professional Development:**
 - The 2025-2026 state-funded ACT and SAT dates have been posted.
 - The stakeholder survey for the Alternate Assessment for Students with the Most Significant Cognitive Disabilities (AASCD) closes on May 2, 2025.
 - Eligible educators must complete professional development in the Science of Reading by June 30, 2025.

For more information, visit www.education.ohio.gov/identification or contact identification@education.ohio.gov.

Stay tuned for further updates, and ensure compliance by regularly checking Epicenter!

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LEGAL AND POLICY

The Ohio House has approved its version of the state's FY-'26/'27 biennial operating budget (HB-96) and forwarded the measure to the Senate for consideration by that chamber. It is almost a certainty that the Senate will make changes to the House version of the budget, likely causing there to be a conference committee to work out the differences. For instance, whether intentional or not, the House version of HB-96 provided no funding for the Elections Commission which surely will need to be corrected. An approved budget is due by the end of June.

Speaking of funding, the first of two major changes made to the Governor's proposal regarding the State Board of Education is concerned with how the State Board is funded. If sustained through the process, the House approved budget would shift funding for Board activities away from state general fund revenue, making the monies collected from licensing fees the Board's primary funding source. The second major change made by the House directly impacts the Board by shrinking its size to just 5 members - all of whom would be appointed. A House provision does seek to ensure that urban, suburban, and rural schools are represented on the board, as well as community schools and chartered non-public schools.

As proposed, funding for PK-12 schools will flow through the Dept. of Education and Workforce. Considering that several proposals have been introduced into the General Assembly that seek to change how schools are funded, HB-96 makes a subtle, but important change in referring to the school foundation funding, calling for school payments to be made from "temporary foundation funding." If the House version of HB-96 were to be approved traditional schools would see a slight increase in funding over what was proposed by the Governor, however, community and STEM schools would see a slight decrease. Under the House proposal e-schools would become eligible for a DPIA payment of \$211/eligible student.

Additional provisions added by the House to HB-96 include:

- Requiring EMIS reporting to include information about the reason for a student's absence.
- Permitting schools to provide students with release time for religious instruction.
- Limit school administrative costs to 15 % of the budget.
- Requiring schools to permit students to be absent for up to 8 hours of driver's education training.

The Legislative Service Commission (LSC) has prepared a document that compares the Governor's proposed biennial budget with the House approved version of HB-96. The comparison for the Dept. of Education and Workforce may be viewed on LSC's website at:

<https://www.lsc.ohio.gov/assets/legislation/136/hb96/ph/files/hb96-edu-comparison-document-as-passed-by-the-house-136th-general-assembly.pdf>

LSC's comparison document for the State Board of Education (SBE) may be found at:

<https://www.lsc.ohio.gov/assets/legislation/136/hb96/ph/files/hb96-sbe-comparison-document-as-passed-by-the-house-136th-general-assembly.pdf>

To locate LSC comparison documents for other state agencies visit:

<https://www.lsc.ohio.gov/budget/136/main-operating-budget/as-passed-by-the-house>