



# Dropout Prevention and Recovery Advisory Council

**Date: November 20, 2025**

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

*Department staff in attendance:* Colleen Grady, Lori Wood, Saul Epstein, Katie Beahr

## **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Vice-Chair Gulacy-Worrel called the meeting to order at 11:14 a.m. With seven members present, a quorum was met.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Cris Gulacy-Worrel made a motion to approve the October meeting minutes. Bill Watson seconded the motion. October 2025 minutes were approved unanimously.

## **WELCOME DEPUTY DIRECTOR**

Colleen Grady welcomed Deputy Director Diane Allen who was in attendance for the meeting. Deputy Director Allen joined the Department in July and will be working with the offices of Academic Success, Literacy, Special Education, Nutrition, and Educational Options and Improvement.

## **22+ PROGRAM DISCUSSION**

Shell Nichols and Stephanie Schaub from the Office of Career Technical Education presented on the complete program redesign of the Competency Based Educational Program that was approved in House Bill 96. It was noted that the key points for the redesign are to focus on adult learning, create the experience to be designed for students, streamline the processes and procedures, and to reduce barriers. Stephanie described that in the new program, the diploma will be issued by the Department. A new data management system will also be utilized to reduce any barriers related to student applications. Shell and Stephanie then described the basics of the program redesign, including the student requirements, eligible providers, data reporting, and demonstration of competency options. The Council members also discussed their concerns for the new program, including the credential funding. The Office is planning a workgroup to discuss timelines as well as the rule making process. Prior to this Council meeting, members submitted questions to the Office of Career Technical Education. These questions were reviewed and responded to.



## **DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

The following updates were provided to the Council.

- Updates to the Biology End of Course Exam question
- Renaissance STAR Testing [Open Office Hours](#)
- [Quality Community Support Schools Funding](#) information now available
- [At Risk of Closure list](#) has been posted
- [High performing schools list](#) has been posted
- 11/30: Ohio's I-MTSS [webinar series](#): "Understanding the Student Learning Components within Ohio's Integrated Multi-Tiered System of Supports"
- 12/9: Applications close for [Governor's Science of Reading Champions Award](#)
- 12/31 - Community School Annual Budget – Board Resolution or Minutes
- Information on Charter Schools Program Grant and State Facilities Incentive Grant to come

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The Council has requested a previous Council resolution regarding expanding the age range for Dropout Prevention and Recovery be brought back for further consideration.

## **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.