



Dropout Prevention and Recovery Advisory Council

Date: January 20, 2026

Council members present: Adam Clark, Cris Gulacy-Worrel, Dave Cash, Dean Manke, Jennifer Schorr, John Hagan, Mark Lamoncha, Sheila Vitale, Tiffany Delong, William Watson

Department staff in attendance: Colleen Grady, Lori Wood, Leah Amstutz, Robart Kornack, Lily Bartholomew, Katie Beahr

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Hagan called the meeting to order at 11:12 a.m. With ten members present, a quorum was met.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

William Watson made a motion to approve the November meeting minutes. Tiffany Delong seconded the motion. November 2025 minutes were approved unanimously.

22+ PROGRAM DISCUSSION

Leah Amstutz and Robert Kornack, Administrator and Assistant Administrator with the Office of Career-Technical Education, joined the Council to discuss the new Adult Diploma Program redesign. Leah explained that Chapter 45 Rules (22+ Program) have been rescinded and the Chapter 44 Rules (Adult Diploma Program) have been rewritten to be in the redesign component. The draft rules are currently posted for public comment until February 15. Leah discussed the industry recognized credential updates and that additional information on the changes and how credentials will be aligned to the program in terms of workforce readiness will be available in the spring.

COMMUNITY SCHOOL SURVEY RESULTS

The Council previously discussed surveying community schools regarding various topics and having the opportunity to provide feedback. The Department created and sent a survey to all 348 community schools and 18 community school sponsors, with 113 school responses and 6 sponsor responses. Schools were asked to provide details regarding their cell phone policy, any positives and concerns related to STAR testing, as well as what type of Math and ELA support from the Department and SSTs would be beneficial. Survey results were discussed with the Council.

14-24 RESOLUTION

The Council requested that the Department revisit a previously adopted resolution to expand the dropout range to 14-24. Although House Bill 96 lowered the minimum age to 14, Council members continue to support expanding eligibility through age 24.

The following draft resolution was discussed by the Council:



To better serve individuals who have dropped out of school or are at risk of doing so, the Dropout Prevention and Recovery Advisory Council respectfully recommends that the Ohio General Assembly make the following legislative changes:

- Revise the age-range for dropout prevent and recovery program and schools to include individuals ages 14-24;
- In addition to the existing pathways, add the following pathways to student success plans: four-year degree, entering the military and entering the workforce; and
- Address appropriate funding for students ages 22-24 to support the expanded age range.

Further, we recommend that the Department of Education and Workforce make conforming changes to Ohio Administrative Rule 3301-102-10.

William Watson made a motion to approve the resolution. Jennifer Schorr seconded the motion. The Council approved the motion by a vote of 10-0.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

The following updates were provided to the Council.

- Renaissance STAR Testing [Open Office Hours](#)
- EMIS Focus Training – Literacy
 - [Wednesday, January 21, at 1 p.m.](#)
 - [Friday, January 23, at 9 a.m.](#)
- DOPR Report Card training sessions
 - [Thursday, March 5, 12:30pm-2:30pm](#)
 - [Wednesday, March 11, 9:30am-11:30am](#)
- 1/29 – Webinar: [Using Ohio's Integrated MTSS to Inform District, School, and Building One Needs Assessments and One Plans \(part 1\)](#)
- 1/31 – OEDS Roster Verification – [update OEDS contact information for school leaders](#)
- 2/28 – Financial Forecast-2 due
- 7/1 – AI policy adoption – Department's model policy can be found [here](#)

Colleen Grady provided information on federal and state identification standards.

NEW BUSINESS

The Council requested additional discussion on how the validation process for STAR data can be better approved and what data is being used for the report card progress measure.

ADJOURNMENT

Bill Watson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Cris Gulacy-Worrel seconded the motion. There were no objections offered. Chair Hagan adjourned the Council meeting at 1:07 p.m.