

# HERE We Grow

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

EDUCATIONAL  
SERVICE CENTER  
OF LAKE ERIE WEST



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S HEADLINE

### Ohio Schools Eligible for Nearly \$11 Million in Safety Grants

Ohio schools can now apply for a portion of nearly \$11 million in safety grants available for the current academic year, Attorney General Dave Yost announced.

The funding, approved through House Bill 33 by the 135th General Assembly, supports a wide range of initiatives aimed at enhancing school safety. Schools can use the grants for training and education on threat detection and prevention, as well as for life-saving tools, technology, and crisis-response equipment.

The grant funding provides school leaders with flexibility in determining the best ways to enhance student safety. Eligible uses include:

- Certification training for school resource officers
- Active-shooter response training or equipment
- Alert systems for wanted dangerous individuals
- School supplies or equipment related to safety or school-safety plans
- Training to identify and assist students with mental health issues
- Systems enabling immediate camera access for responding law enforcement officers
- License-plate reader alerts for vehicles registered to sex offenders
- Educational resources for all grade levels
- Silent panic alarms
- Gunshot-detection technology

School leaders may apply for both a traditional per-pupil-funded grant and a larger project-based grant. Until funds are exhausted, every district is eligible to seek:

- A formula-based grant of \$2,500 or \$4.50 per student, whichever amount is greater.
- A project-based grant of up to \$40,000 per district, regardless of the number of students.

Grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, making timely application submission crucial.

**The deadline for applications is May 30, 2025.**

ESCLEW Annual Statewide Meeting

Friday, August 08, 2025

Featuring *Dr. Daryl Michel*

SAVE  
THE DATE

SAVE  
THE DATE

MORE INSPIRING  
READS THIS MONTH:

Featured Presenter Bio	2
School Spotlights	3
Governing Authority	4
Academic Services	5-6
Compliance	7
Special Education	8-9
Professional Learning	10
ESCLEW Staff	11

## OUR MISSION

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

# Featured Presenter

August 8, 2025

Dr. Daryl Michel

## Coaching for Change

Daryl Michel, PhD, consults with organizations nationally and internationally in areas such as instructional coaching, teacher education, disciplinary literacy, learning and lesson study, and curriculum design. He is the founder of Be A Change, LLC, and coauthor of *Student-Focused Coaching: The Instructional Coach's Guide to Supporting Student Success Through Teacher Collaboration* (Brookes Publishing, 2022). In addition to his educational consulting, he serves as a project manager for The University of Texas at Austin's Meadows Center for Preventing Educational Risk and as a statewide coordinator supporting Reading Apprenticeship for WestEd. Daryl began his career in the education profession nearly three decades ago and, today, continues to follow his passion of learning with and from others and advocating for voices and perspectives to be heard.

During Dr. Michel's Keynote, participants will explore key principles from *Student-Focused Coaching*, emphasizing relationship-building and collaboration with all stakeholder groups to understand existing systemic practices. Participants will also investigate a Collaborative Problem-Solving Process that leverages student data to define challenges, set goals, and implement targeted action steps. Additionally, this session will highlight strategies for delivering differentiated, sustained professional learning to support diverse needs, modeling research-based routines that drive organizational change.

Administrators will also gain insights into designing systems that align standards, assessments, instruction, and intervention to create a cohesive and effective learning environment.

To find out more about Dr. Michel, please visit [Be A Change LLC](#).





# School Spotlights

## HORIZON SCIENCE ACADEMY - TOLEDO

### From Classroom to Career: Future Fair Empowers Students

Horizon Science Academy – Toledo hosted its first in-person Future Fair since pre-COVID, welcoming all students from middle school through 12th grade. The event was made possible through a partnership with Partners in Education and College and Career: Ready, Set, Go!, bringing a wide range of career and educational opportunities directly to students. Attendees explored pathways in various industries, including two-year and four-year colleges, military service, law enforcement, union trades, and more. Representatives from different fields engaged with students, providing valuable insights into future careers and education options.

The event was a huge success, inspiring students to start planning for their futures with confidence and excitement.



