

State Rep. Green applauds bill to expand on community learning

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COLUMBUS—State Representative Doug Green, R-Mt. Orab, Tuesday, May 19 voted in support of House Bill 70, which passed in the Ohio House with bipartisan support. HB 70 defines the community learning center model and provides a framework for implementation that may be used by school districts.

A community learning center is a school 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. Together, these schools provide greater recreational, educational, social, health, civic and cultural opportunities for students and can assist in revitalizing communities.

“It’s important to provide sound structure to our community learning centers, as they provide our neighborhoods with programs that strengthen the foundation of our society,” said Green. “Furthermore, it is of great importance to me that our communities have every resource available to ensure that our residents have a path to success, regardless of what walk of life they may have come from.”

Specific provisions of the bill include:

Permitting school districts and community schools to transition appropriate school buildings into a Community Learning Center

Requiring a school district or community school to hold a vote among parents, guardians, teachers and nonteaching employees on whether to initiate the process

Requiring a district board or community school governing authority to create a school action team to conduct a performance audit/improvement plan of the community learning building

Permitting a district or school that is not in improvement status under federal law to initiate a community learning process

Requiring a community learning center, prior to providing health services to a student, to obtain the written consent of the student’s parent, guardian, or custodian if the student is less than 18 years old, or the written consent of the student, if the student is at least 18 years old

House Bill 70 now moves to the Ohio Senate for further consideration.

Link:<http://www.newsdemocrat.com/article/20150527/news/305279903/>