



Advocating for Life, Faith, and Freedom in the Public Square

Press Conference: ECOT School Closure Crisis and the Fate of 12,000 Students

Place: The Ohio Statehouse Harding Press Room # 109

Date/time: Tuesday, **January 23 at 9:00 a.m.**

Rep. Andy Thompson, Rep. Andy Brenner, and OCA President Chris Long will be co-sponsoring this press conference to address the ECOT school closure crisis which has left 12,000 students, including 2,287 seniors, without a school as of Friday, January 19. It is obvious that the Ohio Department of Education and the State Superintendent were not prepared for this crisis. The poor planning by the ODE and the Superintendent has now put these students' education at risk.

The Superintendent and the ODE had no contingency plan in place to quickly move the 12,000 students to other schools before making this decision. ODE has stated that it has a button or link on its website and an 800 number that students and families could call. But as of Saturday, only 35 calls came into the 800 line, and providing a button on the website is grossly insufficient, and represents poor planning by the ODE and the State Superintendent, Mr. DeMaria.

Our call to action is for the Ohio Department of Education and the Kasich Administration to immediately reconsider a workable agreement with ECOT to get them to the end of the school year. This would provide a soft landing for the 12,000 Ohio students who are currently enrolled in Ohio's largest online school and whose education for the remainder of this year is uncertain.

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