**Excellent Work Horizon Science Academy - Toledo!**



## CONGRATULATIONS

### 2024 MOMENTUM AWARD WINNERS!

ESCLEW would like to send a special congratulations to **Constellation Schools: Stockyard Community Elementary** and **Horizon Science Academy - Springfield** for earning this distinction.

The Momentum Award recognizes districts and buildings that have shown exceptional improvement in achievement while maintaining consistent growth. To qualify, recipients must have increased their performance index by at least three points from the 2022-2023 report card to the 2023-2024 report card and earned a value-added progress rating of four or more stars. However, districts and buildings that received an overall rating of five stars are not eligible for this award.






# Governing Authority Headlines

Written by Julie Kadri

## Virtual Open Meetings

House Bill 257 takes effect on April 9th, 2025, and allows community schools to conduct public meetings virtually under certain conditions.

Boards may not begin meeting virtually until after April 9th, and **they are prohibited from meeting if any of the conditions below are met:**

-  The Board members are compensated for their membership on the Board, regardless of whether they receive compensation for the meeting at issue;
-  The meeting involves a vote to approve a major non-routine expenditure or significant hiring decision, each as defined in the policy;
-  The meeting involves a proposal, approval, or vote on a tax issue or tax increase;
-  If the greater of at least ten percent (10%) of the Board or two or more members of the Board notify the Board President that an item in the agenda must be acted upon at a meeting conducted fully in-person; or
-  A party to a hearing does not consent to the hearing being conducted at a Virtual Meeting.

Boards must approve a policy authorizing the use of virtual meetings before conducting any such meeting. It is also recommended that the board adopt a policy indicating that the board will not be compensated for attendance at meetings or training. **Please consult your board's legal counsel before deciding to meet virtually.**

## Open Meetings and Public Records Training

As a reminder, board members are required to complete annual Open Meetings and Public Records training by April 30, 2025. ESCLEW will accept training from the [Attorney General](#), [Auditor of State](#), and other sources (sponsors, legal counsel, etc.).



# Academic Services

# Headlines

Written by Kristi Hayward

## ENSURING COMPLIANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONAL HOUR REQUIREMENTS

All community schools must complete a minimum of 920 instructional hours to fulfill the academic year. This winter brought significant weather challenges across Ohio, leading to school closures necessary for the safety of students, staff, and communities. Now is the time to review your instructional hours and confirm that your school remains on track to meet the required hours outlined in the approved academic calendar.

If school closures have impacted instructional hours, bringing them below the state-mandated minimum, it is crucial to develop a strategy to ensure compliance. Schools can often address this by adjusting their calendars, such as converting designated staff days into instructional time, helping to avoid extending the school year into the summer months. Taking proactive steps now will ensure a seamless transition through the remainder of the academic year and keep students on track for success.

Once a plan is in place, any adjustments to the school calendar should be presented to the Governing Authority for approval. After approval, it is essential to establish a clear communication plan to inform students, staff, and the community of any changes. Proactive communication will help minimize disruptions and ensure that adjustments to the instructional schedule do not negatively impact attendance rates.

If your school plans to adjust its calendar to add or make up instructional hours, please inform your ESCLEW Regional Technical Assistance Educator during your March site visit. This will help ensure your school remains compliant with all state regulations and instructional hour requirements. Proactive communication and planning are key to a smooth transition and successful completion of the academic year.

920  
HOURS

920  
HOURS

920  
HOURS

920  
HOURS

# Academic Services

# Headlines

Written by Kristi Hayward

## SPRING INTO STATE ASSESSMENTS

As the calendar turns to March, the academic focus of many classrooms tends to turn to “test prep” mode to prepare for the state assessments. In many cases, this focus is on the students and what they need to know, how they need to show they know it, and the incentives given for students to take the state test seriously. But what about your staff? Are they prepared to administer the high-stakes Ohio’s State Tests to students? Many of our schools may have substitute teachers filling classroom teacher roles who may never have been through a rigorous “testing” season. They may need support in the same fashion as students, preparation of what to expect, and how to follow all school policies and procedures to ensure the safety and security of the testing environment and keep data secure. Although the substitute teacher may be doing a phenomenal job in the classroom, it is important to support them just as much as students throughout the whole spring testing process. After all, the entire school shares the results and takes pride in the student’s and staff’s annual achievements.

