

February 2023 Sponsor Update

Important Reminders!

OSS Compliance Monitoring - The OSS Education Plan Compliance Monitoring Surveys were opened February 2nd with a deadline of March 3rd. Please complete the survey and contact your OSS Consultant with any questions.

OSS Academic Reviews - OSS will be scheduling and conducting academic program reviews and special education file reviews over the next 30 days, so look for additional information on these important events.

Transportation Notification - Per Ohio law ORC 3327.01, Ohio community schools must share their start and end times with all districts in which their students reside by April 1 to ensure that transportation services are available in the upcoming school year.

One Plan/Ed Steps - Cohort 3, 2, 1 schools are planning!

Cohort 3 schools should be actively planning for fiscal year 2024. The deadline for district and building plans is April 30; funding applications are due June 30.

OSS Cohort 3 schools:

A+ Children's Academy
Ashland County Community Academy
Bridges Community Academy DBA Bridges Preparatory Academy
Coshocton Opportunity School
Dayton Business Technology High School
Discovery Academy
Mahoning Unlimited Classroom DBA Valley Virtual
Par Excellence Academy
Schnee Learning Center
West Central Learning Academy
Youngstown Community School

Cohort 1 & 2 schools may revise their One Needs Assessment and One Plan. June 30 is the funding application deadline.

OSS Cohort 1 & 2 schools:

A+ Arts Academy
Beacon Academy
Beacon Hill Academy
Cincinnati College Preparatory Academy
Eagle Learning Center
Franklinton High School
Global Village Academy
Greater Summit County ELC
IMAC (Interactive Media & Construction)
Liberty Preparatory School
Mahoning County High School
Rittman Academy
Steel Academy
T2 Honors Academy
Utica Shale Academy of Ohio.

Not a subscriber to the Ed Steps newsletter? A copy of the January edition is attached in the email which includes this OSS newsletter. Sign up as a subscriber [here](#). Access guidance documents online [here](#).

Dyslexia training follow up and resources

Unable to take advantage of the recently offered Dyslexia training? If so, be sure to review the PowerPoint presentation.

Access to the recording is available [here](#).

Additional reference documentation and training information has been previously provided. Sample documents and timelines are also available online [here](#).



Tap into OCALI resources

OCALI offers a diverse selection of resources to help educators who work with students with disabilities including:

- The newest episode of Inspiring Change, *There is Strength in Every Community: A Conversation about Special Education in Rural and Urban Settings*;
- The *Grab-n-Go Resource Gallery Kit*, available through the Lending Library, which offers a variety of interventions with how-to explanations to support all learners including those with autism spectrum disorder; and,
- Books to use with children in preschool through high school to learn more about autism.

Access resources online [here](#).

High-quality professional learning resources

The Ohio Professional Learning Directory (OhioPLD.org) provides Ohio educators and staff with a searchable statewide directory of professional learning courses, recordings, documents, and events provided by trusted education partners like the Ohio Department of Education, educational service centers, and public television stations. Learn more online [here](#).

Free suicide prevention training materials available

The Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation has partnered with Kognito to provide free mental health and suicide prevention training resources for educators, staff, and students. Virtual, interactive, role-play simulations prepare participants for real-life conversations on mental health, bullying and suicide. *At-Risk for Educators*, *Coping with Loss at School* and *Step In, Speak Up!* are available for educators and staff; *Friend2Friend: Emotional & Mental Wellness* is available for students. Access resources online [here](#).



Bring STEM careers to the classroom

The You Make I.T. Better program invites high school students to explore various STEM careers through hands-on, skill-building activities and mentorships with employees at the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland. Educators who register for the program will have access to class career mentors, classroom visits, field trips and access to past activities and recorded career presentations. Register online [here](#).

Conference for after-school and summer learning professionals!

The Ohio Afterschool Network's Best Foot Forward Statewide Conference for Afterschool and Summer Learning Professionals is slated for February 23-24 in Powell (a suburb of Columbus). Learn more online [here](#).

Ohio to receive \$48 million kindergarten readiness grant

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS)



recently announced that it will receive \$48 million in federal funding over a three-year period in support of efforts to help the Buckeye State's youngest learners. The Preschool Development Grant—Birth to Five was awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

It will support initiatives aimed at: improving access to early childhood care and education; expanding childcare for special populations of students (English learners, special needs and homeless); creating sustainable funding for early childhood education programs; and, more.

ODJFS will coordinate with the departments of: Education; Mental Health and Addiction Services; Medicaid; and Developmental Disabilities to administer grant-funded initiatives.

135th General Assembly off to a busy start

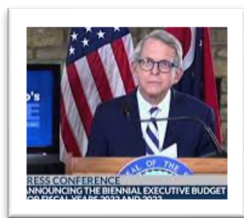
Ohio's 135th two-year legislative session is off to a busy start and the Statehouse is buzzing with activity. The two issues of most interest to K-12 education stakeholders are: the proposed overhaul of the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) and realignment of State Board of Education responsibilities; and the state biennial budget bill to provide funding for the next two fiscal years (beginning July 1, 2023) and implement a diverse slate of public policies.

The proposed ODE/State Board changes considered by the legislature in the year-end "lame duck" session (S.B. 178; 134th General Assembly) has been reintroduced in the new 135th General Assembly as S.B. 1. As its number suggests, it's a top Senate priority slated for passage in the upper chamber independent and in advance of the budget bill.

