



Dropout Prevention and Recovery Advisory Council

Date: September 16, 2025

Council members present: John Hagan, Adam Clark, Sheila Vitale, Dean Manke, Tiffany Delong, Jennifer Schorr, Bill Watson

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

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jennifer Schorr made a motion to approve the July meeting minutes. Adam Clark seconded the motion. July 2025 minutes were approved unanimously.

BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION

The Council discussed implementation of community school provisions included in HB 96. Beginning September 30, dropout prevention and recovery community schools must administer the state-mandated reading and math assessments to all students aged 14-21.

It was noted that many students are not being tested as required. The Council discussed challenges to testing, including attendance issues or students changing schools mid-year, and conflicts related to the scheduling of the Ohio state tests. The Department plans to survey DOPR schools regarding what testing barriers they face and if there have been any solutions that have worked. Results will be brought back to the Council. The Council then discussed the phase-out of younger enrollees and spin-off schools required by July 1, 2027. The Department plans to receive sponsor feedback regarding this process at the Department's Sponsor Convening on September 26. The Council then discussed the changes made to Sponsor Assurances for new schools and additional facilities added to an existing school. Additional House Bill 96 items were discussed, including changes to community school financial forecasts and multiple facilities.

HIGH LEVEL REPORT CARD OVERVIEW

Dropout recovery schools were rated nearly the same as they were the previous year. The Office of Accountability has a Training Hub on the Department's website that contains pre-recorded videos and the opportunity to schedule individual training sessions. The Department will present a more thorough report on the Report Card at the council meeting in October.



VIRTUAL MEETING POLICY

The Department provided a draft of a virtual meeting policy to the Council for consideration. Bill Watson made a motion to adopt the virtual meeting policy provided. Dean Manke seconded the motion. The virtual meeting policy was unanimously approved by council members.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

The following updates were provided to the Council.

- Announcing [Ohio's Plan for K-12 Mathematics](#)
- Implementation strategies to support success with Zearn - administrators are [invited to complete this brief form](#) and share their plans to meet the key implementation commitments essential for the program's success.
- [Report Card training hub](#) – virtual trainings and pre-recorded videos available
- Reminder: [Report required immunization status to ODH](#) by Oct. 15
- Verifying Use of High-Quality Instructional Materials – during the 2025-2026 school year, the Department will conduct a monitoring process to verify the information reported in EMIS for these materials.

NEW BUSINESS

The Council requested additional information on the new adult diploma program. The Council has decided the October meeting will be offered as hybrid.

ADJOURNMENT

Bill Watson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Tiffany Delong seconded the motion. There were no objections offered. Chair Hagan adjourned the Council meeting at 12:12pm.