The **English Language Arts Testing** window opens on Monday, March 24, 2025, and closes on Friday, April 25, 2025. **Math, Science, and Social Studies Testing** window opens on Monday, March 31, 2025, and closes on Friday, May 9, 2025.

It is important to note that all testing must be given within **15 consecutive days** of the assigned window. This timeline includes all make-up tests given to students who were absent. Make sure the calendar adheres to this timeline.

In many cases, the end-of-year-assessments either overlap with the state testing or closely follow each other as the school year comes to an end. School administrators will want to ensure the logistics of scheduling assessments to remain within the given time frames and avoid student and staff burnout. Both forms of assessment are high stakes for the school and both should be carefully planned to ensure students are performing to their best academic ability. While the Ohio State Test determines the outcome of the school’s report card, the end-of-year-assessments determine the outcome of the school’s academic goals on the Performance Framework (Contract Attachment 11.6) which plays a role in the contract renewal process.



# Compliance Headlines

## ITEMS OF NOTE - MARCH 2025

- **#667 Open Meetings & Public Records Training Affidavit** is due **April 30th**. Board members, treasurer, chief administrative officer, other administrative employees, and all individuals performing supervisory or administrative services for the school under a contract with the operator of the school are required to complete annual training on public records and open meetings law.
- The **Five-Year Forecast Update** is due in Epicenter by **April 30th**. Although approved meeting minutes/resolution are not collected by ESCLEW/ODEW, the forecast must be board approved prior to submission. If your school has a board meeting scheduled in May, please reach out to Julie Kadri to discuss an extension.

### School Submissions

- **#819 Community School Transportation Plans** –If a community school is working with or intends to work with a local district to provide transportation, the school must notify the local district by **April 1st**. Please submit into Epicenter a copy of establishment of the school's start and end times and proof of providing that information to applicable school districts (copy of the email, etc.) by April 1st. If the community school does not expect one or more resident school districts to transport the school's students, please enter N/A in the narrative.

## March 2025

Compliance Requirement	Due Date	Type	Responsibility
<b>Monthly Financial</b>			
Financial Reports - February	March 15	Submission	Linda
<b>Board Submissions</b>			
Approved Governing Authority Meeting Agenda	2 Weeks After Meeting	Submission	Regional Rep
Approved Governing Authority Meeting Minutes	2 Weeks After Approval	Submission	Regional Rep
<b>School Submissions</b>			
#819 Community School Transportation Plans	March 31	Submission	Julie
Finding for Recovery AOS- Management Co.	March 31	Submission	Julie
Food Service License	March 31	Submission	Julie
Liability Insurance	March 31	Submission	Julie
Property Insurance	March 31	Submission	Julie

If you have any questions, please contact Julie Kadri.

# Special Education Headlines

Written by Jessica Bair and Heather Tester

COMING SOON

## PROFESSIONAL LEARNING PROVIDED BY ESCLEW

**Writing PR-01s**  
**March 6, 2025 at 3:30pm**

The offered professional learning session on writing PR-01 Prior Written Notices (PWNs) focuses on ensuring compliance with IDEA requirements, while enhancing clarity and effectiveness in communication with parents and guardians. This training is aimed to enhance educators' ability to draft clear, thorough, and legally compliant PR-01 notices to improve communication and transparency in the special education process.

Click [HERE](#) to register

---

**Indicator 13 Checklist**  
**April 9, 2025 at 3:15pm**

Join us for a virtual professional learning session focused on the Indicator 13 Checklist, a critical tool for ensuring compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This session will provide a clear understanding of how the checklist supports effective secondary transition planning for students with disabilities.

Click [HERE](#) view the flyer and to register

## RELATED SERVICES OFFICE HOURS FOR COLLABORATION AND GUIDANCE

Join the virtual related services office hours to collaborate and receive guidance on ETR compliance and best practices in Ohio. This is an opportunity to ask questions, discuss challenges, and ensure alignment with state requirements.

SLP Office hours information - Click [HERE](#)  
School Psychology Office hours - Click [HERE](#)

Additionally, join the Central Regional Consultants for free networking sessions on topics such as comprehensive ETRs for suspected SLP disabilities and FAQs for related service providers.

