

Mission

The mission of the Education Division of Buckeye Community Hope Foundation is to establish strong public community schools by adhering to quality authorizing practices, ensuring responsible oversight, and setting high standards for school performance.

Vision

The Education Division's vision is strong communities of healthy, well-educated students, and a future in which all students have access to a high quality public education. Ohio thrives as increasing numbers of schools graduate students equipped to assume a positive role in society.



Important Reminders

There are a number of upcoming due dates that DEW shared with us. We wanted to remind you and also offer assistance with any questions about the items.

Due Dates:

8/1: Adopt [online day plans](#)

8/1: Last day to notify school district(s) that the community school is assuming responsibility for transportation

8/2: The OhioMeansJobs [Annual K-12 Survey](#) is available. Survey responses will identify areas for enhancement and supports and redesign of the website. This 5-10-minute survey will close Aug. 2. Send questions to careerconnections@education.ohio.gov.

9/25: Sponsor Meeting

- All sponsors are asked to send no more than two representatives
- Resource allocation presentation
- DEW Updates
- Compliance items (legislative changes)
- Facilitated discussion about the future of the community school sector

9/27: [Significant Expansion](#)

- Used to reallocate federal funds
- New community schools (do not need to complete an application)

- Community schools with expanded enrollment due to addition of grade level(s) and or additional programs
- Application deadline Sept 27

9/30: COVID Federal ARP ESSER Funds (COVID relief) expire September 30, 2024

General Reminders:

June 6 – August 5: [PBIS/Restraint and Seclusion Data Collection](#)

Sponsor assurances are due to DEW **not later than 10 business days prior to the first day of school**.

- All new schools
- Any new satellite or annex facilities

Legislative Update

Key education initiatives passed in July are:

HB 47 (signed by the governor)

- AED devices are now required in schools and recreational sports locations.

HB 147

- Clarifies school employee misconduct policies.
- Allows services by virtual means for Peterson and Autism programs.

HB 214

- Clarifies accommodating religious expression.
- Permits up to three days of excused absence per year for religious observances.

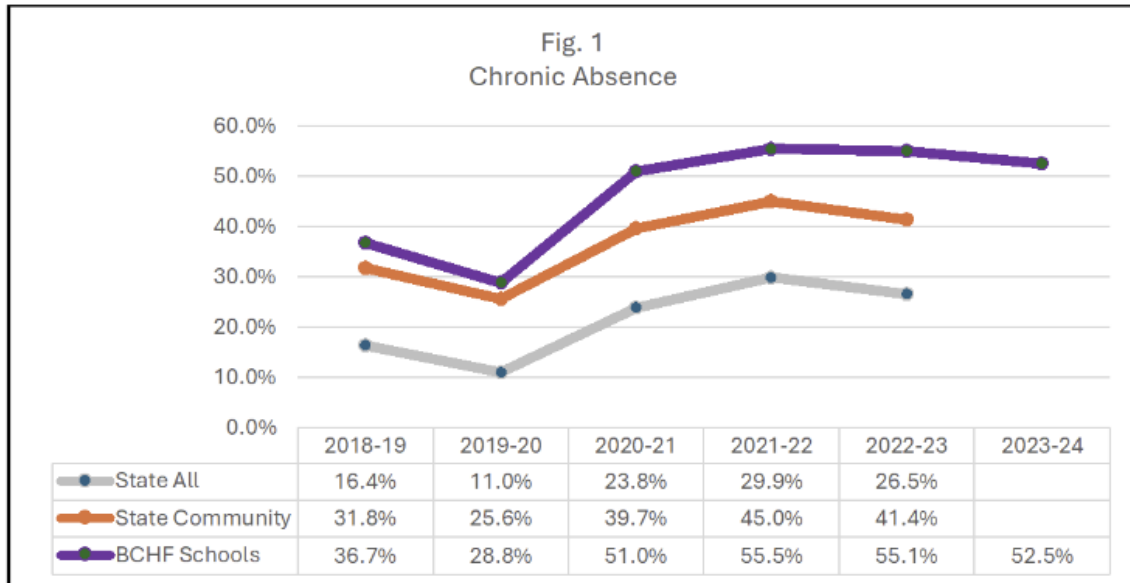
SB 168

- Clarifies exemption requirements for school districts.
- Allows the development of evaluation frameworks as alternatives to OTES.
- Clarifies inclusion in Rapback.
- Remote testing pilot for the 2024-25 school year.
- Extends the school transportation pick-up time from 30 to 60 minutes.
- Creates school turnaround pilot.
- Raises cap for exemplary sponsors to 200 schools.
- Suspends sponsor evaluations for the 2024-25 school year and requires DEW to provide a plan for updating the SES.
- Provides DOPR supplemental funding.