As previously reported, the proposal calls for ODE to be renamed as the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) under the leadership of a director appointed by the governor (with advice and consent of the Senate). The new cabinet-level agency would have two divisions – the Division of Primary and Secondary Education and the Division of Career-Technical Education – each with its own deputy director. Most of the powers and duties of the State Board of Education and the superintendent of public instruction would transfer to DEW.

There are, of course, both proponents and opponents who are sure to engage in the legislative process as S.B. 1 is considered and debated in the Senate and House of Representatives. Among the supporters is Governor Mike DeWine. He recently presented his budget proposal – which does not assume adoption of the ODE/State Board changes -- to the legislature.

The governor's two-year budget proposal calls for continued phase-in of the Cupp-Patterson K-12 education funding plan (first provided for in the last state biennial budget) and expansion of Ohio's private school vouchers.



The DeWine Administration proposes decreases in ODE's overall budget – by 5.6% in the first year (from \$16.02 billion to \$15.13 billion) and 10.4% in the second (to \$13.56 billion) – against the backdrop of anticipated reduction of federal funds.

A few highlights of the plan include:

- Additional \$3,000 in funding for economically disadvantaged (high quality) charter school students;
- Increase in charter school facilities from \$500 to \$1,000 per pupil;
- State-funded Science of Reading curriculum and implementation support;
- Expansion of the School Safety Center; and,
- Funding for school resource officers.

The PowerPoint presentation featuring highlights of the governor's K-12 education budget proposal is provided to OSS sponsored schools as an attachment to the email distributing this newsletter. It was presented to the State Board of Education at its February meeting by Interim State Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Stephanie Siddens.

All-Ohio United States Armed Forces Career Commitment Celebration

Students in grades 11 and 12 who have committed to military service – attending a service academy in the fall, accepting a Reserve Officer Training Corp (ROTC) scholarship, or enlisting for service as active duty, reserves or National Guard – can register to attend the March 7 All-Ohio United States Armed Forces Career Commitment Celebration. The event will take place at the National Veterans Memorial and Museum in Columbus. Learn more online [here](#).

Ohio Literacy Academy returns

The Ohio Department of Education's Literacy Academy returns in person June 8 in Columbus. The sixth annual Literacy Academy will provide professional learning to support the use of evidence-based language and literacy practices. Ohio districts, schools, and early childhood education programs

working to raise literacy achievement are encouraged to participate in this free program. Registration will open late spring. Check for updates online [here](#).

Young Women's Summer Institute

The Young Women's Summer Institute is a week-long program sponsored by the Ohio Supercomputer Center (OSC) for Ohio middle school girls. Designed to provide hands-on experience with computers, math, science, and engineering, YWSI encourages girls to develop an interest in these subjects by allowing them to work on practical, interesting scientific problems using the latest computer technology.

Who is eligible to apply? Ohio female residents in grades 6 & 7 (in the 2022-2023 school year) and K-12 science and math teachers.

The program is scheduled for Sunday, July 9 to Saturday, July 15, 2023 at the Ohio Supercomputer Center in Columbus. Learn more online [here](#).

New lawsuits filed over school LGBTQ policies

Lawsuits challenging school district LGBTQ student policies continue to be filed, including one by parents against the Hilliard City School District located in a Columbus area suburb. It accuses "activist teachers" of soliciting information from students about sexual behaviors and attitudes without parent consent and objects to some teachers wearing so-called "I'm Here" badges to express their support for LGBTQ students.

The union representing Hilliard teachers has defended the badges in a statement referring to them as "visible symbols of support to their students who may need it," citing higher-than-average rates of suicide among LGBTQ youth.

A group of parents has also filed a lawsuit against the Bethel Local School District, located in western Ohio, for allowing an unnamed ninth-grade transgender girl to use the girls' bathroom. The American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio has filed a motion to intervene, arguing that barring the transgender student

from using the girls' bathroom "would impair her ability to fully participate in school life."

A lawsuit filed last year by a teacher who claims she was forced to resign from the Jackson Local School District in Stark County for refusing to use pronouns inconsistent with students' sex at birth is ongoing.

It is important for each school to work with legal counsel regarding policies and practices.

Deadlines and Dates

- **2/17** | Complete [2023 Federal Quota Registration of Blind Students](#)
- **2/17** | Complete [2021-2022 diabetes survey](#)
- **2/21** | Register for [procedural safeguards forum](#)
- **2/21** | Request [accommodations and support for state-funded April SAT administration](#)
- **2/23** | Register for [Federal Programs Monthly Topic Session](#)
- **2/28** | First [state-funded ACT testing window opens](#)
- **3/2** | Deadline to submit student art for [Governor's Youth Art Exhibition](#)
- **3/9** | Register for [Federal Programs Monthly Topic Session](#)
- **3/12-18** | [National Child and Adult Care Food Program Week](#)
- **3/31** | Submit [Ohio Teacher of the Year](#) nominations
- **3/31** | [Alt-OELPA](#) administration window closes
- **4/6** | [Spanish Visiting Teacher Program](#) application window closes
- **4/15** | [Behavioral Health Careers Education & Careers Awareness Market Analysis](#) survey closes
- **4/20** | Register for "[All Students Can Read](#)" learning series
- **4/27** | Register for [Federal Programs Monthly Topic Session](#)

EMIS Changes for Public Comment - State law requires EMIS to create a process by which users of the system can review and provide comment on new or updated EMIS Guidelines. EMIS changes that are subject to this process must be posted online for public comment for 30 days. The Ohio Department of Education must respond to comments within 30 days and provide for another 30-day public comment period. Access the online posting [here](#).