Click [HERE](#) for the network flyer



# Special Education Headlines

Written by Jessica Bair and Heather Tester

## ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT CHECKLISTS

Do you have students who take the alternate assessment? Below are two checklists to assist in the administration of these assessments.



### **TEST ADMINISTRATOR CHECKLIST** (Click for link)

This checklist is for teachers or anyone else administering the test to students. This checklist will help ensure all are ready to administer the alternate assessment.



### **TEST COORDINATOR CHECKLIST** (Click for link)

This checklist is for those organizing or coordinating testing for the Alternate Assessment. This is an opportunity to double-check you have completed all tasks before testing.

## ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FAIR

The Wood County Board of Developmental Disabilities will be hosting an assistive technology fair at Owens Community College on April 11, 2025. The flyer with more information can be found [HERE](#).

# Professional Learning Headlines

**EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER OF LAKE ERIE WEST**

## Virtual Youth Mental Health First Aid

**Dates:** May 5, 2025  
May 16, 2025

**Location:** Virtual Through Zoom

**Time(s):** 9:00 am - 2:00 pm


**Contact Hours:** 5 Contact Hours will be awarded at the completion of the training.

**Target Audience:** Teachers, Administrators, School Staff, Coaches, and School Counselors

**Contact:** Tamee Mendelsohn @ mendelsohn@esclakeeriewest.org

**Cost:** Varies depending on school/district.

**To register, click or scan here:**



Aligns with the Ohio Department of Education & Workforce's 4 Priorities:

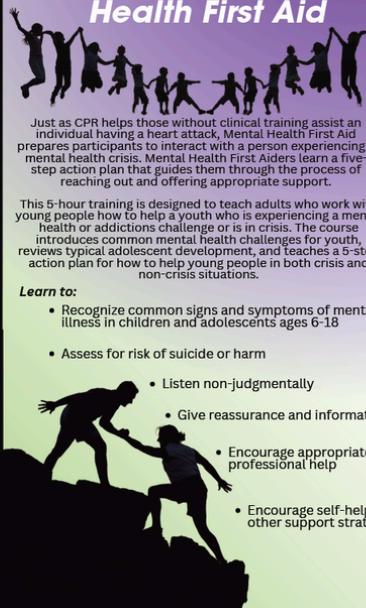
- Literacy
- Learning Acceleration
- Student Wellness
- Workforce Readiness

**Just as CPR helps those without clinical training assist an individual having a heart attack, Mental Health First Aid prepares participants to interact with a person experiencing a mental health crisis. Mental Health First Aiders learn a five-step action plan that guides them through the process of reaching out and offering appropriate support.**

**This 5-hour training is designed to teach adults who work with young people how to help a youth who is experiencing a mental health or addictions challenge or is in crisis. The course introduces common mental health challenges for youth, reviews typical adolescent development, and teaches a 5-step action plan for how to help young people in both crisis and non-crisis situations.**

**Learn to:**

- Recognize common signs and symptoms of mental illness in children and adolescents ages 6-18
- Assess for risk of suicide or harm
- Listen non-judgmentally
- Give reassurance and information
- Encourage appropriate professional help
- Encourage self-help and other support strategies



**EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER OF LAKE ERIE WEST**

## USE YOUR DATA WITH AI TO SUPPORT LESSON PLANNING

**Dates:** April 11, 2025

**Location:** 2275 Collingwood Blvd Toledo, OH 43620

**Time(s):** 8:30 - 12:30 am


**Contact Hours:** 4 contact hours

**Target Audience:** All educators

**Contact:** Tamee Mendelsohn @ mendelsohn@esclakeeriewest.org or Amy Merrill-Wyatt @ amyw@esclakeeriewest.org

**Cost:** Varies from \$0 to \$75, depending on school or district contract with ESCLEW, click or scan below for more details.

