

HERE We Grow

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



DIRECTOR'S HEADLINE

Dear Building Leaders and Valued Stakeholders,

I want to extend my sincere gratitude to each of you for taking the time out of your busy schedules to attend our annual statewide meeting. I understand the many responsibilities you juggle daily, and your commitment to being present speaks volumes about your dedication to the growth and success of your schools and communities. Your engagement, insights, and collaboration during our sessions truly made this event meaningful and impactful.

Thank you for your invaluable contributions, not only during our meeting but throughout the year. Together, we are making a difference, one student, one classroom, and one community school at a time.

Warm regards,

Help The Department Stay Connected – Update Your Details

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce’s Office of Accountability is in the final stages of preparing school and district awards for the 2023-2024 school year, which will be announced in the coming months. As part of this process, several mailings related to the 2024 awards will be sent to eligible districts and schools. To ensure timely and accurate delivery, please verify that your school mailing address and the recipient details, such as superintendent or principal, are up to date.

The Department is requesting districts and schools to review their mailing addresses and administrator contacts in the Ohio Educational Directory System (OEDS) by **Monday, Oct. 14, 2024**.

Contact OEDS.ContactUS@education.ohio.gov for assistance or any questions regarding OEDS.

MORE INSPIRING READS THIS MONTH:

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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"

School Spotlights

PINNACLE ACADEMY

Celebrating Attendance Awareness Month with the Cleveland Browns: Stay in the Game! Attendance Network

Pinnacle Academy kicked off Attendance Awareness Month in September with an exciting collaboration with the Cleveland Browns' Stay in the Game! Attendance Network. Chomps, the Browns' beloved mascot, visited the school to encourage students to prioritize attendance and stay engaged in their learning. To support the effort to increase attendance and reduce chronic absenteeism rates, staff members have decorated their classroom doors with creative and motivational themes centered around the importance of being present. This fun and engaging initiative aims to foster a strong commitment to regular attendance throughout the school year.

Awesome work Pinnacle Academy!



HEIR FORCE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Downtown Doors Open: Heir Force Welcomes Students to New Home

On Monday, August 26th, Heir Force Community School proudly opened the doors to its new downtown Lima location, welcoming over 200 students in grades K-8. The new building will serve as the permanent home for the middle school, offering students unique opportunities to explore a variety of career paths, with arts, politics, and businesses just a few blocks away. In addition, the school will soon begin work on another site that will house the primary grades.

Congratulations to everyone involved in making this exciting expansion possible!



Governing Authority Headlines

Written by Julie Kadri

BACK TO SCHOOL – WHAT ARE YOUR SCHOOLS WORKING ON FOR ESCLEW THIS FALL?

- **Renewal Applications** – 22 schools are completing contract renewal applications and submitting them to ESCLEW by September 30th. ESCLEW's Community Schools review team will score applications in October and November. The application score represents 33% of the total points toward renewal. The High Stakes Review accounts for the remaining 67% of points toward renewal. The High Stakes Review is an analysis of the school's performance on its Contract Attachment 11.6 contract goals over the term of the contract. Once applications are scored and reviews are complete, ESCLEW Community Schools Center presents the recommended contract length to the Community Schools Committee for a determination and recommendation to the full board. Governing boards will be notified of ESCLEW's governing board decision by January to begin completing attachments for the contract effective July 1, 2025.
- **Fall Contract Modifications** – ESCLEW's fall contract modifications are drafted and will be emailed to schools, management companies, and boards as soon as they are finalized. The due date to submit the signed fall contract modification and board resolution will be the end of December.
- **Performance Accountability Framework** – Contract Attachment 11.6 – ESCLEW is finalizing changes to the Performance Accountability Framework template that will be emailed to schools, management companies, and boards in October. School governance goals remain the same and include Board Engagement, Required Number of Regular Board Meetings, Required Number of Board Members, Proper Meeting Notice, Required Board Member Training, and Board Member Attendance. Each school's Regional Technical Assistance Educator will keep the board informed on progress toward goals at each board meeting.

OPEN MEETINGS AND PUBLIC RECORDS TRAINING (SUNSHINE LAWS)

Thank you to those who attended ESCLEW's Open Meetings and Public Records Training on Saturday, September 14th. If you did not receive an email with your certificate of attendance, please email Julie Kadri at jkadri@esclakeeriewest.org. If you missed the training, you can always attend an on-demand virtual session through the [Attorney General](#) or the [Auditor of State](#).

Academic Services

Headlines

Written by Kristi Hayward

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM – THE RATES ARE IN AT AN ALARMING INCREASE!

The State of Ohio School Report Cards were released in September 2024. Chronic Absenteeism is measured on the report card as a school improvement indicator, and the rates increased drastically for community schools over the last year. The Department of Education and Workforce monitors student attendance in two different measures - so what does each mean and how does it affect student achievement?

The two different student attendance measures monitored by the Department include Attendance Rate and Chronic Absenteeism.

Attendance Rate – measures the total time students spend in school against the total enrolled time, acting as a gauge for the environment’s effectiveness in promoting regular attendance.

Chronic Absenteeism – tracks the percentage of chronically absent students, indicating they miss 10% or more of the school year. Chronic Absenteeism includes all time missed by students including excused and unexcused absences as any absence has a detrimental effect on student learning.

As an Improvement Indicator on the School Report Card, the chronic absenteeism rate is compared to annual goals and benchmarks. This indicator contributes to five (5) points in the Gap Closing Component of the School Report Card and is a goal on the Annual Performance Framework (Attachment 11.6). For the 2023–24 school year, Ohio’s Chronic Absenteeism goal was set at 18.3%. Therefore, schools would earn all five (5) points if this goal was met. For schools with a higher chronic absenteeism rate, they would be required to meet the following formula in order to earn five (5) points and meet the goal.

