

HERE We Grow

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



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S HEADLINE

As we close out another academic year, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to every school across our portfolio of schools here in Ohio. Your dedication, innovation, and unwavering commitment to student success have made a profound impact on communities throughout the state. In the face of challenges and change, you've continued to lead with resilience, ensuring students receive not only a quality education but also the support and encouragement they need to thrive. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed, and we are truly proud to be your sponsor and partner in this important work.

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue building on the progress we've made together. Your passion for educational excellence inspires us every day, and we remain committed to supporting you in your mission to serve Ohio's students and families. Thank you for your leadership, your hard work, and your belief in the potential of every learner. Together, we will continue to grow stronger and make a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve.



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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 Spotlight

HEIR FORCE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Building a Legacy: Donor Engagement Event Supports Grand & Main Project

In a show of community pride and forward-thinking vision, Dr. Heggins and his dedicated team at Heir Force Community School recently hosted a special donor engagement event in support of the Grand & Main Project—an ambitious initiative aimed at driving economic development, recreation, and educational opportunities in Lima. Held at the chic Upper Lounge at Old City Prime, the evening brought together local leaders, potential supporters, and stakeholders to rally around this transformative effort. A central feature of the project is the creation of a state-of-the-art community play park that will serve as a vibrant, inclusive space for children and families, promoting health, connection, and play. With inspiring remarks from Mayor Sharetta Smith and Representative Matt Huffman, the event also marked the launch of a stakeholder-driven naming campaign, inviting key donors to leave a lasting legacy in shaping Lima's future. As a thoughtful touch, each guest received a personalized gift bag featuring a delicious Bundt cake, a celebratory bottle and a "The Future is Now" keychain—symbolizing the shared vision and momentum behind this exciting community initiative.



School Spotlight

AUTISM MODEL SCHOOL

Racing Toward Belonging: A New Era of Play for Every Student

Smiles, laughter, and the thrill of soaring through the air marked the debut of Autism Model School's newest playground feature: the Zip Track. This exciting addition features two 50-foot side-by-side tracks, inviting students to race and play together.

Designed with inclusivity in mind, one track includes a Zero-G seat to support riders with mobility needs, while the other offers a rope-suspended saucer seat for students with more advanced motor skills. The Zip Track exemplifies the school's commitment to ensuring all students, regardless of ability, can experience the joy of play.

This project was made possible through the generous support of community partners: the Toledo Mud Hens Baseball Club's Helping Hens Fund, the Elsie and Harry Baumker Charitable Foundation, and the John Henry Eldred Junior Foundation. Their contributions are helping create a space where every child feels like they belong.



Governing Authority Headlines

Written by Julie Kadri

Keeping it Legal: A Quick Guide to Executive Session

As the 2024-25 school year wraps and we head into 2025-26, a school board may find it necessary to meet in executive session. If you want to learn more about board meeting requirements, the [Ohio Sunshine Laws Manual](#) is a great resource. The manual is updated annually and contains everything you need to know about what is considered a public meeting, the duties of a school board to run a proper meeting, and how to conduct an executive session. Please see the overview from the manual below. For a more detailed explanation on conducting an executive session, [click on the manual and navigate to pg. 150.](#)

Executive Session Overview

- ✓ Executive session is a part of an open meeting from which the public can be excluded.
- ✓ Proper procedure is required to move into executive session:
 - Meetings must always begin and end in an open session, where the public may be present
 - Motion on the record to move into executive session, followed by a second
 - Specific reason for executive session must be put in the motion and recorded
 - Roll call vote, which must be approved by the majority of a quorum of the public body
 - Motion and vote recorded in the meeting minutes
- ✓ Executive session can only be held for the following reasons:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Certain personnel matters ○ Pending or imminent court action ○ Matters required to be kept confidential ○ Hospital trade secrets ○ Confidential business information of an applicant for economic development assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Purchase or sale of property ○ Collective bargaining matters ○ Security matters ○ Veterans Service Commission apps
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- ✓ Discussion in executive session must be limited to the specific, statutory reason for the executive session, as set forth in the motion.
- ✓ The public body can invite non-members to be present in an executive session but cannot exclude other members of the public body from the executive session.
- ✓ Discussion in executive session is not automatically confidential, but other confidentiality rules may apply; public records considered in the executive session may be accessible through the Public Records Act.
- ✓ The public body may not vote or make any decisions in executive session.

Academic Services

Headlines

Written by Kristi Hayward

UNDERSTANDING THE SCHOOL REPORT CARD MAY GET EASIER!

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce has developed a new Report Card Training webpage that will feature resources and upcoming training sessions for understanding and navigating the different components of the Ohio School Report Card Data. The [Report Card Training webpage](#) provides virtual trainings and/or pre-recorded videos that are designed to provide in-depth learning opportunities for each component of the Ohio School Report Card.

