

HERE We Grow

MONTHLY HEADLINES FROM THE ESC OF LAKE ERIE
WEST COMMUNITY SCHOOLS CENTER



DIRECTOR'S HEADLINES

Dear Building Leaders and Valued Stakeholders,

As we stand on the threshold of a new school year, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude and excitement to each of you. Your unwavering dedication and hard work have been the cornerstone of our sponsored community schools successes, and I am confident that this year will be no exception.

In the words of Nelson Mandela, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." This powerful reminder resonates deeply with our mission as educators. We have the unique privilege and responsibility to shape the minds and hearts of our students, guiding them towards a brighter future.

Our journey will undoubtedly come with its challenges, but I believe in the resilience and strength of our team. Together, we can create a nurturing and inspiring environment that fosters learning, growth, and discovery.

As we prepare to welcome our students back, let's carry forward the spirit of optimism and collaboration. Let's embrace the opportunities to innovate, support one another, and make a lasting impact on the lives of those we serve.

Thank you for your passion, commitment, and vision. Here's to a fantastic school year ahead, filled with achievements and joy.

Warm regards,

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OUR MISSION

"The ESCLEW Community Schools Center is a student-centered authorizer of charter schools, advancing quality educational opportunities throughout the state of Ohio"

Governing Authority Headlines

Written by Julie Kadri

SUMMER 2024 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

August means the start of a new school year, and it brings several changes to federal and state laws and regulations. Many of these items will require schools to adopt new policies and update existing policies.

House Bill 47

- **Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in Schools** - Requires automated external defibrillators (AEDs) to be placed in every public and chartered nonpublic school in Ohio by Oct. 22, 2024.

Senate Bill 168

- **Enrollment and Residency Policy** - Eliminated the requirement that community schools conduct monthly reviews of student residency records of each enrolled student.

House Bill 214

- **Student Absences for Religious Expression** - Requires that schools adopt a policy authorizing students to take up to three days of excused absences per school year for purposes of engaging in religious expression. Schools are not permitted to inquire into the validity of a student's deeply held religious beliefs related to any requested absence.

- **Political Affiliations or Ideologies Policy** - Requires that schools adopt a policy prohibiting the solicitation of information regarding the political beliefs of employees, applicants, and students. This policy must be adopted no later than December 23, 2024.

House Bill 250

- **Student Cell Phone Usage** - Schools are required to adopt a policy governing the usage of cell phones in order to limit use during the school day. The law allows for exceptions related to student learning, student health conditions, IEPs and Section 504 Plans. This policy must be adopted no later than July 1, 2025.

Rapback

- All school bus and van drivers should be enrolled in Rapback through the CORE system by October 31, 2024 and any individuals in a non-licensed position that requires enrollment should be enrolled by December 31, 2024.

Title IX

- On April 19, 2024, the U.S. Department of Education issued updated Title IX regulations intended to take effect on August 1, 2024. However, on June 17, 2024, a federal court issued a preliminary injunction/stay, which temporarily prevents the U.S. Department of Education from "implementing, enacting, enforcing, or taking action in any manner to enforce," the new regulations in Ohio, as well as several other states. The case is currently being appealed. In the meantime, you should continue to utilize your existing Title IX grievance policy/procedures currently have in place.

Academic Services Headlines

Written by Kristi Hayward



DIGGING INTO DATA TOGETHER

As we start the 2024–2025 school year, the ESCLEW Community Schools Center will have a dedicated team of experts committed to assisting individual schools in analyzing school data in order to make data informed decisions. In today’s educational landscape, data-driven decision making has become a cornerstone of success, and our team is here to support our schools in this process.

Our primary objective is to provide targeted technical assistance to your institution, leveraging the wealth of information at your disposal. By analyzing and interpreting your student data, we aim to empower your school's leadership, educators, and support staff to make data-informed choices that will ultimately lead to improved outcomes for your students. Our team will also work with the Regional Technical Assistance Educators to determine the annual outcome of the schools’ annual performance framework academic goals.

To achieve this goal, we kindly request that you ensure the access to your school’s data that was granted to the ESCLEW Academic Services Team Leader, Kristi Hayward, at the end of last school year remains granted for this school year. If there have been any changes to your internal assessments (STAR, NWEA, iReady, etc.) please make sure to give access to the new assessment to Kristi Hayward.

We look forward to digging into the data with our schools and providing targeted technical assistance and support regarding individualized data throughout the school year.

