

August 2022 ➤

COHHIO COURSE TO HOME



Fall Edition

News from the Field

Housing, Opportunities, Meaningful Engagement



Expanded Eligibility for Utility Assistance Program

In late July Governor Mike DeWine signed an [Executive Order](#) that authorizes the Ohio Department of Development to work in partnership with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) to implement emergency rules that increase the income threshold for Ohio's [Percentage of Income Payment Plan \(PIPP\)](#). PIPP helps eligible Ohioans manage their energy bills year-round. The threshold changed from 150 percent of the federal poverty level to 175 percent, making more Ohioans eligible to get help paying their electric and natural gas bills.

Introducing 9-8-8: The Suicide and Crisis Lifeline

As of July 16th, individuals facing a mental health crisis have a new number to call or text for help. Modeled after 911, the new [three-digit 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline](#) is designed to be a memorable and quick number that connects people to a trained mental health professional. The launching of this lifeline fills a big gap in mental health crisis care, as the majority of people experiencing a mental health emergency end up dialing 911 despite its low capacity for addressing mental health needs. Take steps to ensure school staff and students are aware of this valuable mental health resource.

ODOT Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking

[Driving Out Human Trafficking](#) is a new initiative of the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) aimed at increased awareness and preventing human trafficking across the state. [Youth experiencing homelessness are especially vulnerable](#) to human trafficking; nationally, [1 in 5 youth experiencing homelessness has been a victim](#). ODOT's [initiative](#) includes educating it's 350,000 oversize/overweight trucking permit holders about recognizing and reporting human trafficking. Rest stops in Ohio additionally now have safety information hanging in bathroom stalls as resources for survivors.



...

BACK TO SCHOOL

PREPARING FOR A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

24% of Ohio's K-12 students were chronically absent in the 2020-2021 school year, meaning almost 380,000 students missed 10% or more of their school year. Rates of absenteeism were even more pronounced among vulnerable populations, with 38% of economically disadvantaged students, 33% of students with disabilities, and 47% of Black students experiencing chronic absenteeism last year. As we approach a new school year, it is imperative that districts work with students, families, and partners to address absenteeism. The following strategies can be used

to address chronic absenteeism:

Keep in Contact

- Make sure staff directories are up to date and maintain contact information for students and families. Build strong relationships that can endure over time and distance.

Use Data to Drive Decisions

- Use short- and long-term attendance data to identify root causes of absences and solutions.

Leverage Community Partnerships

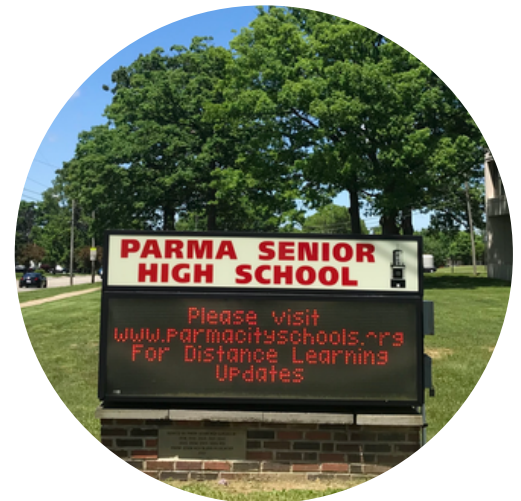
- Collaborate with strategic community partners to strengthen efforts to support attendance.

District

Spotlight

PARMA CITY SCHOOLS

To combat rising inflation, Parma City Schools partnered with the Greater Cleveland Food Bank for a food distribution event last month. Taking place in the parking lot of Parma High School, the event was almost entirely staffed by district employees volunteering their time to support families in need, including the District Superintendent. As a result of the event, more than 800 families received produce and dry goods. Parma City Schools additionally ran a Summer Food Service Program that provided free lunchtime meals to youth under the age of 18 every week day from early June to the end of July. The program was hosted across three elementary schools, with each school serving an average of 40 students a day. By hosting this valuable programming and involving district staff in the process, Parma City Schools was able to not only address community needs but also increase staff awareness of students experiencing homelessness.