New training dates are already scheduled for College, Career, Workforce and Military Readiness as well as navigating the Secure Data Center. Each session is up to two hours in length and does not need prior registration. Also provided is a list of upcoming sessions to be on the lookout for as well as select pre-recorded videos already available to view.

POSITIVE BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS & SUPPORTS (PBIS) TRAINING PORTAL

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce has developed a PBIS Teams Portal to provide the following to school administrators; a learning tool to provide training modules for school PBIS teams which will not only train staff, but offer a way for administrators to track staff completion and plan follow-up meetings as the school PBIS team moves along with school-wide implementation.

The PBIS Teams Portal consist of 18 online modules that you can assign members of your PBIS Leadership Team, Teachers, and Administrators in order to track training opportunities as well as aid in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of a successful school-wide PBIS implementation. This tool will allow administrators to carefully assign and track team member completion along with school-wide meetings and planning.

The online modules are a great way for the school-wide PBIS team to get the baseline knowledge of PBIS and what steps need to be taken for the school to implement a successful PBIS system. If your PBIS team is looking for additional support on next steps and/or professional development on how to conduct follow-up meetings after the initial kick off, our office can help! Please reach out to School Improvement Consultant, Aimee Mendelsohn for more information.

LICENSURE UPDATES

Ohio educators whose 5-Year Professional teaching licenses (including [Lead Professional](#) and [Senior Professional](#)) are eligible for renewal will soon [have the option to convert](#) to the new Elementary and Middle School (PK-8) license or an Adolescence to Young Adult (7-12) license. Recent legislation created new pathways for Career-Technical Workforce Development licensure. See the [Career-Technical Workforce Development Licenses webpage](#) for more information.

The Office of Professional Conduct periodically updates its list of Disqualifying Offenses Pursuant to [ORC § 9.79](#) due to recently created new criminal offenses and regular review of offenses. View the updated [Disqualifying Offenses list here](#).

Compliance Headlines

ITEMS OF NOTE - MAY 2025

DEW Reminders

- ✓ **Special Education Requirement** – DEW recently updated the Special Education Model Policies and Procedures, and all schools must either adopt the new version or create their own to be approved by the Department. The board should adopt the Model Policies and Procedures by resolution and upload evidence through the OH-ID Monitoring System. This is due from each school directly to the department by **May 30th**.

Monthly Financial

- ✓ **Five-Year Forecast Update** – If your school was granted an extension on the submission of this task, please email a draft of the Five-Year Forecast Update in Excel format directly to Linda Moye for review and feedback prior to your board meeting in May.
- ✓ **#S-601 Communication with State Auditor** – The form attached to this task in Epicenter must be completed by the school treasurer as evidence of participation or waiver of the pre-audit, post-audit, and/or any other meetings in which audit issues were discussed, whether in-person or on a conference call with the Auditor of the State.

May 2025

Compliance Requirement

Due Date

Type

Responsibility

Monthly Financial

Financial Reports - April	May 15	Submission	Linda
#S-601 Communication with State Auditor	May 31	Submission	Julie

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

Special Education Policies and Procedures	May 30	Certification	Special Education Specialist
Staff Affidavit	May 31	Submission	Regional Rep

If you have any questions, please contact Julie Kadri.

Special Education Headlines

Written by Jessica Bair and Heather Tester

PROFILE INDICATOR RELEASE- SECOND PHASE

The second phase, targeted for release in May, 2025, includes enrollment data and the remaining indicators. These indicators include:

- ✓ Math and reading assessment participation and proficiency rates (Indicator 3)
- ✓ Least restrictive environment for school-age students (Indicator 5)
- ✓ Least restrictive environment for preschool students (Indicator 6)
- ✓ Preschool outcomes (Indicator 7)
- ✓ General supervision/Timely correction of noncompliance (Indicator 18)

Although none of the indicators have required action, it is great data to make informed decisions when planning for the 2025-2026 school year.

SUMMER CAMP RESOURCE FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Looking for a helpful resource to share with your students and their families? Check out this [summer camp and program directory](#) that highlights a wide range of camps specifically designed for children with disabilities. The guide includes information on day camps, weekend camps, and residential programs—each offering unique opportunities for social connection, skill-building, and summer fun in a supportive environment. Consider passing this along to families who may be looking for meaningful summer experiences for their child!

Special Education Headlines

Written by Jessica Bair and Heather Tester

UPDATED SPECIAL EDUCATION PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS GUIDE

The special education procedural safeguards notice, A Guide to Parent Rights in Special Education, is now available for district and parent use. This publication replaces the earlier version of the Guide to Parent Rights in Special Education. As of July 1, 2025, districts must no longer use that publication. [CLICK HERE](#) for an updated guide. [CLICK HERE](#) for the guide translated into other languages.

OHIO AGE-APPROPRIATE TRANSITION ASSESSMENT (AATA) LIBRARY

This website, <https://www.ohioaatalibrary.org/>, is a collection of carefully chosen age-appropriate assessments and transition and employment resources for educators working with transition-aged youth in Ohio schools. Visitors can explore the site using a menu or alphabetical site map.