Prior Year Chronic Absenteeism Rate	Improvement Standard Requirement
36.7%	1.1 percentage points
Lower than 36.7%	3%

Academic Services

Headlines

Written by Kristi Hayward

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM – THE RATES ARE IN AT AN ALARMING INCREASE! - CONTINUED

The average Chronic Absenteeism Rate for all Community Schools sponsored by the ESC of Lake Erie West for the 2023–24 school year was 46.89%. With only one (1) sponsored school meeting the state standard, 23 sponsored schools met the required improvement indicator.

It is crucial for schools to monitor student attendance on a daily basis and review attendance reports weekly, monthly, and make adjustments when needed. A student missing one day a month (excused or unexcused) will eventually meet the criteria for chronic absenteeism, and academic progress will be impacted.

If student attendance is not a standing conversation with the school leadership team, it should be added starting this month. The Ohio Department of Education & Workforce is focused on helping improve chronic absenteeism by offering support and resources, including hosting attendance-related webinars for the 2024–25 school year.

The Department of Education and Workforce, local SST regions, and the ESC of Lake Erie West will be offering professional learning opportunities on how to combat this growing problem within our schools. For more information from the Department and/or to view resources and webinars please visit the [Department of Education and Workforce website](#).

“You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today.”

~ ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Compliance Headlines

ITEMS OF NOTE - OCTOBER 2024

As a reminder, the board-approved Community School Annual Budget and Five-Year Forecast are due in Epicenter at the end of October in order for ESCLEW to review prior to submission to ODE.

The Community School Annual Education Report is also due in Epicenter on October 31st. ESCLEW cannot provide an extension on this task. The report must include **statewide achievement test results** and **performance on all applicable components of the 2023–24 Ohio School Report Card, 2023–24 Performance Accountability Framework goals results (Attachment 11.6)**, and a report of the overall **Financial Status** for 2023–24. ESCLEW will email the Annual Performance Report including results on Attachment 11.6 goals to all stakeholders in advance of the due date for the Community School Annual Education Report. Please contact Julie Kadri if you have any questions or concerns regarding these important submissions.

NEW - The Auditor of State Fraud Training must be completed by all school employees by the end of November. Schools must retain employee certificates and acknowledgement forms for audit purposes. ESCLEW is collecting a certification in Epicenter due November 15th.

October 2024

Compliance Requirement	Due Date	Type	Responsibility
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Monthly Financial

Financial Reports - September	October 15	Submission	Linda
#504 Community School Annual Budget	October 25	Submission	Linda
Five-Year Forecast	October 31	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
#406 & #414 Suspension, Expulsion, Removal, and Permanent Exclusion Policy	October 31	Submission	Julie
#440 & #442 Attendance Policy Including Verification of Residency	October 31	Submission	Julie
#776 Guidance for Approving Food to be Sold in Schools Policy	October 31	Submission	Julie
#804 Transportation Emergency and Evacuation Procedures	October 31	Submission	Julie
#814 Pupil Transportation Management Policies	October 31	Submission	Julie

School Submissions

Community School's Annual Education Report	October 31	Submission	Julie
#513 Un-auditable Community School	October 31	Submission	Julie

Board Submissions

- #406 & #414 Suspension, Expulsion, Removal, and Permanent Exclusion Policy – Please note, this is a combined task. The discipline policy must include how the school will provide students an opportunity to complete any classroom assignments missed because of the suspension AND allow the students to receive at least partial credit for the completed assignments. The policy must also include the type of misconduct for which a student may be suspended, expelled, or removed.

School Submissions

- Community School's Annual Education Report – The task instructions have been revised to align with Ohio Revised Code. The report must include:
 - School performance on **statewide achievement tests, Performance Accountability Framework goals (Attachment 11.6)**, and **all applicable report card measures**
 - **Sponsor statement** representing overall compliance rating (provided by ESCLEW at the bottom of Annual Compliance Summary Report emailed to schools in August 2024)
 - **Financial status**

If you have any questions, please contact Julie Kadri.

Special Education Headlines

Written by Jessica Bair and Heather Tester

COMPLIANCE TIP - ETR - REEVALUATIONS INTERVENTIONS SUMMARY - PART 2

In Part 2 - Summary of Assessments, the first section asks for a summary of interventions for both initial and reevaluation. If a student is being reevaluated and is not receiving additional interventions above and beyond their IEP, a statement must be placed in this section. The statement should include that it was determined by the ETR team the student is making progress with current special education supports and services on the IEP and does not have any other additional needs.

*You do not need to list the interventions that were provided.
(These would be in the IEP already)

GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS

You asked for it and we are providing it!

Over the summer we worked hard to create [ETR](#) and [IEP](#) guidance documents.
Click the links to access them.

Compliant IEP PL

We will be offering a compliant IEP professional learning this year. It is a repeat of last year with some recent updates from the Office for Exceptional Children.

Click [here](#) for the flier.

Ohio Accessibility Manual

The Department of Education and Workforce has published an updated version of the Ohio Accessibility Manual. This manual includes a Decision Making Tool Kit for Reading Accommodations (found in the appendix of the manual) .

Click [here](#) to access the manual.

IDEA Monitoring Tool Update

The Office for Exceptional Children released an updated version of their IDEA Monitoring Guide, including record review items.

The guide is available [here](#).

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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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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