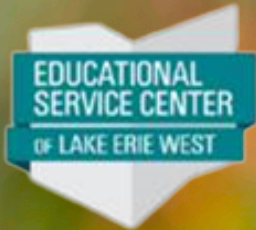


HERE We Grow

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



DIRECTOR'S HEADLINE

Dear Building Leaders and Valued Stakeholders,

As we begin this new school year, remember that each day is a fresh opportunity to inspire and be inspired. Whether you are a teacher, or administrator, or board member, you hold the power to shape the future, not just through lessons and textbooks, but through the connections you build, the kindness you show, and the passion you bring to your work. This year, embrace challenges as opportunities for growth, and let curiosity guide your journey. Together, let's create a learning environment where everyone feels valued, supported, and encouraged to reach their fullest potential.

As we embark on this journey together, let's remember that education is not just about acquiring knowledge—it's about becoming the best versions of ourselves. Your dedication plants the seeds of wisdom, and it's the students' enthusiasm that becomes the sunlight that makes those seeds grow. This year, let's commit to learning with an open heart and a resilient spirit. Let's support one another in our struggles and celebrate our successes, big and small. By working together, we can make this school year not just successful, but truly extraordinary.

Warm regards,

MORE INSPIRING READS THIS MONTH:

School Spotlight	2
Governing Authority	3
Academic Services	4 - 5
Compliance	6
Special Education	7 - 8
Professional Learning	9
ESCLEW Staff	10

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 Spotlight

HORIZON SCIENCE ACADEMY - DAYTON

New Addition to Accomodate Increasing Enrollment

In August, Dr. Alyse Pennington, principal of Horizon Science Academy - Dayton, and her staff celebrated the opening of a major addition to their current building. Over the past several years, the school has experienced a steady increase in enrollment, causing many students to be placed on a wait list. The new two-story addition provides three new classrooms and six rooms dedicated to student services. Many special guests and community members were in attendance to congratulate the school on their continued growth and expansion. After the ribbon-cutting ceremony, visitors toured the new addition, including features specially designed to support student academic success.

Congratulations to Dr. Pennigton and the Horizon Science Academy team!



Governing Authority Headlines

Written by Julie Kadri

BACK TO SCHOOL – ON-SITE VISITS – HOW IS YOUR SPONSOR HELPING YOUR SCHOOL THIS YEAR?

School is back in session, and that means our ESCLEW Regional Technical Assistance Educators (RTAEs) are back to visiting schools. As a result of ESCLEW's process of examining practices, gathering feedback, and making changes to become more efficient and effective, ESCLEW is taking a new approach to on-site visits this year. In an effort to take less of the building leader's time, and make the time they do spend more meaningful, RTAEs will be conducting six (6) compliance visits where the building leader's attendance is not required. The remaining five (5) visits will be academic on-site visits which will involve a closer look at student data and individualized technical assistance. Board members are encouraged to attend site visits with RTAEs when available in order to gain a deeper understanding of the role of the sponsor and to satisfy their Attachment 11.6 board engagement goal.

ESCLEW STATEWIDE MEETING

The ESCLEW Annual Statewide Meeting is Wednesday, September 18th in Toledo. As board members, you are valued participants on this day. The morning session will include remarks from Colleen Grady from ODEW, Adam Schira from Dickinson Wright, and an eye-opening, impactful session from Elizabeth Kregel on how trauma re-wires the brain and how and why students experience amygdala hijacks.

An amygdala hijack occurs when the amygdala overrides a person's ability to respond rationally to a perceived threat. When this occurs, we often see students extremely escalated and exhibiting violent behavior. In the session, Elizabeth will also discuss how educators can safely and effectively manage "hijacked" students and get to the root cause of the behavior.

Please register here as soon as possible if you plan to attend.

OPEN MEETINGS AND PUBLIC RECORDS TRAINING (SUNSHINE LAWS)



COMMUNITY SCHOOLS CENTER
ESC of LAKE ERIE WEST

Open Meetings and Public Records Training
Fall 2024

DATE & DETAILS

Saturday, September 14, 2024

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Register Using the Link Below!

Register

Academic Services Headlines

Written by Kristi Hayward

ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH – STAY IN THE GAME!

September is Attendance Awareness Month, a nationwide recognition of the connection between regular school attendance and academic achievement. Celebrate with the [Stay in the Game! Attendance Network](#) by participating in planned events each week to encourage attending school every day and reducing chronic absenteeism. Some schools may even be recognized by the Cleveland Browns, Columbus Crew, FC Cincinnati, or the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce. Schools can check out the [spirit week flyer](#) and participate in engaging activities to generate excitement and encourage regular attendance.

A student who misses just two to three days of school per month can be chronically absent. Attendance Awareness Month highlights the importance of mobilizing schools, families, and community partners to promote and implement tiered strategies and personalized interventions to reduce chronic absenteeism. When students are not chronically absent, they are far more likely to read at grade level, succeed academically, graduate on time, and be ready for the workforce.

Ohio's chronic absenteeism rate for the 2022-2023 school year was 26.8%, which has improved statewide by 3.4% from the 2021-2022 school year.

For more information and attendance resources, visit the recently updated [Attendance Support webpage](#). Email [Patrick Hickman](#) with any questions.



Compliance Headlines

ITEMS OF NOTE - SEPTEMBER 2024

As a reminder, ESCLEW issued guidance regarding Auditor of State (AOS) Fraud Prevention Training required for every public employee by November 29, 2024. [Click here to access the eight \(8\) minute training, optional tracking logs, and FAQ.](#) Schools must track training, collect employee certificates, and keep documentation on-site for their annual fiscal audit. We are asking schools to certify in Epicenter that training is complete by November 15th.

