



Community Learning Centers (CLCs) In Ohio: CLCs are an approach that aligns to many strategies and goals in the state of Ohio.

Ohio has a unique combination of legislation and a school funding formula to support CLCs. As used in sections 3302.17 and 3302.18 Ohio Revised Code, "community learning center" means a school operated by a city, exempted village, or local school district or charter school established under Chapter 3314. of the Revised Code that participates in a coordinated, community- based effort with community partners to provide comprehensive educational, developmental, family, and health services to students, families, and community members during school hours and hours in which school is not in session. This legislation, passed in 2015, also defines the planning and implementation for CLCs based on the work of the Community Learning Center Institute (CLCI). CLCI assisted in drafting this legislation as well as testified for the approval of this bill (Ohio Revised Code, 2023).

Not only does Ohio have this legislation, but in 2022, Ohio passed Section 3317.25 Ohio Revised Code Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Spending (Ohio Revised Code Pupil Spending, 2023). This new school funding formula enables districts to use funds to support CLCs that address barriers to learning, including the role of the Resource Coordinator.

Community Learning Centers are aligned not only with the Ohio legislation and school funding formula, but also the Ohio Strategic Plan for Education 2019-2024 (Ohio Strategic Plan for Education 2019-2024, 2023). According to this plan, "Ohio can only reach success by meeting the needs of the whole child." There are 3 critical core principles of the plan that never lose sight of equity partnerships and quality schools. These same principles are also highlighted through the CLC strategy. *Equity:* Ohio's greatest education challenge remains equity in educational achievement for each child. *Partnerships:* Everyone shares the responsibility of preparing a child for a successful future. Put simply, partnerships transform the educational experience. *Quality Schools:* A quality school is a place where parents, caregivers, community partners and others interact for the benefit of students.

In addition, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine delivered his 2024 State of the State address where he highlighted some of the work his administration and the General Assembly have accomplished together, as well as outlined new initiatives intended to help Ohio's Children thrive. Community Learning Centers are the perfect strategy for implementation for many of these initiatives and goals. These highlights include: Science of Reading, Let Every Child See, School Based Health Clinics and Healthy Kids, Early Childhood Education, Helping Those in Crisis and Career Pathways.

As highlighted above, community learning centers play a vital role in aligning with and furthering the educational and social goals of the state.