Exiting Student Follow-up Announcement

Ohio's education system is dedicated to ensuring that each child is challenged to discover and learn, prepared to pursue a fulfilling post-high school path and empowered to become a resilient, lifelong learner who contributes to society. In an effort to better understand what those post-high school paths of students are, the general assembly and the Ohio Department of Education are developing a new exiting student follow-up collection to meet requirements in state and federal law[1].

The Ohio School Report Card will publish data on what graduates and non-graduates from school districts across Ohio go on to do after high school. This will include reporting enrollment in 2–4-year post-secondary education institutions, participating in registered apprenticeships, enlisting into the military and employment information. Eventually, this report will also contain valuable information on post-graduate "gainful employment" information.

The Department is working closely with a variety of state and other systems to find ways to reduce the data reporting burden for districts. Where possible, the Department will seek information from other sources on employment and education and include that information.

Historically, districts across the state of Ohio have worked hard to follow-up with exiting Career-Technical Education students and students with disabilities. This new data collection will build one seamless approach for reporting the post-high school outcomes for all students. This will replace the currently independent collections (Ohio Longitudinal Transition Study survey[2] and the Career-Technical Education Workforce Development[3] Follow-up) that take place for these groups. This new data collection and reporting windows will give districts time to connect with exiting students and learn more about what paths they have pursued.

In the next few weeks, information on how this information will be collected will be published by our Education Management Information System (EMIS) office for public comment. Additional information on the reporting requirements and supports from the department will be published in the fall before the collection begins next October. Information on exiting students will be shared on the report card published in the fall of 2023.

In the interim, we recommend that all districts plan for how they will reach out next year to this year's graduates. Here are a few ideas to help you get started, including a sample student exit survey.

Overall, by better understanding what Ohio's students go on to do after high school, we as an educational community can help guide students toward fulfilling, sustainable post-high school paths.

Thank you for your dedication to Ohio's students, more information and resources are forthcoming.

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[1] Ohio Revised Code: 3302.03 (D)(2)(f)

[2] Individuals with Disabilities Education Act: Section 1416 (a) (3)

[3] Federal Perkins: Section 113 (b) (A) (ii)

Each Child Our Future