Per our usual practice, 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 ODEW. Please contact Julie Kadri if you have any questions or concerns regarding these submissions.

September 2024

Compliance Requirement	Due Date	Type	Responsibility
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Monthly Financial

Financial Reports - August	September 15	Submission	Linda
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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
#164 Awarding High School Credit for Course Completed Outside Regular School Hours at Accredited Post-Secondary Institution (Secondary Schools)	September 30	Submission	Kristi
#167 Students at Risk of Not Qualifying for High School Diploma (Grades 9-12)	September 30	Submission	Kristi
#401-A & #417 Attendance Policy Including 72 Hour Rule (Internet or Computer-Based Schools)	September 30	Submission	Julie
#401-B & #417 Attendance Habitual Truancy and 72 Hour Rule	September 30	Submission	Julie
#426 Admission Procedures & #427 Specifications of Contract Between Sponsor and Governing Authority - Specifications of Comprehensive Plan	September 30	Submission	Julie
#431 Distributing Statement Concerning State-Prescribed Testing and Attendance	September 30	Submission	Kristi
#433 & #436 Enrollment Documentation including Report Card	September 30	Submission	Kristi
#658 Annual Board Member Conflict of Interest Form	September 30	Submission	Julie

School Submissions

Staff Affidavit	September 30	Submission	Regional Rep
#128 Model Pathways (Secondary Schools)	September 30	Submission	Kristi
Sponsor Annual Report – Special Education Services & Expenditures (FY24)	September 30	Submission	Special Ed Specialist

Board Submissions

- [#401-A/B & #417 Attendance Policy Including 72 Hour Rule](#) – Please note, this is a combined task to eliminate duplicate policy submissions. The school attendance policy should include a reference to the 72 Hour Rule.
- [#431 Distributing Statement Concerning State-Prescribed Testing and Attendance](#) – Please submit a copy of the statement/document about the requirement for enrolled students to take proficiency tests and other examinations prescribed by law that was provided to parents of newly enrolled students for the current school year.
- [#433 & #436 Enrollment Documentation including Report Card](#) – Please submit available evidence which may include a list of items the school collects from new students, AND a copy of enrollment package OR checklist of all items included in the school's standard enrollment package.

School Submissions

- [Staff Affidavit](#) – ESCLEW modified the template for FY25. Please use the template attached to the task.
- [#128 Model Pathways \(Secondary Schools\)](#) – Please submit evidence of required pathways in current course offerings for school year 2024-25.
- [Sponsor Annual Report](#) – Special Education Services & Expenditures (FY24) – Please complete this report using data from the 2023-24 school year. Contact Heather Tester or Jessica Bair with any questions.

If you have any questions, please contact Julie Kadri.

Special Education Headlines

Written by Jessica Bair and Heather Tester

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY GUIDANCE

The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) released Assistive Tech Guidance in “support of children with disabilities who need assistive tech (AT) devices and services for meaningful access and engagement in education.”

Click [here](#) for a dear colleague letter on myths and facts surrounding AT devices

Click [here](#) for OSEP AT Guidance Document on myths and facts surrounding AT devices

Click [here](#) for more info on AT

OCALI Assistive Technology Module

Based on the mandates of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), assistive technology devices and services must be considered for all students with disabilities in the development of the Individualized Education Program (IEP). This module will assist educational professionals and IEP team members in considering and determining student needs for assistive technology. More specifically, this module will describe the difference between AT consideration and AT assessment. Additionally, the module details how the IEP team documents AT consideration on the Special Instructional Factors page of the IEP.

Click [here](#) to access OCALI’s AT Module. (Free, but need to create an account to access)

WHAT IS ON YOUR RADAR?

See what is coming up this
month in SPED.

[CLICK HERE](#) for a monthly
calendar of events

Special Education Headlines

Written by Jessica Bair and Heather Tester

COMPLIANCE TIP

Planning Form/ETR Part 1 Assessment Guidance

Did you know that whoever is listed on the ETR Planning Form for assessments that require “additional testing” must complete their own Part 1? If the Planning Form states “sufficient data”, the school psychologist may gather the data from the other staff member and include it in their Part 1. In this case, the contributing staff member must be referenced in the Part 1, and both the school psychologist and the staff member must sign the document. If more than one person is listed as conducting an assessment, both individuals must complete a Part 1.

Whoever is Listed Must Complete the Part 1

The justification is the parent signs the ETR Planning Form and the Consent Form. By signing the form they are giving permission for the person listed on the ETR Planning Form to provide the assessment. If someone other than who is listed on the planning conducts the assessment, it would then not be informed consent.

PROFILE SUBMISSION DEADLINE

If your school had to complete an improvement plan from the 2023-2024 Special Education Profiles, the evidence of those plan activities is due September 29, 2024. Please inform your ESCLEW Special Education Specialist when they are submitted and if they are approved by ODEW.

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.

ESCLEW Staff

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Sandra C. Frisch

ESCLEW Governing Board

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Brent Buehrer

Thomas Ilstrup

Joan Kuchcinski

Treasurer

Richard A. Cox

Director

Kurt A. Aey

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COMMUNITY SCHOOLS CENTER

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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.

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DeAnna Hardwick

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Augie Herman

(937) 243-4900

Allison Lentz

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