



Dropout Prevention and Recovery Advisory Council

Date: November 19, 2024

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

Department staff in attendance: Colleen Grady, Jeremy Varner, Aaron Riggins, Lily Bartholomew, Katie Beahr

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Hagan called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m. With eight members present, a quorum was met.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Bill Watson made a motion to approve the October meeting minutes. Tiffany Delong seconded the motion. October 2024 minutes were approved by a vote of 8-0.

WORKFORCE DISCUSSION WITH DEPUTY DIRECTOR JEREMY VARNER

Jeremy Varner, the Department's Deputy Director of Career-Technical Education and Workforce, discussed priorities in order to maximize opportunities for students to reach their highest potential. As the demand for labor is significant in critical and key skill areas, the Division of Career-Technical Education and Workforce is focused on expanding career tech access as well as ensuring the quality. The council discussed the need for students to be directed towards meaningful pathways and to have access to more certifications, apprenticeships, and skills. The council also expressed their concerns relating to the relationships between career tech centers and dropout recovery schools as well as funding issues, limited career tech opportunities, and barriers for students being accepted into a career tech educational center. The Council members were encouraged to reach out to the Division of Career-Technical Education and Workforce regarding additional concerns they may have or for assistance with partnerships and building connections with career tech centers.

POTENTIAL RESOLUTIONS

Prior to the November meeting, the council members provided ideas for potential resolutions for the council to consider and provide to the legislature. Colleen Grady provided the following drafts of the resolutions to the council for discussion and approval.



Transportation

Whereas approximately eighty percent of students enrolled in community schools designated as dropout recovery schools are economically disadvantaged; and

Whereas students enrolled in a community school designated as a dropout recovery schools are primarily enrolled in grades 9-12; and

Whereas transportation services for students enrolled in grades 9-12 is often unavailable; and

Whereas lack of transportation is a significant barrier for at-risk youth to successfully earn a high school diploma and workforce credential;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Dropout Prevention and Recovery Advisory Council respectfully requests that the Ohio General Assembly provide supplemental transportation funding to community schools designated as dropout recovery schools, including funding specifically for dropout recovery community schools in rural communities.

Cris Gulacy-Worrel made a motion to approve the resolution. Dean Manke seconded the motion. The Council approved the motion by a vote of 8-0.

DPIA Funding

Whereas approximately eighty percent of students enrolled in community schools designated as dropout recovery schools are economically disadvantaged; and

Whereas dropout recovery community schools that use an online instructional model do not currently receive Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid (DPIA) funding; and

Whereas support services are necessary to successfully guide at-risk youth enrolled in a dropout recovery program to earning a high school diploma;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Dropout Prevention and Recovery Advisory Council respectfully requests that the Ohio General Assembly revise the funding formula and provide DPIA funds to online community schools designated as dropout recovery schools.

Dean Manke made a motion to approve the resolution. Adam Clark seconded the motion. The Council approved the motion by a vote of 8-0.



The council also discussed the possibility of adopting an additional resolution regarding the Catastrophic Aid Fund. Colleen Grady provided the following draft.

Catastrophic Aid Fund

Whereas community schools designated as dropout recovery schools serve an at-risk population; and

Whereas community schools are funded at lower levels than district-operated schools; and

Whereas community schools designated as dropout recovery schools contribute to the Catastrophic Aid Fund, receive approximately 15% of their payments back to serve students;

Whereas community schools designated as dropout recovery schools are financially subsidizing districts with higher levels of funding;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Dropout Prevention and Recovery Advisory Council respectfully requests that the Ohio General Assembly revise the Catastrophic Aid formula so that community schools designated as dropout recovery schools are not disproportionately and negatively impacted.

Cris Gulacy-Worrel made a motion to approve the resolution. Adam Clark seconded the motion. The Council approved the motion by a vote of 8-0.

APPROVAL OF FUTURE MEETING DATES

Future meeting dates were offered as follows:

- January 28, 11:00am-1:00pm
- March 13, 10:00am-12:00pm
- April 29, 11:00am-1:00pm
- May 29, 11:30am-1:30pm

Bill Watson made a motion to approve the future meeting dates. The meeting dates were unanimously approved.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE UPDATES

The Department provided updates regarding the DOPR extended fall testing window, graduation requirements, and details on the Governor's Science of Reading Recognition Program.



ADJOURNMENT

Dean Manke made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Adam Clark seconded the motion. There were no objections offered. Chair Hagan adjourned the Council meeting 11:55am.