Empty Seats

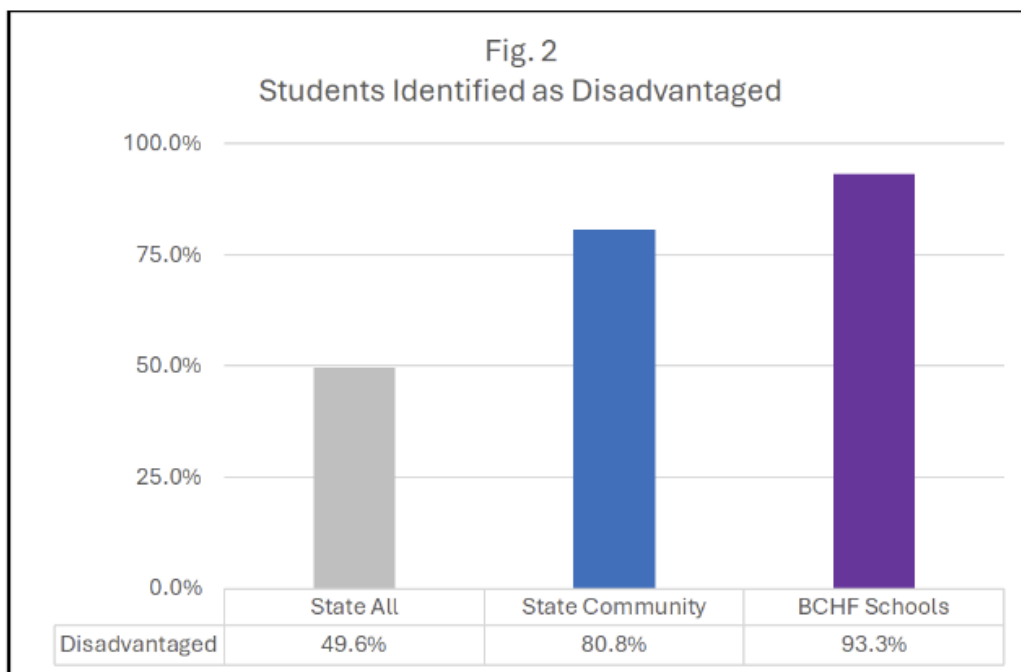
By Stan Nicol, Data and Accountability Specialist

Chronic absence, defined as students missing 10% (about 18 days) or more of a school year continues to be an issue for most Ohio's schools. During the pandemic families were told to keep their children home. Now, as we continue to emerge from the lockdowns, students are not attending at pre-pandemic rates. Looking at "All Students" we see that Community Schools display a higher absence rate than traditional district schools. Figure 1 shows the trend of Chronic Abs. rates going back to the 2018-19 school year.

