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ECOT OFFERS ODE PLAN TO KEEP SCHOOL OPEN UNTIL JUNE

The Largest Charter School in Ohio Seeks to Keep 2,287 Seniors On Track to Graduate

COLUMBUS - Today, officials at the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow offered their last proposal to the Ohio Department of Education that would allow the school to remain open through the end of the school year and avoid closing its doors on over 12,000 students mid-year. Superintendent Brittney Pierson submitted the plan to ODE to give ECOT families some stability in finishing out the school year with ECOT, and allowing 2,287 ECOT seniors to graduate on time, lest they be thrown off their path to graduation.

“This plan is in the best interest of our over 12,000 students across the state,” conceded ECOT Superintendent Brittney Pierson. “While we would have liked to remain open indefinitely, it’s clear the Department will not accept a payback plan that would allow for that. Thus, we are left fighting to remain open until the end of the year to allow our students the opportunity to finish their school year with us before either graduating or finding a new school in the fall.”

ECOT’s final offer included a provision removing Bill Lager as an officer of Altair Learning Management which means he will no longer have any operational control over the school’s management company. It also suspended all fees to Altair Learning Management.

“In negotiations with the Department, it became clear that they wanted concessions from Bill Lager personally. It wasn’t about the students,” explained ECOT spokesperson Neil Clark. “So we gave them what they wanted in order to stay open a few more months and not close our doors on our students suddenly.”

The plan would also allow the state to keep recouping the funds it claims it is owed.

“By accepting this plan, ODE can prevent over 12,000 students from finding themselves without a school mid-year and keep collecting funds from ECOT,” continued Clark. “If it is about what is in the best interest for students and taxpayers, the decision should be easy.”

Additionally, ECOT today officially appealed their pending suspension to their sponsor, The ESC of Lake Erie West.

Since 2000, ECOT has provided Ohio students the best curriculum, technology, and teachers available online today. With 20,000 students having graduated from ECOT, and an enrollment of over 12,000, ECOT is one of the largest online K-12 schools in the United States.