**To register and pay, click or scan here:**



Aligns with the Ohio Department of Education & Workforce's 4 Priorities:

- Literacy
- Learning Acceleration
- Student Wellness
- Workforce Readiness

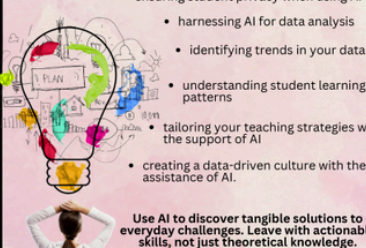
**This workshop is designed for educators who want to make meaningful use of both AI technology and student testing data. Participants will explore how AI tools can analyze testing data, identify trends, and generate insights. By learning to leverage AI, educators can tailor their lessons to better meet student needs, track progress over time, and make data-informed decisions.**

**Join us to discover innovative approaches to data utilization to transform your students' classroom experiences and outcomes.**

**Specifically, we will look at:**

- ensuring student privacy when using AI
- harnessing AI for data analysis
- identifying trends in your data
- understanding student learning patterns
- tailoring your teaching strategies with the support of AI
- creating a data-driven culture with the assistance of AI.

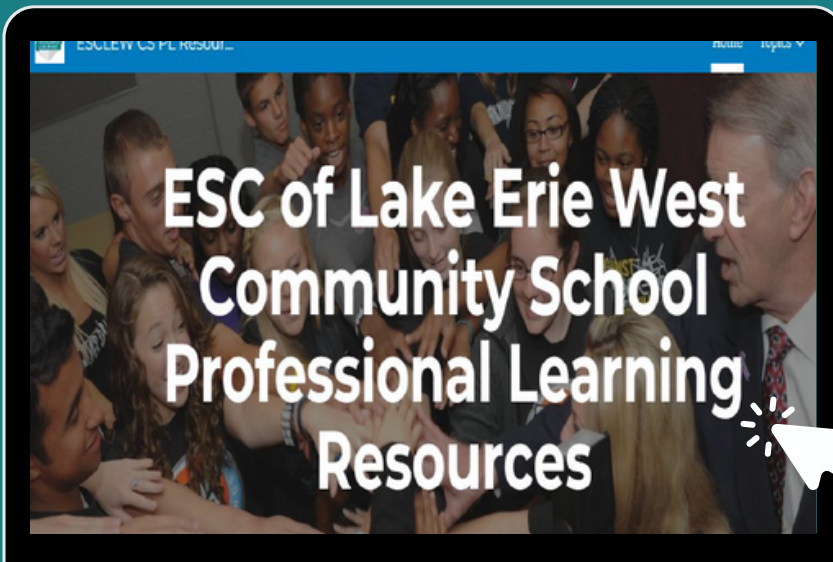
**Use AI to discover tangible solutions to everyday challenges. Leave with actionable skills, not just theoretical knowledge.**



## Virtual Youth Mental Health First Aid



## Use Your Data With AI



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



# ESCLEW Staff

## Superintendent

Sandra C. Frisch

## ESCLEW Governing Board

Jeff BuncK

Jared Lefevre

Brent Buehrer

Thomas Ilstrup

Joan Kuchcinski

## Interim Treasurer

Sandra Knudson

## Executive Director

Kurt A. Aey

## Administrative Offices

2275 Collingwood Blvd.  
Toledo, OH 43620  
(419) 245-4150

## Community Schools Center

4955 Seaman Rd.  
Oregon, OH 43616  
(419) 246-3137

[www.esclakeeriewest.org](http://www.esclakeeriewest.org)

## COMMUNITY SCHOOLS CENTER

### CONTACT INFORMATION

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY SCHOOLS CENTER

Kurt Aey (419) 246-3142

#### TEAM LEADER, ACADEMIC SERVICES    TEAM LEADER, OPERATIONS

Kristi Hayward (419) 214-3893

Julie Kadri (419) 724-4288

#### SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT AND ACADEMIC SPECIALIST

Aimee Mendelsohn (419) 280-1661

#### SPECIAL EDUCATION SPECIALISTS

Jessica Bair (419) 367-3562 and Heather Tester (419) 260-4793

#### FINANCIAL CONSULTANT

Linda Moye (419) 724-4291

#### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

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.

**Brittany Beck**

(419) 461-5375

**DeAnna Hardwick**

(330) 591-0217

**Allison Lentz**

(419) 260-7708

**Joyce Lewis**

(419) 290-4759

**Jennifer Little**

(419) 360-8213