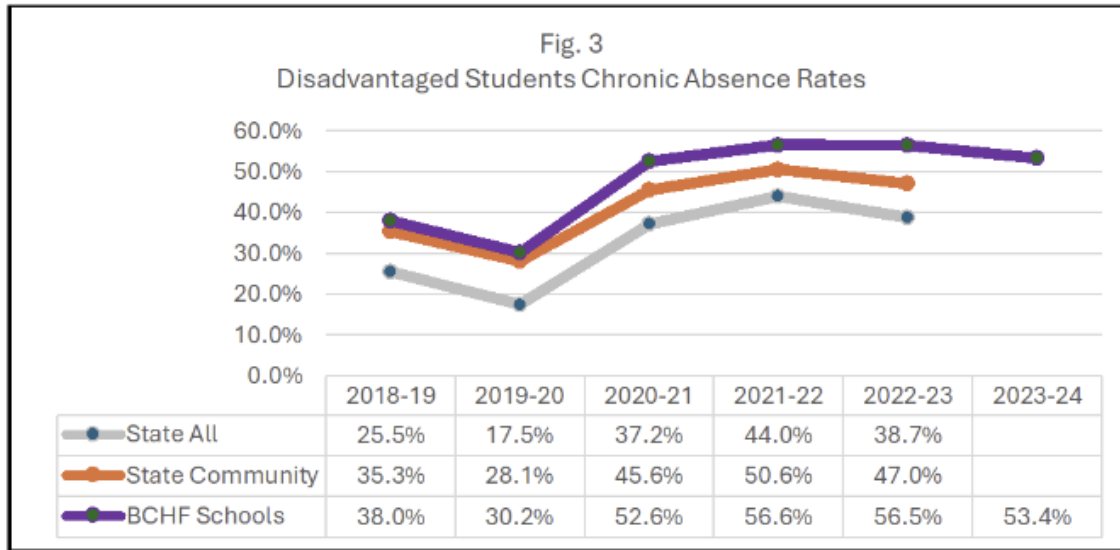


2023-2023-24 data represents a projection.

The data show larger absence issues with Community schools. A deeper dive into the data reveals that students identified as “Disadvantaged” demonstrate higher chronic absence than non-disadvantaged students. Students eligible for “Free and/or Reduced-Price Lunch”, receiving “Public Assistance” or are identified through a “Title I Application” are considered disadvantaged. Figure 2 shows the percentage of students identified as disadvantaged for the 2022-23 school year.



Buckeye Community Hope Foundation (BCHF) serves a much higher population of disadvantaged students than both the state and all community schools combined. Filtering the data to disadvantaged students we see a similar chronic absence pattern. Figure 3 shows disadvantaged student attendance rates.



2023-24 data represents a projection.

Chronic Absence and its Effect on Academics

Data compiled by BCHF shows a strong correlation between attendance and academic performance. Table 1 below shows the proficiency rate as measured by the Ohio State Tests, for students based on four chronic absence rate categories (preliminary 2023-24 results).

Table 1

| Chronic Abs Category | English Language Arts Proficiency | Mathematics Proficiency |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Satisfactory: 95% - 100% | 48.5% | 35.8% |
| At-Risk: 90% - 94.9% | 42.6% | 25.0% |
| Moderate: 80% - 89.9% | 35.3% | 18.6% |
| Severe: 0% - 79.9% | 24.2% | 10.9% |

Data includes both Drop Out Recovery and Traditional Community Schools sponsored by BCHF.

Achievement levels in mathematics are particularly sensitive to student attendance.

Stay Focused

BCHF has identified attendance as an issue and has taken steps to maintain a focus on the data. Starting in the 2023-24 school year and continuing during the 2024-25 school year, we will be maintaining a focus on attendance as a high priority issue. Each month we send out an Attendance Notification report showing the monthly attendance rates as collected by our school compliance representatives. We see small improvements but the journey ahead is still exceptionally long.

What Can Schools Do?

Chronic absenteeism is a multi-faceted problem. Schools should focus on the identification of each students' issues and barriers to regular school attendance. Schools must also collaborate with parent/guardians at the start of each school year emphasizing the importance of attendance. Start the year focused on good attendance! Additional information for improving attendance can be found at: [Attendance Support | Ohio Department of Education and Workforce](#)

BCHF Schools Partner for Clothing Drive

On July 25-26, Main Preparatory Academy and Akron Career Tech High School joined forces to host a clothing drive, providing students and families with free clothing items and essential resources. This initiative was a wonderful opportunity to support the community, ensuring that everyone has access to the necessities they need. The event was met with an overwhelmingly positive response. By coming together, the schools demonstrated the power of community collaboration and the difference it can make.



DEW Seeks Student Voices

The Department of Education and Workforce is requesting Ohio Student Voice Workgroup nominations from educators for students to serve on the group. The workgroup consists of student representatives from grades 8-12 in each State Support Team region.

Students will meet virtually and provide feedback and insights on education policy. The Department will support student leadership opportunities by providing sponsorship for a school membership to the Ohio Association of Student Leaders. With a school membership, selected students and schools can take advantage of student leadership programming, resources, and partnerships to further expand student leadership work in their own buildings.

Ohio Student Voice Workgroup Nominations will be accepted through Aug. 31. More details here: <https://bit.ly/3Wk9Oaq>



Submit Ohio Student Voice Workgroup Nominations



Department of
Education &
Workforce

Board Member Spotlight



Buckeye Community Hope Foundation (BCHF) recognizes the important work that governing board members do in supporting their school community. In recognition and support of this hard work, BCHF is highlighting one board member each month in our sponsor newsletter.

