



Dropout Prevention and Recovery Advisory Council

Date: April 29, 2025

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

Department staff in attendance: Colleen Grady, Lily Bartholomew, Katie Beahr

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Hagan called the meeting to order at 11:07 a.m. With nine members present, a quorum was met.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Bill Watson made a motion to approve the March meeting minutes. Adam Clark seconded the motion. March 2025 minutes were approved by a vote of 9-0.

FUTURE OF DOPR SCHOOLS

The Council discussed the role of DOPR schools, what the average student served looks like, and what success looks like for DOPR schools. The Council reviewed that the average student typically is over 18 years of age, has attended at least two or more other high schools, and have fallen behind in many aspects of life. Many schools are also on the lookout for early warning indicators such as low engagement and interest, attendance and behavioral issues, and behind on credits. Members of the Council then discussed the role of DOPR schools. Along with awarding a high school diploma, the roles of DOPR schools include a high-quality academic experience, work based learning opportunities, preparing students to navigate the workforce, and develop skill sets for their future. It was noted that DOPR schools are personalized to each individual student and are extremely intentional with their work guiding students on long-term pathways.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

The following updates were provided to the Council.

- [Public comment open](#) for Ohio's Learning Standards for Physical Education until April 30
- [DEW seeking feedback](#) on proposed special education forms by May 23
- Science of Reading Professional Development deadline June 30
- Emergency Medical Waiver online submission system open May 12-30
- [2025-2026 state-funded ACT and SAT dates posted](#)



NEW BUSINESS

The Council discussed a potential resolution seeking to fund the Schools Forward project going forward as it has had great success. The Council considered the following draft resolution:

Whereas community schools are public schools that operate independently from school districts; and

Whereas community schools primarily serve students with special needs, and economically disadvantaged students; and

Whereas community schools generally have fewer financial resources than traditional school districts; and

Whereas approximately half of schools identified for intensive support are community schools; and

Whereas the Schools Forward school improvement project, funded by federal ESSER funds, contracted with the community school sponsors to provide specific supports and interventions to improve literacy skills of students enrolled in struggling community schools; and

Whereas early results indicate improvement in student progress; and

Whereas the funding for the Schools Forward expires June 30, 2025, and the needs of these students and schools continue;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Dropout Prevention Advisory Council respectfully requests that the Ohio General Assembly appropriate funding of \$1 million per year within Amended Substitute House Bill 96 to continue the Schools Forward school improvement program.

Bill Watson made a motion to approve the resolution. Cris Gulacy-Worrel seconded the motion. The council approved the motion by a vote of 9-0.

Approval of Future Meeting Dates

Future meeting dates were offered as follows:

- July 22, 11:00am-1:00pm
- August 28, 10:00am-12:00pm
- September 16, 11:00am-1:00pm
- October 28, 11:00am-1:00pm
- November 20, 11:00am-1:00pm

Cris Gulacy-Worrel made a motion to approve the future meeting dates. Bill Watson seconded the motion. The meeting dates were unanimously approved.



FUTURE MEETING ITEMS

The Council requested updates to the 22+ Program as well as a comprehensive budget update when available.

ADJOURNMENT

Jennifer Schorr made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Adam Clark seconded the motion. There were no objections offered. Chair Hagan adjourned the Council meeting at 12:27pm.