

June 2023 Sponsor Update

Convocation to kick off another successful year

Planning is underway for the Office of School Sponsorship's Convocation – to feature timely, relevant content and knowledgeable presenters – scheduled for August 3-4.

Among the Convocation sessions will be open meetings, public records and ethics training. These sessions will be recorded and made available online to board members – an easy way to meet annual training requirements.

Participation in the Convocation is mandatory. To register, send an email to Yvonne Adkins at yvonne@adkinsandcompany.com confirming school participants' names and their contact information.

OSS will also conduct two additional training sessions: an on-boarding session for new school leaders (to be scheduled once all are in place) and a renewal application training session for the six OSS sponsored schools subject to contract renewal this year (to be scheduled prior to the Convocation).

ODE Office of Community Schools Reorganization

The Office of Community Schools will be realigning assignments over the coming months. As recently shared, Lori Wood has left her position within the Office of School Sponsorship to assume the workforce and improvement coordinator position within the Office of Community Schools. She will be missed; however, her role in supporting the Schools Forward school improvement program, and the Office of Career and Technical Education and Graduate Success will bring value to community schools.

Ohio Senate passes state budget plan

Deliberations over H.B. 33 continue, with the Senate hearing from countless witnesses in support of, and in opposition to, provisions of the biennial budget bill. As expected, a significant number of changes have been made by the Senate passed bill on June 15, 2023.



A rumor currently circulating around the Statehouse is one that surfaces this time every two years: that the House will concur with the Senate's changes with no need to appoint a "conference committee" of six legislators – three from each chamber, two from the majority caucus and one from the minority.

It usually turns out to be wishful thinking. Although Republicans control the governor's office, House and Senate, it's unlikely that it will be easy to reach consensus, particularly in light of ongoing tension within the House Majority Caucus as the result of a battle over the top leadership position. Representative Jason Stephens (R-Kitts Hill) was elected speaker in January with Democrat support while a majority of Republicans supported Representative Derek Merrin (R-Monclova Twp.).

Legislation to be introduced to allow for more remote meetings

Representative Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) – a member of the House Majority Leadership Team – recently told members of the Criminal Sentencing Commission that legislation is being drafted that would allow some public bodies to meet remotely. It would not apply to

the legislature, city councils, boards of county commissioners and other entities comprised of elected officials with the authority to increase taxes.

Controversy continues over transgender bills

Three pieces of legislation impacting transgender youth being considered by the Ohio House of Representatives are proving to be controversial with widely divergent views among those who strongly support and oppose them.

House Bill 6, entitled the “Save Women’s Sports Act,” is a priority to Speaker Jason Stephens (R-Kitts Hill). The legislation would generally require schools (and institutions of higher education) to designate separate single-sex athletic teams based on the sex of the participants and would authorize athletic participants to file civil action if he or she is deprived of an athletic opportunity or suffers harm as a result of a violation of the bill’s single-sex participation requirements.

Those who support H.B. 6 believe that transgender females have an unfair competitive advantage over those identified as female at birth, while those who oppose it believe it would be harmful to transgender students and question what problem the bill seeks to solve. Some support abandoning the legislation and instead adopting an Ohio High School Athletic Association policy that allows transgender girls to participate in women’s sports if they have completed a minimum of one year of hormone treatments and can provide evidence that they do not possess physical advantages over other female athletes.

House Bill 68, designated as the “Ohio Saving Adolescents from Experimentation,” would prohibit physicians from performing gender reassignment surgery – or prescribing a cross-sex hormone or puberty-blocking drug – to minors. Mental health professionals would be prohibited from diagnosing or treating a minor for a gender-related condition without first obtaining parental consent and screening for other comorbidities, abuse, and traumas.

Hundreds of individuals and organizations have expressed their opposition to the bill, including Cincinnati Children’s Hospital, Ohio Psychological Association, Ohio Academy of Family Physicians,

Ohio Children’s Hospital Association, and conservative parents of transgender youth. Those who support the bill see it as an attempt to protect children,

while those who oppose it see it as interfering in children’s healthcare and a parent’s right to make medical decisions for their children, and harmful to those with gender dysphoria.

House Bill 183 would prohibit schools from allowing transgender students to use bathroom and shower facilities consistent with their gender identities. Those who support it believe it provides protection, particularly for females, while those who oppose it believe it discriminates against transgender males and females.

Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost issued an opinion on the legality of the legislation in response to a request from Greene County Prosecutor David Hayes. He stated in his opinion that state law does not prohibit the adoption of policies that limit communal restrooms and other areas to members of a single sex.

“Some may consider this equal-access right insufficient to protect the interests of our transgender citizens,” Yost wrote. “But only the legislature can broaden the statutory right – I cannot make the statute confer something more than the equal access the statutory text guarantees.”