If you have any questions regarding current or new data accessibility, please reach out to Kristi Hayward (khayward@esclakeeriewest.org)

Academic Services Headlines

Written by Kristi Hayward

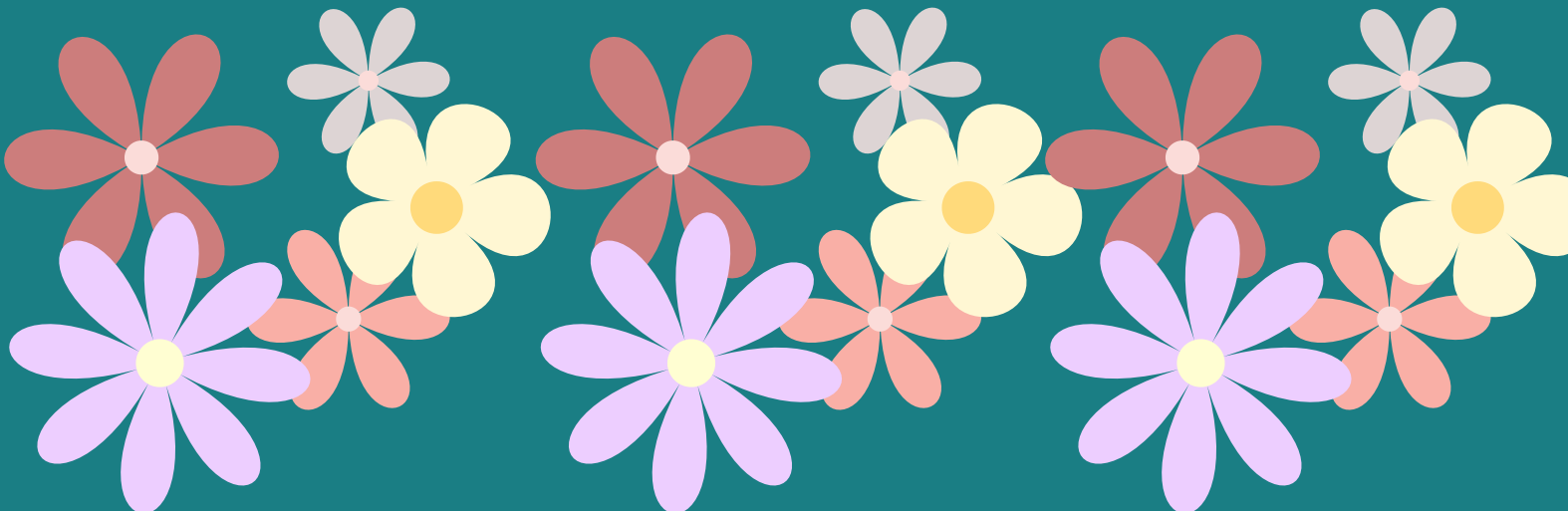
2024–2025 TECHNICAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The completion of an annual Technical Needs Assessment (TNA) is the process used by the ESCLEW Community Schools Center to determine deficiencies, set technical assistance priorities, make organizational improvement, and/or allocate resources to provide the most efficient support to all sponsored schools.

In the past, all school leaders were required to complete a survey that was emailed from the ESCLEW that contained a checklist of professional learning opportunities that your school might be interested in attending.

This year - forget the survey. We are digging deeper to get a better understanding of how we can better serve our schools. During the month of August, your Regional Technical Assistance Educator will be scheduling a meeting to sit down with the School Leader and review some key topics in Education and identify a few target areas in which we can provide support to our schools on an individual level.

Keep an eye on your inbox, as your Regional Technical Assistance Educator will be reaching out soon to schedule the meeting. This will be the only meeting that will take place in August as we understand how busy each building will be preparing to greet students, staff, and communities back for an excellent year of learning.



Compliance Headlines

ITEMS OF NOTE

August 2024

Upcoming Fall Tasks - New This Year

- At the end of June 2024, the General Assembly passed Senate Bill 168, which eliminated the requirement that community schools conduct monthly reviews of student residency records of each enrolled student.
- ESCLEW revised the Staff Affidavit template (attached) due in September. Please use the template updated 07/2024.
- Governor DeWine signed HB 47 on July 24th which requires all schools to have an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) in each school and train staff to use it.

DEW Reminders

- **Online Make-up Day Plans** - August 1st is the deadline for board adoption of the FY25 plan.
- **Transportation** - August 1st is the deadline to notify school district(s) if the community school is assuming responsibility for transportation.
- **COVID Federal ARP ESSER Funds (COVID relief)** - expire **September 30, 2024**.

