NOVEMBER 2026

NEWSLETTER

Mid-Ohio ESC Community School

NOVEMBER DATES AND DEADLINES

Nov. 1-Dec. 15
Purple Star Award 2027 application period

Nov. 5
Career Pathways Exploration Grant informational webinar (date #2)

Nov. 5
Principals Network, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Nov. 6
Public comments due on Ohio's Model Student Acceleration Policy for Advanced Learners

Nov. 6
Submit district data roll-up form

Nov. 6
Regional Northeast Ohio Career-Technical Education and OCALI session on work experience strategies for students with disabilities

Nov. 6
Ohio Department of Health virtual, no-cost school nurse conference

Nov. 9
Report card training: Accountability Training Series

MILITARY FAMILY RESOURCES

Purple Star questions

Veteran educator questions

Acton Becomes Ohio's First Woman Elected Governor

Democrat Amy Acton has been elected Ohio's next governor, becoming the first woman elected to the office and the first Democrat to win the governorship since Ted Strickland. She will be the second woman to serve as governor, following Nancy Hollister, who briefly held the office after George Voinovich resigned to join the U.S. Senate.

In her victory remarks, Acton pledged to work with Ohioans across political differences and with legislators from both parties. She praised her work with Gov. Mike DeWine and his team and said she looked forward to continuing work on priorities including children and H2Ohio while supporting a smooth transition.

Republican candidate Vivek Ramaswamy conceded the race and urged supporters to come together behind the state's next administration. Both candidates emphasized moving beyond a contentious campaign and working toward Ohio's future.

Celebrating the Month of the Military Family and Veterans Day

Each November, we honor veterans and recognize the sacrifices shared by military families. The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce offers programs and resources to support military-connected educators, families, and students.

Ohio Military Veteran Educators Program

Helps service members, veterans, and their spouses begin careers in education.

Military Recruit Award

Offers financial incentives for eligible veterans, service members, and spouses who attain initial employment with a public school, ESC, or county board of developmental disabilities.

Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

Helps reduce educational barriers for military-connected students.

Enrollment Options

Allows active duty families to apply for open enrollment throughout the year and enroll before moving into Ohio.

Purple Star Award

Recognizes schools that welcome military families and support military-connected students. The 2027 application period runs Nov. 1-Dec. 15.

Questions: Purplestar@education.ohio.gov for Purple Star and student supports; OhioMVEP@education.ohio.gov for becoming an educator.

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Nov. 11
Veterans Day

Nov. 13
School Counselors Network, 9-11 a.m.

Nov. 17
Integrated MTSS webinar: Data-Based Decision-Making

Nov. 17-20
OCALICONLINE

Nov. 18
Career Pathways Exploration Grant application deadline

Nov. 26
Thanksgiving Day

Nov. 30
Special education procedures survey due; required for all educational agencies

Nov. 30
Final day to apply for K-5 core instructional materials in mathematics

BILLS TO WATCH

HB25 Fostering School Success

HB62 College Credit Plus

HB98 Community Connectors

HB127 School directories

HB145 Minimum school hours

HB189 Behavioral threat management

HB326 Standardized assessments

HB518 Truancy and delinquency

General Updates

2026 Special Education Ratings Now Available

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce released 2026 Special Education Ratings for all districts and community schools on Oct. 15. Ratings reflect final EMIS data and completion of the prior Special Education Profile monitoring cycle.

The four possible ratings are Meets Requirements, Needs Assistance, Needs Intervention, and Needs Substantial Intervention.

The Department emailed superintendents, special education contacts, and community school sponsors with instructions to access reports through OHID.

Ohio's Special Education Ratings and methodology

Access the OHID portal

Questions: SPED.Data@education.ohio.gov

EMIS Reporting of Economically Disadvantaged

Beginning in 2026-2027, schools and districts may no longer automatically report all students as economically disadvantaged in EMIS. The Disadvantagement Element (FD110) must reflect each student's individual eligibility under state criteria, based on direct certification, income verification, or other qualifying criteria.

