

Legal Update

October 2023

Statewide 2022-2023 LRC Data

Nearly 90% of districts and 79% of schools earned overall ratings of three stars or higher, meaning they met state expectations for performance.

The Achievement component scores continued to increase with the statewide Performance Index improving.

Chronic absenteeism is down from the 2021-2022 school year (30.2% to 26.8%).

Spring 2023 assessment results build on last year's improvement with increased proficiency in English language arts and math across all groups of students.

The percent of 3rd grade students scoring proficient on State English language Arts test increased from 59.8% to 62.2%.



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Local Report Cards

In mid-September ODE released the 2022-2023 school report cards. This is the first year since implementation of the star rating system (which replaced letter grades several years ago) that schools will receive an overall rating of 1-5 stars, including half-star increments. An overall rating of 2 stars means the school needs support to meet state standards, at least 3 stars means a school met state standards, 4 exceeds expectations.

Five individually rated components comprise the overall rating. Achievement and Progress each are weighted at 28.601%, while Graduation Rate, Gap Closing, and Early Literacy each comprise 14.266% of a school's overall rating. When one or more components are not rated (for example, an elementary school that does not have a graduation area) the remaining components contribute proportionally.

Achievement: represents whether student performance on state tests met established thresholds.

Progress: tracks how students are doing year over year. This component demonstrates that even if a student is below grade-level expectations growth during the year could be exceed a year's worth of learning.

Early Literacy: measures reading improvement and proficiency for K – 3 students.

Gap Closing: measures the reduction in educational gaps for student subgroups such as Black, Hispanic, economically disadvantaged, English language learner, and students with disabilities.

Graduation: looks at the 4-year adjusted cohort graduation rate and 5-year adjusted cohort graduation rate. 1 star means a grad rate of less than 84%, 2 stars 84% - 89%, 3 stars 90% - 93.4%, 4 stars 93.5 - 96.4%, and 5 stars 96.5% and higher.

Information on College, Career, Workforce and Military Readiness is reported on this year's report cards, but is not rated.

Dropout recovery schools' report cards still use the "expectations" system instead of stars.

Local report cards can be accessed at:
<https://reportcard.education.ohio.gov/>



New Calamity Day Plans

This summer’s Budget Bill – House Bill 33 changed Ohio’s Calamity Day statute. The former Blizzard Bag Policy is replaced by an Online Day Plan Policy which allow schools to make-up what would otherwise be missed school days due to certain school closures.

If adopted by the board, schools may use an Online Day Plan to provide the equivalent of up to three school days in a school year via online delivery when specific delineated circumstances necessitate school closure for in-person learning.

Circumstances include:

- Disease epidemic;
- Hazardous weather;
- Law enforcement emergencies;
- Inoperability of school buses or other equipment necessary to the school's operation;
- Damage to a school building; or
- Other temporary circumstances due to utility failure rendering the school building unfit for use.

Note, not included in the eligible circumstances are staffing shortages, parent-teacher conferences, or professional development.

The law requires that very specific components be included in the plan, such as notification procedures and how to ensure access for students with disabilities and English language learners.

While most non-monetary budget bill changes are effective Oct. 3, 2023, ODE is encouraging schools to adopt or amend their calamity day plans policy by Nov. 1, 2023. After this school year, annual adoption will be required by August 1st.

Blended learning and e-schools are not eligible.

DEW Update

As reported previously, this summer’s biennium budget bill proposed a sweeping change to the Department of Education, eliminating most of the powers of the State Board of Education and making the head of the newly named Department of Education and Workforce (“DEW”) as an appointee of the governor. The change was slated to take effect October 3rd. On September 21st a Franklin County judge granted a temporary restraining order in a lawsuit filed by seven State Board members against the state of Ohio and Governor DeWine alleging the unconstitutional “takeover of the state’s public education.” At the time of this publication hearings were set on the matter to determine whether the changes will move forward as outlined in the new law or if the TRO will halt the implementation.

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amy@amygoodsonlaw.com

330.962.6776

www.amygoodsonlaw.com

Q & A

Q: What is the difference between Annual Reports and the annual Local Report Card?

A: While both are items to be reviewed by your board this time of year, they are two different documents. Local Report Cards are issued by ODE to every school across the state providing parents, communities, educators, and policymakers information about the academic performance of schools.

Annual reports are required to be prepared each year by charter schools and distributed to all charter school stakeholders no later than October 31st. Annual reports include:

1. School mission & vision
2. Activities and progress in meeting sponsor contract goals
3. Performance indicators from the Local Report Card
4. Financial information
5. School leader & board member names
6. School contact information