

## **Proposed Research Projects**

### **Educational Choices (Long)**

Look at the data available on school finances, classroom sizes, academic yearly progress, and any other desired data points to see if there is measureable impact on any of these areas for schools who participated in education choices (like open enrollment and public charter schools) each year. Start with 1998-2008, when stakeholders only had access to neighboring districts. Consider what the rules were for how funds followed students. Then consider the period from 2008-2013 when educational choices (like open enrollment and public charter schools) expanded to go beyond neighboring district boundaries, but funding rules for how money followed students were consistent. Lastly, consider 2013 – present when funding followed students differently. Analyze the data with consideration of any other biases that arise.

### **Assessments (Long)**

Using available data, create a list of assessments that are being used throughout the state for various purposes. Research the assessments that are most widely used (excluding the statewide assessments) and present information about how the makers of those assessments proscribe their use. Compare to the uses reported. Analyze these results with consideration of the requirement that an accountability plan for Ohio, according to ESSA, must include both an indicator of growth and an indicator of achievement and must use, according to the regulations, different measures for each. This analysis would provide a foundation for understanding what is already happening in Ohio that could be leveraged to support any proposed Accountability Plan for ESSA.

### **ESSA (Short)**

The Executive Director of this committee will attend each of the ten meetings that ODE is hosting around the state that are open to the public to listen to what stakeholders are saying. Additionally, any members who can attend these meetings are encouraged to do so. As legislators these meetings are an opportunity to engage those constituents who are vocal on education issues while the process of developing a plan for accountability is happening. The committee can help to carry their message to ODE by collecting the ideas we hear and working directly with ODE to reflect those ideas. ODE is already planning to document the meetings and create a report. This committee might contribute to that process or simply review the report issued by ODE when it is available.

**Accountability (Short)**

The purpose of this research project would be to create an operational state definition for educational accountability. There is a need to have a consensus definition to ground legislation and policy in education for Ohio. This could go either in the direction of defining accountability based on institutional definitions, or it could explore the definition of accountability as it relates to our understanding of the purpose of public education. Either one would serve the purpose of centering the group on a definition of accountability that could serve as the foundation for further work.

**Early Learning Investment (Long)**

There is a lot of talk about investment in early learning. What funds are being made available at the federal level and for what purpose? What early learning investments have proven successful? What are other states doing to support this investment? How does Ohio compare to other states in early childhood investment? What can be improved in Ohio? This would be a literature search and possibly would involve a look at the recent reports on our own early learning investments from ODE and ODJFS.

**Value Added (Short)**

Look at what value added is and how it is used. Evaluate whether it is an appropriate tool for what it is used to determine. Provide suggestions on how to use it appropriately or how to replace it with a more appropriate measure. Use the ESSA proposed rules and regulations to frame the potential use of Value Added in an ESSA-aligned Accountability System.

**Public Engagement (Short)**

Working with Ohio Government Television (OGT), we could develop and produce a public service announcement (PSA) to engage stakeholders in the very important education discussions happening around them. Local education agencies and the state education agency will be holding stakeholder meetings to get input on the development of a state accountability plan for Ohio Education. Finding a way to engage parents that are currently not engaged in the education discussion is a worthwhile effort. A PSA can be produced with OGT and we could run the PSA on public television and possibly on the network stations.

### **Career Technical Education (Long)**

Look at participation in Career Technical Education throughout Ohio. Specifically, explore access to Career Technical programs for all students, success rates within these programs and graduation rates in Career Technical Programs, and aggregate the data by subgroup. The questions are: Do Ohio students have sufficient access to pathways to careers? In what ways are other entities impeding these pathways? In what ways are other entities creating these pathways? Are there areas that need greater support? Are these areas in domains of learning or are they geographically situated? Which students get the greatest access? Which students are left out? The upshot of this research would be a report on the state of Career Technical education in Ohio and recommendations on what to keep on doing, what to stop doing and what to start doing for all entities involved in the enterprise of education in Ohio.