

HERE We Grow

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



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S HEADLINE

As we approach the final stretch of the school year, I want to take a moment to remind you of the incredible impact you make in the lives of our students every single day. Your dedication, passion, and commitment to doing what's best for kids are truly inspiring. In these final weeks, let's continue to keep students at the heart of every decision we make and every challenge we face. Whether it's supporting teachers, fostering positive relationships, or finding creative solutions to meet students' needs, remember that our collective efforts shape the future of each young person in our care.

The road to the finish line may feel long, but your perseverance makes all the difference. Lean into the strong relationships you've built and the progress you've made, knowing that your work leaves a lasting mark on students' lives. Encourage your teams to dig deep and finish strong—because every moment counts. Let's maintain our focus on nurturing growth, fostering resilience, and celebrating achievements both big and small. Your unwavering commitment to doing what is best for kids will carry us through with purpose and pride. Thank you for leading with heart and determination. Let's finish the year strong—together.

A few upcoming events that may be of interest to you:

NPL Charter School Facility & Finance Summit 2025

- Date: April 10, 2025
- Time: 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
- Location: 620 North High Street, Columbus, Ohio Le Méridien Columbus, The Joseph
- Keynote Speaker: Ohio Senator Andrew O. Brenner
- Learn from experts about facility planning, financing solutions, and sustainable growth strategies
- Network with fellow school leaders and industry professionals.
- Gain actionable insights to take your school to the next level.
- Click [HERE](#) to Register

2025 Annual Ohio School Safety Summit

- Date: June 9-10, 2025 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center
- The Ohio School Safety Center hosts an annual School Safety Summit for all schools, first responders, and safety professionals every summer in Columbus.
- At this event, attendees hear from engaging speakers, participate in continuing education sessions, share resources and ideas, and network with colleagues and vendors.
- Click [HERE](#) to Register

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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

SUMMIT ACADEMY - YOUNGSTOWN

It's the Eye of the Eagle, the Thrill of the Flight...

Fourth grade teacher, Cyndi Cline, loves watching the Eagle Nest Cam from the Friends of Big Bear Valley, California. Friends of Big Bear Valley (FOBBV) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to environmental education and connecting people with nature. They are best known for operating the Big Bear Bald Eagle Nest Cam, which provides a live stream of a wild bald eagle nest in Big Bear Valley, California.

The nest, located approximately 145 feet up in a Jeffrey pine tree, has been active since 2013 and is home to the resident bald eagle pair, Jackie and Shadow. FOBBV's live stream has allowed viewers worldwide to observe the eagles' nesting activities, including egg-laying, hatching, and chick-rearing processes.

In early March 2025, Jackie and Shadow welcomed two eaglets, marking a significant milestone after previous unsuccessful nesting attempts. This event attracted widespread attention and was celebrated by eagle enthusiasts globally, including Ms. Cline and her students.

Recently, Ms. Cline and the class had the exciting opportunity to meet with a team member from FOBBV for a special question-and-answer session. During the session, they asked insightful questions and gained a deeper understanding of the eagles, eaglets, and their environment.

Continue to fly high and soar like the eagles, Ms. Cline and class!



Governing Authority Headlines

Written by Julie Kadri

Legislative Updates: Updated Facilities and Student Instructional Materials Policies