This month we are featuring Keli Pontikos, who serves on the North Shore High School board.

Keli has served as a board member since 2021. She was recommended to the board by a friend who is familiar with her background in alternative educational pathway programs.

Outside of being a board member, Keli enjoys traveling to beautiful islands in Greece, which hold a special place in her heart, as her family is from Greece.

"Domestically, I recently had a wonderful time in Boston while attending the National Charter Schools Conference," said Keli. "The conference highlighted the importance of board members connecting with faculty. Building these relationships allows us to make better-informed decisions and gain a clearer

understanding of teachers' perspectives. For instance, knowing the specific needs and challenges faced by teachers helps in crafting policies and allocating resources that truly support educational goals. Aligning the board's strategic goals with faculty insights ensures our initiatives are both practical and impactful. Ultimately, these efforts benefit students the most. When teachers feel supported and valued, they are more engaged and effective in the classroom, leading to better student outcomes."

What have you learned over the years about board meetings, and what changes have you made as a board member that help meetings run more efficiently?

I've realized that we've been able to make better-informed decisions and improve our overall governance because of our pre-meeting agendas. Ensuring that all board members have the necessary materials and information well in advance allows for more focused and meaningful discussions.

How do you solicit and retain new board members?

At present, we have an exceptionally cohesive and effective board that works well together. I believe that this can be attributed to the environmental climate, which encourages transparent and open communication. Our current members bring a diverse range of skills and experiences, and this environment ensures everyone feels heard and involved in the decision-making process.

While we currently do not need to solicit new board members, we understand the importance of being prepared for any future changes. If the need arises, we are prepared to launch targeted outreach efforts to attract individuals who can contribute to our board's effectiveness and diversity.

What are some of the proudest moments you have had as a board member?

Of course, graduation encapsulates the success of our collective efforts; a testament to the positive impact we can have on our students' lives and futures. Seeing our students walk across the stage to receive their diplomas is a powerful reminder of why we do what we do.

What part of the school's mission do you most connect with?

North Shore High School's mission statement directly supports higher educational opportunities and ensures that our students are not only prepared for the challenges of higher education but also equipped to thrive and achieve their full potential. I connect with their focus on ensuring they are well-prepared to succeed in higher education and beyond.

All of us in the Education Division of BCHF appreciate the commitment to students Keli Pontikos has shown. We hope, in sharing these stories, others will consider serving as community school governing board members..

August Compliance Update

Annual Policy Review and Approval by the Board of Directors:

- Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policy
- Public Records Policy and Retention Schedule
- Homeless Student Policy
- Academic Prevention and Intervention Policy
- Parent Involvement Policy
- Career Advising Policy

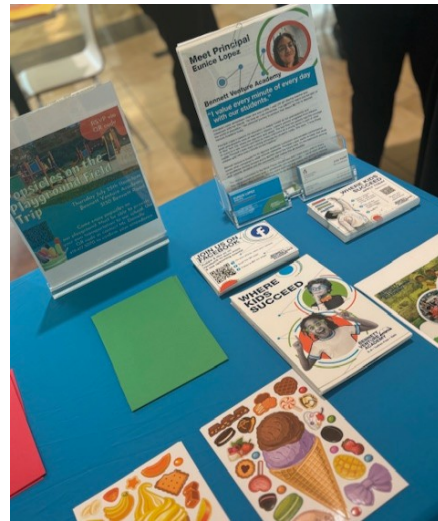
The Board of Directors is also required to review all Health and Safety policies and procedures of the Board Policy Manual to ensure the safety of students, employees, and other persons and to ensure that its policies and procedures comply with all applicable health and safety laws and regulations:

- Wellness Policy
- Food and Beverage
- Policy Protective Eyewear Policy
- Asbestos Management Policy
- Automated External Defibrillator Policy
- Bloodborne Pathogen Control Policy
- Chicken Pox Epidemic Policy
- Dangerous and Recalled Products Plan
- Hand-Washing Policy

- Integrated Pest Management Policy
- Bed Bug Process Policy
- Pesticide Notice Policy
- Food Allergy Policy
- Medication Policy
- Radon Protocol Policy
- Vehicle Idling Policy
- Search Policy
- Child Abuse or Neglect Reporting Policy
- Corporal Punishment Policy

School Spotlights

Bennett Venture Academy attended the Kid's Club event at Franklin Park Mall hosted by Toledo Area Parent. This month's theme was "Ice Cream Social". Children and their parents were able to make ice cream sundaes and participate in ice cream activities and crafts.