July & August 2024

Compliance Requirement	Due Date	Type	Responsibility
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Monthly Financial

Financial Reports - June	July 15	Submission	Linda
Financial Reports - July	August 15	Submission	Linda

Board Submissions

Approved Governing Authority Meeting Agenda	2 Weeks After Meeting	Submission	Regional Rep
Approved Governing Authority Meeting Minutes	2 Weeks After Approval	Submission	Regional Rep

School Submissions

#110 Plan for Completion of Make-up Days via Web Access	July 31	Certification	Regional Rep
#703 Parent Notification Letter: Screening for Special Learning Needs	July 31	Submission	Kristi
#759 Emergency Management Plan Review	August 31	Certification	Julie
#787 Seizure Action Plan Employee Designation	August 31	Submission	Julie
EMIS Representative Designation	August 31	Submission	Julie
School Environment Inspection Report	August 31	Submission	Julie
Plan by Computer-Based Schools for Services to Students with Disabilities	August 31	Submission	Special Education Specialist

School Submissions

- [#703 Parent Notification Letter: Screening for Special Learning Needs](#) - Please note, that the notification must be dated and sent prior to August 1.
- [#759 Emergency Management Plan Review Certification](#) - Schools are required to review their Emergency Management Plan and certify that the plan is current and accurate no later than September 1st each year. The Annual Plan Certification is submitted/ documented using the School Safety Plans Portal via [OH!ID](#).
- [#787 Seizure Action Plan Employee Designation](#) - This is an annual designation. Please complete this with boards along with the EMIS Representative Designation.
- [School Environment Inspection Report](#) - Submit a copy of the most recent school environment inspection report for the main school building and any school annex building. If violations were noted, submit the re-inspection report upon its completion. If the school has been renovated, request a new inspection. The inspection does not otherwise expire.

If you have any questions, please contact Julie Kadri.

Special Education Headlines

Written by Jessica Bair and Heather Tester

OHIO DYSLEXIA REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERVENTION SPECIALISTS

The Ohio Dyslexia Law requires all intervention specialists to have dyslexia training.

- All grade **K-1** Intervention Specialists were required to have completed dyslexia training prior to the **start of the 2023 - 2024 school year**
- All grade **2-3** Intervention Specialists are required to complete dyslexia training by **September 15, 2024**
- Intervention Specialists who teach grades **4-12** are required to complete their dyslexia training by **September 15, 2025**
- **All** Intervention Specialists will be required to complete the Science of Reading Course in addition to the dyslexia training by **September 15, 2025**.

Please be advised, those who have completed the Dyslexia Course work prior to the taking the Science of Reading Course will only be required to take 7 hours, instead of the full 30 hours.

For more information, please refer to the [Ohio Dyslexia Guidebook](#) and The [Department's Dyslexia webpage](#).

COMPLIANCE TIP

Hearing and vision checks should be conducted on all initial ETR evaluations. Conducting hearing and vision checks are crucial, as undetected impairments can significantly affect a child's learning and development.

Special Education Headlines

Written by Jessica Bair and Heather Tester

NEED SOME EPICENTER DEBRIEFING?

Please join us for one of the Epicenter Debrief sessions this August. We will be covering the special education tasks due in Epicenter this school year, including task descriptions and dates.

DEBRIEF DATES:

August 7, 2024 from 9:30 - 10:00 am

August 14, 2024 from 1:00 - 1:30 pm

August 21, 2024 from 9:30 - 10:00 am

August 28, 2024 from 1:00 - 1:30pm

[Click here to join the session](#)

SST1 BUILDING LEADER SPECIAL EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

State Support Team 1 will be offering a professional learning series for principals. "Special Ed Principles for Principals" will provide content on topics such as, Being a District Rep at IEP meetings, Understanding Specially Designed Instruction, and What is the Least Restrictive Environment. Below are the dates and times for the three virtual professional learning opportunities.

Click [HERE](#) to register.

September 25, 2024 from 10:00 - 11:00 am

November 13, 2024 from 10:00 - 11:00 am

February 12, 2025 from 10:00 - 11:00 am

Professional Learning Headlines

Our fall 2024 Professional Learning Newsletter is now published. Please take a few moments to read about the upcoming professional learning available as well as consultation services that are always available and ongoing.



Please see our new curriculum page included in the Professional Learning Website to discover additional resources.

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COMMUNITY SCHOOLS CENTER

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Natalie Miller (419) 246-3137

IN NEED OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE?

Contact your school's regional technical assistance educator (RTAE) for direct support related to on-site visits, governing authority updates, compliance, academics, and more.

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