DPIA and student wellness funds reporting required

Schools are required to complete a report detailing the



planning, use of funds and expenditures from the 2022-2023 school year for the three separate funding streams available to provide student wellness activities: Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid; Base Cost Student Wellness and Success Funds; and remaining Student Wellness and Success Funds from fiscal years 2020 and 2021. Reporting is required even if no funds were spent.

The data collection tool – open from June 1 through August 1 -- is available in the Data Collection application in the OH|ID portal.

Restraint and seclusion reporting

Schools are required to report restraint and seclusion data for the 2022-2023 school year during the reporting window of June 5 to August 4.

[Instructions](#) for completing the data collection, [frequently asked questions](#) and additional guidance and forms are available on the Department's [restraint and seclusion webpage](#).

OEDS changes

Schools are encouraged to routinely review and update staff roles and contact information reported in the Ohio Educational Directory System (OEDS). The information is not only used to distribute important information throughout the year, ensuring its accuracy is part of sponsors' opening assurances.

Update, reminders for DOPR schools

Designation -- In order to be designated as a dropout prevention and recovery

(DOPR) school for the 2023-2024 school year, schools must submit a completed application to the Ohio Department of Education, Office of Community Schools, via Epicenter no later than July 1, 2023. Access the DOPR designation application and more information online [here](#).



Report cards – One of the required performance indicators on DOPR school report cards is the Achievement Component, or high school test passage rate. Effective with the Class of 2023, the Achievement Component of the DOPR report card will reflect students reported in EMIS as 12th grade students for any part of the year (even if the student is

withdrawn before graduation) and any students who turn 22 prior to the start of the next school year who have achieved a competency score or higher on the two end-of-course assessments required for graduation (English language arts II and Algebra I).

STAR testing – A growing number of schools are falling well below 50 percent participation for STAR testing, which is a requirement for eligibility for the DOPR designation. Schools are encouraged to make STAR testing participation a high priority, and to plan now to attend one of the Renaissance Professional Learning Sessions scheduled for July 18 and 20 (additional information attached).

Dyslexia reminders

Attached to the newsletter distribution is a copy of the Literacy and Learning Acceleration Committee presentation from June 12th. The slides include reference to the Dyslexia Guidebook, the required screening, and professional development requirements and timeline. Please ensure all teachers and intervention specialists are trained as required prior to the beginning of the 23-24 school year. As new teachers are hired include this requirement in the school's on-boarding discussions and timelines.

Credentialing and career advising summer learning series



The Ohio Department of Education Career Connections team will facilitate virtual meetups, in partnership with Educational Service Center and Business Advisory Council leaders, through the 2023 Summer Learning Series on July 12.

Participants will discuss and share best practices around engaging students in career-connected education and receive updates on the state budget, credentialing pathways and more. The event will feature four segments: Credentialing Pathways; Career

Advising: How a District Transformed Policy into Practice; OhioMeansJobs K-12 Changes; and Budget Updates. Each session will be recorded and available online. Register online [here](#).

Have a great summer!



The Office of School Sponsorship knows how hard each and every one of our schools and their staff work throughout the year.

We have seen academic gains, growth in career and technical programming, improvements in fiscal controls, compliance monitoring, and operational processes over the past year. It has been the OSS team's pleasure to provide sponsorship services to your school over the past year.

Enjoy your summer. Get outside and enjoy some sunshine. We look forward to another great year working together to meet the needs of Ohio's students!



Important Updates and Reminders

- 6/7 | Apply for [Comprehensive Literacy State Development subgrant](#)
- 6/7-12 | Register for [Classified Leaders Training](#)
- 6/12-16 | Register for [Adult Education Week](#) events
- 6/13 | Submit public comments on [changes to EMIS guidelines](#)
- 6/14 | Register for [2023 Summer Conference for School Nurses: School Safety](#)
- 6/14 | Register for [Ohio Teacher Leadership Summit](#)
- 6/14 | Register for [Principal Chat](#)
- 6/15 | [OhioES closes](#); complete principal and school counselor evaluations
- 6/23 | Apply to serve on the [Ohio Teacher Leader Liaison Network](#)
- 6/30 | Apply for [Agriculture Education Fifth Quarter Grant](#)
- 6/30 | No-cost [Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines \(CSTAG\) model training](#) expires
- 7/1 | Deadline to submit notice of stopping/starting the use of a blended learning model.
- 7/12 | Attend the Career Connections [2023 Summer Learning Series](#)
- 7/18 & 7/20 | Renaissance / STAR Professional Learning Sessions
- 8/1 | Submit [Venereal Disease and Sexual Education Instruction Audit information](#)
- 8/1 | [Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid and Student Wellness and Success Funds data collection](#) closes
- 8/4 | [Restraint and seclusion data collection window](#) closes
- 8/4-18 | Register for [2023 Orientation for Nurses New to Ohio Schools](#)
- 8/9 | Register for [Principal Chat Series](#)