Global Ambassador's Language Academy attended the International Cultural Community BBQ at the Michael Zone Recreation Center. It was a day of action, sports, and cultural festivities.



We took a visit to one of BCHF's new schools, **Horizon Science Academy Austintown**, to see the campus. We're looking forward to the start of the school year!



Noble Academy Cleveland hosted a Fun Fair for the community. Featuring food trucks and a blow up slide, the event was a fun time for all.



Custom Professional Development Sessions

Attention School Leaders! Buckeye Community Hope Foundation offers customized professional development sessions tailored specifically to your staff's needs. Best of all, these sessions are free for all BCHF-sponsored schools.

August professional development sessions fill up quickly. If you're interested in requesting a customized session for your staff, use the new link below to make your request - available for August and throughout the year!

<https://form.jotform.com/241715199465061>

BCHF All Schools Meeting

Welcome the new 2024-25 school year with BCHF! Our All Schools meeting will kick off the year with

vital updates and useful information specific to community schools. We follow presentations with our popular Solutions Center where leaders can talk in depth with an expert. Join us in person in Columbus on Thursday, September 19! BCHF requests that one representative of each school attend. Register via Frontline: <https://www.mylearningplan.com/WebReg/ActivityProfile.asp?D=22359&I=4776895>

Upcoming Events

BCHF's online Professional Learning Opportunities Catalog has been refreshed to welcome the beginning of the 2024-25 school year! Browse it; we hope you are as excited as we are about the many topics offered. Register for sessions via the link in the title, or go to BCHF's Professional Learning Opportunities Catalog, [available here](#).

[DATA DATA EVERYWHERE](#) – August 6, 2024 – 9:00 to 11:00 A.M. synchronous online via Zoom
Can you explain the data reports sent by BCHF? Have you seen what is available in the Centralized Reporting System (CRS)? This session will benefit school leaders planning to use the reports created by BCHF. During this session we will review both the BCHF reports and information available through the Readiness Assessment system.

[Northwest Region CPI Non-Violent Crisis Intervention INITIAL Training new certification](#) – August 12, 2024 – 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. - in person in Toledo
This INITIAL 6-hour training is designed to certify new crisis team members. The training will cover prevention strategies, verbal de-escalation strategies, disengagement skills, and holding skills. Participants will complete 2 hours of asynchronous pre-work and 6 hours of in-person training. Pre-work will be sent in a separate email with a personalized link and must be completed 3 days before attending the in-person session. Failure to complete pre-work will result in withdrawal from the training. This training meets Ohio Department of Education requirements for Restraint and Seclusion. CPI Blue Card credentialing expires 1 year from completion-training location: L. Hollingworth School, 653 Miami St., Toledo, OH. Please email Brit Seward at bseward@buckeyehope.org for specific questions regarding this training.

[Northwest Region CPI Non-Violent Crisis Intervention REFRESHER Training renew certification](#) – August 12, 2024 – 12:00 to 3:00 P.M. - in person in Toledo
This REFRESHER 3-hour training is designed to renew current crisis team members. The training will review de-escalation strategies, disengagement and holding skills. Participants must verify current credentials by presenting their current card at the time training or via email. This training meets Ohio Department of Education requirements for Restraint and Seclusion. CPI Blue Card credentialing expires 1 year from completion-training location: L. Hollingworth School, 653 Miami St., Toledo, OH. Please email Brit Seward at bseward@buckeyehope.org for specific questions regarding this training.

[WHY DON'T STUDENTS LOVE SCHOOL?](#) – August 14, 2024 – 4:00 to 5:30 P.M. - synchronous online via Zoom
Why does kindergarten enthusiasm soon fade after a student begins school? This session is all about engaging students and rediscovering the joy of learning. We will explore the latest research from cognitive and motivational science and apply it to the everyday classroom. Participants will exit this session with clear strategies for recharging your classroom.