The site includes:

- ✓ Formal and informal assessments for educators, families, and students
- ✓ Tools focused on employment, college readiness, independent living, and health
- ✓ Transition and employment resources from state and national organizations like ODE, OCALI, OhioMeansJobs, and more

ESCLEW SPECIAL EDUCATION SUMMIT

We are excited to announce ESCLEW will be hosting a second Special Education Summit in the fall of 2025-2026. Our goal is to provide updates from DEW and provide guidance in implementing “in house” practices and procedures to include internal monitoring. The date for the Special Education Summit will be announced soon.

Professional Learning Headlines

EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER OF LAKE ERIE WEST

Virtual Youth Mental Health First Aid

Dates: May 5, 2025 or 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: Aimee Mendelsohn @ mendelsohn@esc.lakeeriewest.org

Cost: Varies depending on school situation.

To register, click or scan here:



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

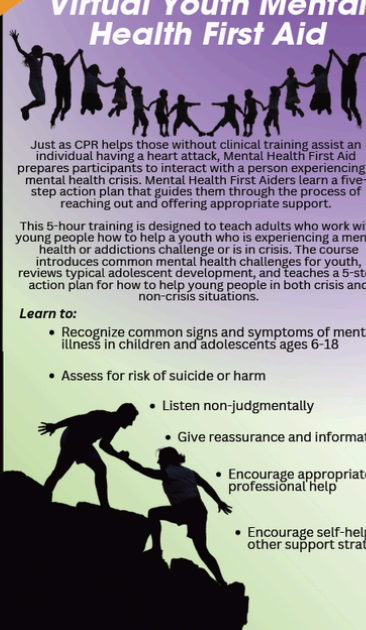
- ☐ Literacy
- ☐ Learning Acceleration
- ☒ Student Wellness
- ☐ Workforce Readiness

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 addiction 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



Virtual Youth Mental Health First Aid




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: Aimee Mendelsohn @ mendelsohn@esc.lakeeriewest.org or Amy Merrill-Wyatt @ wyatt@esc.lakeeriewest.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

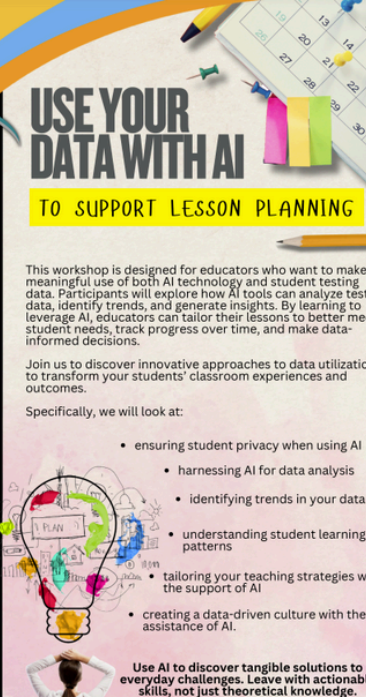
This workshop is designed for educators who want to make meaningful use of both AI technology and student testing data. Participants will explore how AI tools can analyze testing data, identify trends, and generate insights. By learning to leverage AI, educators can tailor their lessons to better meet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

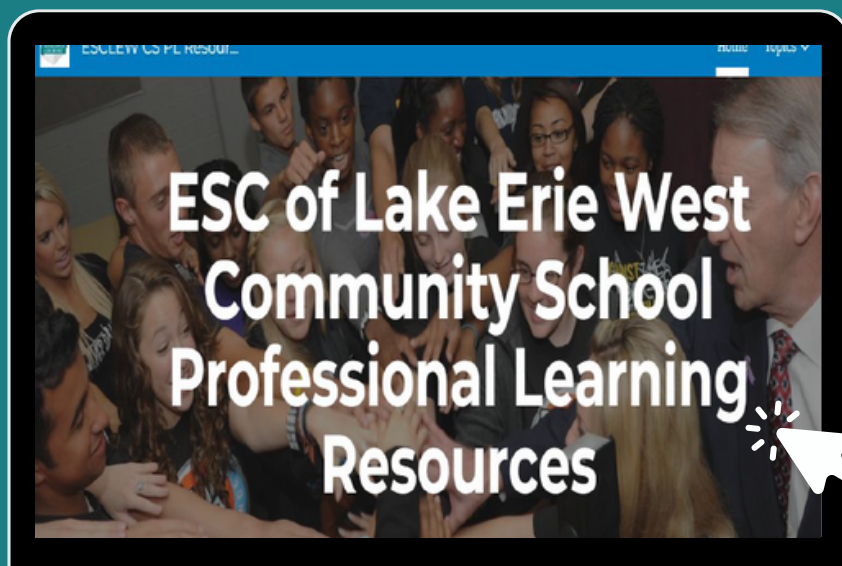
Specifically, we will look at:

- 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.



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

Treasurer

Michael Sorg

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

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