**Know a district or
ESC who's work
needs the spotlight?
Tell Us About It !**

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH



Celebrated annually from September 15th - October 15th, Hispanic Heritage Month uplifts the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Mexico, the Caribbean, Central and South America, and Spain. Within these 30 days falls the anniversaries of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua on September 15th; Mexico on September 16th; and Chile on September 18th.

When it comes to youth homelessness, the challenge is more pronounced among BIPOC youth with 7% of Hispanic youth enduring some form of homelessness over the course of the year, compared to 4% of White, non-Hispanic youth. However, these youth are also likely to be undercounted in homeless counts; they are more likely to live outside of traditional homeless spaces (e.g., homeless shelters), rely heavily on social networks, and use public services at lower rates than other racial/ethnic groups. Additionally, these youth are more likely to live in overcrowded households, a characteristic not captured in official homeless counts but one that contributes to unstable housing. When working to identify students experiencing homelessness, it's important to remember that lived experiences differ across racial and ethnic groups.

SUPPORTING ENGLISH LEARNERS IN OHIO

Remove Language Barriers

Are your resources accessible in multiple languages?
Remove language barriers by providing outreach materials and forms translated in languages that 5 percent or more of your students speak.

Community Refugee and Immigration Services (CRIS)

CRIS offers services to support refugees and immigrants in Central Ohio including resettlement, legal, family, and employment services, and health and wellness programs.

Practice Cultural Humility

When working with students and families, it is important to self-reflect on how one's own background and the background of others can impact learning and engagement. Cultural humility means entering a relationship with the intention of honoring their beliefs, customs, and values.

Stay Informed on Student Rights

English-learning youth and their families may be undocumented. It is important that all district staff understand that immigration status has no bearing on a student's right to an education, and all district staff have an obligation to protect students' right to privacy.

Featured Resources

International Human Trafficking & Social Justice Conference

Bringing together researchers, practitioners, and individuals with lived experience in an effort to lay the groundwork for future collaborative research, advocacy, and program development, the 19th Annual International [Human Trafficking & Social Justice Conference](#) will be hosted virtually from September 21-23, 2022. The conference will additionally be dedicating [one day specifically for high school students](#) to participate on September 20th.



Transportation Guide

As you prepare for a new school year, check out this guide developed by SchoolHouse Connection on [Meeting the Transportation Needs of Students Experiencing Homelessness](#)

SchoolHouse Connection Fall Professional Development Series

SchoolHouse Connection is offering a webinar series for school and district staff who want to learn more about the basics of the McKinney-Vento Act's rights and best practices for serving youth experiencing homelessness. [Register for "McKinney-Vento 101"](#) on Thursday, September 15th. [Register for "Identification for School Staff"](#) on Thursday, September 22nd.

Disability Information and Access Line (DIAL)

[DIAL](#) helps people with disabilities access services for independent living. Staff at DIAL can find services that help with health care benefits, financial assistance, housing, food, transportation, and make referrals.

New Translated Materials to Help Human Trafficking Survivors

To commemorate World Day Against Trafficking in Persons on July 30th, the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) announced newly translated [Child Victims and Witnesses Support Materials](#) for use with survivors of human trafficking. In addition to English, these materials are available in African French, Brazilian Portuguese, Chinese, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

Voices of Youth Count Graphics

Chapin Hall's [Voices of Youth Count graphics](#) convey details about the shared characteristics of youth who are most likely to experience housing instability, and the overall prevalence of youth homelessness. Download these eye-opening data visualizations as tools for increasing awareness in your district.

2022 Out of Reach Report

Released jointly by the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) and the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO), the [2022 Out of Reach Report](#) reveals a significant gap between renters' income and the cost of rent in Ohio and across the nation.



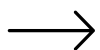
Safe, Supportive & Responsive Approaches to Youth Mental Health

Developed by The Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) and the Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center (RHYTTAC), this [new resource](#) offers practical strategies in supporting youth mental health through prevention, crisis intervention, and restorative practices.



THANK YOU

ENJOYING THE NEWSLETTER? LET US KNOW
HOW WE'RE DOING



[COHHIO.ORG/YOUTH](https://cohhio.org/youth)