EMIS staff should use Direct Certification reports, income verification forms for fee waivers, and Title I income forms. Students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch through direct certification, categorical eligibility (such as foster or homeless status), or an approved application must be reported as economically disadvantaged.

The revised data will be reflected on the 2026-2027 report card and affect DEW grants that rely on it, including the Quality Community School Support Fund.

DPIA state foundation funding will not change in 2026-2027, and a significant impact on Quality Community School Support Fund funding is not expected.

Contact your ITC with EMIS reporting questions. For DPIA funding questions, contact:

SchoolFunding@education.ohio.gov

ESCs Continue Streak of High Performance Ratings

All 51 of Ohio's educational service centers earned the state's highest performance rating for the 11th consecutive year, according to the Ohio ESC Association (OESCA).

To qualify as high-performing, ESCs must demonstrate savings of at least 5 percent across five primary services compared with the cost of districts providing those services themselves or using another provider. OESCA reported statewide savings of 35.87 percent in FY26, representing more than $100 million in annual savings across the measured services.

OESCA Executive Director Craig Burford credited shared services and regional collaboration for the results. Across the 10 application years covered by its current data, the association reported more than $849.5 million in savings to school districts, counting only the services included in those applications.

Adapted from The Hannah Report, October 22, 2026. Copyright 2026 Hannah News Service, Inc.

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BILLS TO WATCH CONTINUED

HB594 Computer science course

HB719 Teachers Retirement Board

HB874 Community school ratings

HB875 For-profit community school operators

HB934 Science of Math Act

SB48 Nonpublic school audits

SB105 Alyssa's Law

SB144 Educator license grade bands

SB463 Threat assessment teams and plans

KEY LINKS

MOESC Community Schools

MOESC Registration

Additional General Updates

Open Registration for November 2026 Network Meetings

November network meetings will be held at Mid-Ohio ESC, 890 W. Fourth Street, Mansfield. Sessions combine professional learning, state education updates, networking, and collaborative problem-solving, with information about Ohio's Learning Standards, Extended Standards, and practical challenges.

Principals: November 5, 2026, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
School Counselors: November 13, 2026, 9-11 a.m.

Client district members attend at no cost; the fee for non-client participants is $50.

Register for November network meetings

For more information, contact Mark E. Burke, Jr.:

burke.mark@moesc.net

Legal and Policy Updates

Court of Appeals Unanimously Rules EdChoice Unconstitutional

On Oct. 15, 2026, a three-judge panel of Ohio's Tenth District Court of Appeals unanimously affirmed a lower court ruling that EdChoice and EdChoice Expansion, as structured and funded, violate Article VI, section 2 of the Ohio Constitution. The case is Columbus City School District v. State, 2026-Ohio-4047.

The court cited private-school admissions discretion, limited geographic access, differences in oversight and accountability, and the financial effects on public schools. It concluded that the programs support a competing nonpublic system at the expense of the state's constitutional obligation to provide a system of common schools.

The court stayed enforcement of the judgment pending an anticipated further appeal, allowing EdChoice to continue during that period.

Read the full Court of Appeals decision

Source: Ennis Britton case update, Oct. 19, 2026; court decision, Oct. 15, 2026.

Community School Updates

Turning Fall Data into Next Steps

November offers an opportunity to review fall assessment results, attendance patterns, and progress toward school improvement goals. Consider using team meetings to identify students who need additional support, review the response to current interventions, and set clear next steps before winter break.

With Gratitude to Our School Communities

As we enter November, we thank the educators, staff, school leaders, governing boards, students, and families who support our community schools. Your daily work helps students stay connected to learning and make progress toward their goals.

We appreciate our partnerships with GOAL Digital Academy, The Tomorrow Center, and Findlay Digital Academy. Thank you for your continued commitment to the students and families you serve.