[COHORT: LITERACY AND DYSLEXIA](#) – August 19, 2024 – 10:00 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. - in person in Columbus
The Dyslexia and Literacy Cohort is designed for classroom teachers and anyone who provides instruction on Dyslexia or Literacy. This cohort is designed with those instructors in mind. The cohort will meet 4 times this year (2 in the 1st semester and 2 in the 2nd semester) with a focus on Best Practices for Dyslexia and Literacy. Session topics for the first semester are as August 8, 2024: How to Prepare a Successful Year of Dyslexic Instruction October 8, 2024: Providing Effective Instruction through Best Practice Strategies

[North-Central Region CPI Non-Violent Crisis Intervention INITIAL Training new certification](#) – August 20, 2024 – 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. – in person in Mansfield
This INITIAL 6-hour training is designed to certify new crisis team members. The training will cover prevention strategies, verbal de-escalation strategies, disengagement skills, and holding skills. Participants will complete 2 hours of asynchronous pre-work and 6 hours of in-person training. Pre-

work will be sent in a separate email with a personalized link and must be completed 3 days before attending the in-person session. Failure to complete pre-work will result in withdrawal from the training. This training meets Ohio Department of Education requirements for Restraint and Seclusion. CPI Blue Card credentialing expires 1 year from completion-training location: Richland School of Academic Arts 1456 Park Ave. West Mansfield, OH. Please email Brit Seward at bseward@buckeyehope.org for specific questions regarding this training.

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TEACHER BOOTCAMP-- - August 21 to August 22, 2024 – 4:00 to 5:30 P.M. each day - synchronous online via Zoom

Let's kick the year off right! Learn helpful tips of the trade in classroom organization; classroom management; student engagement; and lesson delivery skills. Join us for two evenings to help you prepare for your first year or your best year ever! Novice and experts alike are welcome!

SUCCESSFUL STRATEGIES TO ENGAGE FAMILIES – August 29, 2024 – 4:00 to 5:30 P.M. - synchronous online via Zoom

Ready to transform your relationships with parents into powerful partnerships? This session addresses effective ways teachers and leaders can set the stage for positive collaboration, create a plan to keep families meaningfully engaged all year long, and involve family and community members in innovative ways. We will also discuss the best ways to manage and mitigate conflicts. Participants will be fully equipped to nurture meaningful partnerships that help our students thrive.

INCREASING YOUR MATHEMATICS LEADERSHIP IQ – September 10, 2024 – 10:00 to 11:15 A.M. - synchronous online via Zoom

What essential actions are necessary to become an effective mathematics leader committed to improving mathematics education? Mathematics program improvement requires familiarity with mathematical leadership principles, teaching standards, and instructional practices. Designed for school leaders, this session evaluates your current situation while helping you kickstart your mathematics school improvement plan. The goal is to create systems and processes that will positively impact the mathematics achievement of all students.

COHORT: LEADERSHIP: Building Your Faculty by Building Relationships – September 11, 2024 – 2:00 to 3:30 P.M. – synchronous online via Zoom

The BCHF Leadership Cohort is designed with school leaders and their priority needs in mind. The cohort will meet 2-3 times each semester with a focus in 2023-24 on building support for inexperienced and non-traditional teachers. Session topics are as follows: September 11 - Building your Faculty by Building Relationships October 16 - Extended Onboarding: Adding and Refining Skill of New and Inexperienced Teachers November 13 - How Leaders Improve Pedagogy Please join us for all or some of these sessions as you are able. Leaders who attend at least four cohort sessions through the year will receive a special certificate and free book:)

ALL WRITE! ALL WRITE! ALL WRITE! Writing in the Content Areas (ASYNCHRONOUS) – begins September 12, 2024 – *work at your own pace!*

Program: BCHF Professional Learning Opportunities Catalog

ALL WRITE! ALL WRITE! ALL WRITE! Writing IS thinking. The more teachers can use writing in their non-ELA classrooms, the deeper the thought process will be in the classroom. This is an ASYNCHRONOUS session where you can work at your own pace! There is a unit planning guide which you will turn in at the end of your learning which will award your CEU or hours. This is a rare opportunity for you to work at your own pace and on your own timeline.

FUN AND FACTUAL PARENT CONFERENCES – September 12, 2024 – 4:00 to 5:30 P.M. - synchronous online via Zoom

Want to re-invent parent-teacher conferences so that they are meaningful and create two-sided discussions and conversations? Learn how to develop conferences that involve students, parents and teachers in a fruitful, honest discussion.

Have a story or event at your school you would like to share? Send it to Hana, Strategic Communications Specialist: hchandoul@buckeyehope.org.

BUCKEYE COMMUNITY HOPE FOUNDATION

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