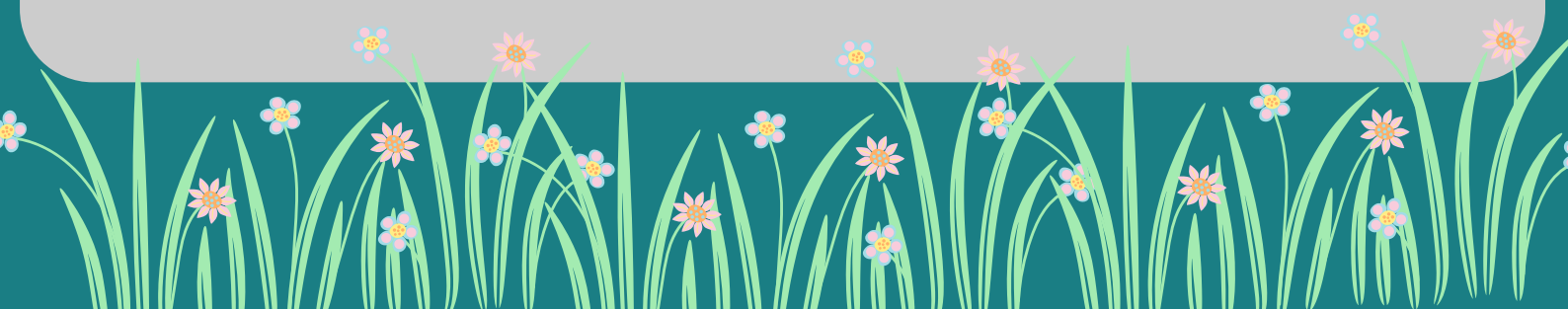
Recently, Ohio's legislature enacted a law that prohibits students from using restrooms and other facilities that do not correspond with their sex assigned at birth. This law took effect on February 25, 2025. In addition, the legislature passed the "Parent's Bill of Rights" Act, which will come into effect on April 9, 2025. This law affects how schools provide services related to a student's mental, emotional, or physical health, including their gender expression.

The Parent's Bill of Rights also mandates that schools inform parents when teaching materials or activities in the classroom address ideological content related to sexual concepts or gender. Schools must ensure that any such content is suitable for the student's age and developmental stage, regardless of the student's grade. Parents can request that their child be excused from any lessons containing sexuality-related material and provided with an alternative assignment.

Additionally, the law gives parents the right to challenge how schools are applying the Parent's Bill of Rights and to appeal these challenges to the school superintendent and governing authority.

Open Meetings and Public Records Training

As a reminder, board members must 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.). If you have taken the Auditor of State training in the past four (4) years, the AOS system may not issue a current certificate. Please consider taking the [Attorney General training](#), or taking a screenshot of the completion screen with a current date when completing the Auditor of State training.



Academic Services Headlines

Written by Kristi Hayward

ASSESSMENTS ARE NOT THE ONLY WHIRLWIND TO THINK ABOUT

April begins tornado season when it comes to completing monthly emergency drills within the school day. Community schools are required to complete at least one emergency drill log per month as long as students are in the building. If students are in the building just two days into June, an emergency drill is required by law to be completed. The type or number of drills required may depend on what drills have already been completed and recorded for the school year.

Tornado drill season in Ohio includes April, May, June, and July. If students are in session for any of these months, a tornado drill is required by law to be completed.

If the school has completed all required fire and safety drills for the school year, then only a tornado drill will be required for the remaining months students are in the building. If you have any questions regarding the emergency drill requirements, please reach out to your Regional Technical Assistance Educator.

Academic Services

Headlines

Written by Kristi Hayward

NO-COST ACCESS TO RESEARCH-BACKED ZEARN MATH FOR THE 2025–2026 SCHOOL YEAR

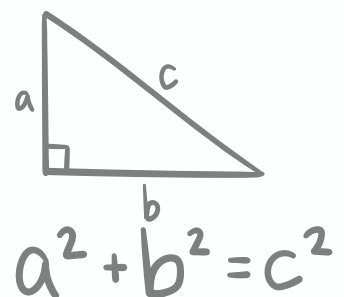
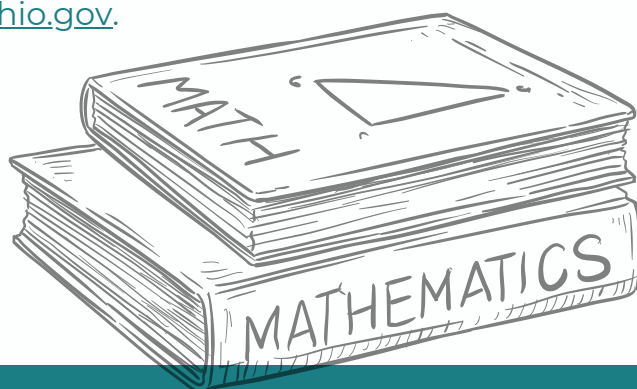
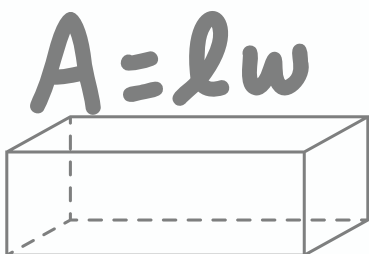
It is no surprise that students in Ohio are struggling to meet the proficient status on the state assessments, and schools are looking for all the support materials they can find. The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce is offering an opportunity for a select number of districts and schools to receive funding to implement Zearn Math in the 2025-2026 school year.

