# Engaging Families and Community in Credit Flexibility

#### **Featured speakers:**

Krista Allison, Executive Director, Office for School Health and Wellness, Ohio Department of Education

Jennifer Vargo, Family and Community Engagement Coordinator, Ohio Department of Education

Patti Koslo, Public Information Officer, Nordonia Hills Schools

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# Credit Flexibility Web Conference Series

- Intended to support local implementation of Ohio's Credit Flexibility Policy
  - Includes highlights from guidance documents
  - Connects participants with Ohio schools, districts, organizations to share ideas
  - Identifies additional resources for support

# Objectives

- Increase knowledge of family and community engagement and communication strategies
- Respond to questions and concerns regarding family and community engagement in credit flexibility processes
- Foster thinking and conversations at a local level

### Overview

- What needs to be communicated to families?
- What methods are available for communicating information?
- How can schools/districts collaborate with the district family and civic engagement team to support credit flex?



## Credit Flexibility and Families

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

- Parent/guardian involvement in development and monitoring of student credit flex plan
  - Includes conversations with school staff to build common understanding of student expectations
  - Includes sign-off on credit flexibility plan and the assessment used to measure student learning



# Credit Flexibility and Communities

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

- Involvement in development and implementation of student credit flex plan
  - Includes conversations with student, parent/guardian, and school staff to build common expectations for learning experience and how that learning will be assessed
- Delivery of high-quality instruction aligned to standards

## Other Roles and Responsibilities

#### **ODE Guidance Documents**

- Additional guidance related to family and community involvement can be found within ODE guidance on:
  - General Implementation FAQs
  - Highly Qualified Teachers
  - School Finance/Paying for Credit Flex
  - Students with Disabilities

# Communication of Credit Flexibility Options

### **Policy Requirement**

Local boards must communicate the aspects of Credit Flexibility (the policy and programs) with students and parents on an on-going basis using multiple communication methods.

New Emphasis on Learning, pg. 13



# Communication of Credit Flexibility Options

### **State Expectations:**

- Local boards of education must communicate this provision annually to parents and students.
- As part of the policy review process, local entities must submit data to the state about the methods and frequency of communication with students and families.
- Districts should leverage Family and Civic Engagement Teams.

### What Needs to Be Communicated

- Purpose of credit flexibility
- Benefit of credit flexibility
  - How does this option enhance their child's education experience?
- Information on district policy, how to access it, costs, safety and transportation.

# Information on Policy

- Districts should provide information that answers the following questions:
  - What is credit flexibility?
  - Who is eligible and when?
  - How can students and families access it?
  - What is the district credit flex policy?
  - What is covered under district funds and what is a family's responsibility?

## Information on Policy

- Districts should provide information that answers the following questions:
  - What is allowable and not allowable?
  - What are examples of how it is being used?
  - How student safety is safeguarded (e.g. background check)?
  - What transportation will and will not be provided by the district?

### Methods of Communication

- School forums
  - (consider starting the conversation late junior high school to prepare parents)
- Community presentations
- Family-friendly language
- Robocalls announcing school forums on credit flex
- Newsletters, flyers, postcards
- School handbooks

# District Family and Civic Engagement Teams

- HB 1 (Sec. 3313.821) establishes family and civic engagement requirements for Ohio's schools, families and communities.
  - The board of education of each school district shall appoint a family and civic engagement team
  - Includes parents, community representatives, health and human service representatives, business representatives and others

# District Family and Civic Engagement Teams

- Family and Civic Engagement (FCE)Teams:
  - Work with local county Family and Children First Councils
  - Develop five-year family and civic engagement plans
  - Provide annual progress reports on the development and implementation of the plan
  - Advise and provide recommendations



### Collaboration Benefits

- Engages families as partners in their child's learning
- Promotes service learning
- Increases efficiencies and capitalizes on district resources when coordinating efforts with the FCE team
- Encourages school and community partnerships and strengthens relationships
- Provides for overall school improvement

### **Collaboration Benefits**

#### **Nordonia Hills City School District FCE Team**

- Share information on credit flexibility
- Use resources and members to expand student opportunities for credit flexibility
- Create partnerships
- Support student learning and achievement
- Link to Ohio Improvement Process

### Additional Resources

For additional resources on family and community engagement visit <a href="www.education.ohio.gov">www.education.ohio.gov</a> and search:

- ODE Framework for Building Partnerships Among Schools
- Families and Communities
- Family and Civic Engagement Professional Development

### Questions

- During the question-and-answer segments, you have the option to verbally ask a question — or — you may submit a question or comment through the Chat Pod.
- To verbally ask a question, click on the "Raise Hand" icon in the lower left-hand corner of the screen to let the facilitator know you have a question.

### **Next Steps**

#### Follow-Up Q&A Discussion:

- Join the <u>Ohio Credit Flexibility Community of</u>
   <u>Practice</u>, a statewide learning collaborative, for a follow-up Q&A discussion
  - More information, including how to join and participate, is available in the Download Resources pod.
  - Information will also be e-mailed to participants along with other materials from today's Web conference.

### **Next Steps**

#### Web Conference Materials:

- PowerPoint
  - Available for immediate download
- Resources and Guidance
  - Parent and Family Involvement Policy available for immediate download
  - Additional resources available at www.education.ohio.gov
- Video archive, transcript, Q & A Summary

### **Contact Information**



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### **Archived Web Conferences**

#### Click on the links below to view the archived Web conferences:

- Credit Flexibility Communications
- <u>Credit Flexibility: Focus on Physical Education, Career-Technical Education</u> and World Languages
- Credit Flexibility Considerations for School Counselors
- Teacher-Led Credit Flexibility Initiatives Using Technology
- Assessment Tips for Credit Flexibility
- Developing Quality Student Credit Flexibility Plans
- Mastery-Based Assessment Models
- School Finance and Credit Flexibility
- Ohio Credit Flexibility: Working with Gifted and Special Education
- Credit Flexibility and Highly Qualified Teacher Requirements

The PowerPoint, transcript, and Q&A summary for each Web conference is also available for download on the ODE <u>website</u>.

#### Comprehensive Center

# Thank you

for participating in today's Web conference.