For the 2025-2026 school year, state-provided funding for Zearn Math will be contingent upon districts agreeing to specific implementation requirements designed to ensure the program's success. These implementation requirements are proven to support schools and districts in meeting Zearn's recommended usage level of three or more on/above grade-level lessons each week.

Districts or schools that commit to the implementation requirements will receive free Zearn Math school accounts for the 2025-2026 school year (including summer 2025), as well as two 90-minute virtual trainings. Selected schools also may be eligible to receive free, virtual coaching and on-site training from the Zearn team to support implementation. Districts and schools can indicate their interest in receiving Zearn coaching in the application available on the [Department's Accelerating Learning in Mathematics webpage](#).

The application should be completed by a district-level administrator (one submission per school). More information can be found on the [Department's website](#).

All questions regarding the program opportunity should be directed to mathematics@education.ohio.gov.



Compliance Headlines

ITEMS OF NOTE - APRIL 2025

DEW Updates

- ✓ Beginning **April 9th**, Ohio law requires community schools serving students in grades 9–12 to include the 24/7 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline telephone number on student identification cards, planners, and electronic portals, if provided or used by the school. [Click here to learn more.](#)
- ✓ 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** – This task 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

- ✓ **#661 Employment of Attorney** – The school must employ an attorney, independent from the school's sponsor or the operator, for any services related to the negotiation of the community school's contract with the sponsor or the school's contract with the operator (if applicable). **The school cannot enter N/A to this task.**

April 2025

Compliance Requirement

Due Date

Type

Responsibility

Monthly Financial

Financial Reports - March

April 15

Submission

Linda

Five-Year Forecast Update

April 30

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

#667 Open Meetings & Public Records Training Affidavit

April 30

Submission

Julie

School Submissions

#621 Workers' Compensation

April 30

Submission

Julie

#660 Nonprofit Corporation Law Definitions

April 30

Submission

Julie

#661 Employment of Attorney

April 30

Submission

Kurt

Board Submissions

- ✓ #667 Open Meetings & Public Records Training Affidavit – Please submit a signed training affidavit with complete information and certificates of training that include training dates. 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 between July 1st and June 30th of the current academic year.

If you have any questions, please contact Julie Kadri.

Special Education Headlines

Written by Jessica Bair and Heather Tester

1% ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT DISTRICT JUSTIFICATION PORTAL NOW OPEN THROUGH MAY 2

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires **each district or community school** to complete and submit a justification when it anticipates testing more than 1.0 percent of students with the Alternate Assessment for Students with the Most Significant Cognitive Disabilities.

- ✓ If your district or community school anticipates testing more than 1.0 percent of students with the alternate assessment in 2024-2025, you must complete the justification and confirm assurances via the link emailed to the district's superintendent.
- ✓ If your district or community school does not anticipate testing more than 1.0 percent of students with the alternate assessment, you must select "No" and confirm assurances via the link emailed to the district's superintendent.

A template of the justification form is available to assist in the process. Note that the template is only a tool to help prepare the justification. All justifications must be submitted via the link sent to the superintendent.

The deadline for submitting this justification is **May 2**.

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce will review justifications submitted by each district or community school. The Department is required to make publicly available all justifications upon request. For more information [CLICK HERE](#). If you have any questions, please contact **AAparticipation@education.ohio.gov**.

Special Education Headlines

Written by Jessica Bair and Heather Tester

1:1 AIDE DOCUMENTATION

The Department of Education and Workforce has provided updated guidance on the documentation of a 1:1 aide for a student with a disability. Previously, the guidance in the Universal Supports was to document this service in Section 7-the accommodation section. Moving forward the guidance is to document this in Section 7- Related Service. Click [here](#) for an example of this updated documentation.

INDICATOR 13 CHECKLIST PD:

**April 9, 2025
3:15-4:15 pm**

Join us for a virtual professional development 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](#) for the flyer and to register




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 @ amendelsohn@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 @ amendelsohn@esc.lakeeriewest.org or Amy Merrill-Wyatt @ amymerillwyatt@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.

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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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