

Legal Update

January 2022

Remote Learning Senate Bill 229

In addition to the blended learning option, SB 229 offered schools an option to implement a remote learning plan for the 2021-2022 school year.

While the window to exercise this option has now passed, it is worth mentioning this component of SB 229 as some confusion exists in distinguishing between “remote learning” and “blended learning”.

Remote learning is initiated by parent request for their individual students to learn at home. However, each school may elect to provide parents this option.

Conversely, blended learning is an option initiated by schools themselves if, for example, a COVID outbreak in the school or a certain grade level warrants students to learn off-campus.



This Edition

Senate Bill 229

Blended Learning Option – Senate Bill 229

Recognizing that schools may need to address partial or whole school COVID outbreaks, SB 229 was signed into law in mid-December with immediate effectivity as emergency legislation.

The new law allows schools to submit a blended learning declaration to ODE by April 30, 2022 and implement off-campus learning during the current school year.

Implementing blended learning requires board action, sponsor approval, updates to the school’s education plan, and a modification to the sponsor contract.

In order to ensure full funding, schools must do the following:

1. Ensure that students have or provide students with access to the internet and to devices to participate in online learning.

(Additionally, schools must provide a filtering device to protect against access to materials that are obscene or harmful on any provided device.)

2. Monitor and assess student achievement and progress and provide additional support services.

3. Periodically communicate with parents or guardians regarding student progress.

4. Report quarterly to ODE the number of students participating in blended learning and the duration of participation.

5. By May 15, 2022, report to ODE the total number of students engaged in blended learning during the 2021-2022 school year by grade level and the total number of students with disabilities engaged in blended learning during 2021-2021.

If after consultation with school leadership, your board wishes to implement blended learning, please contact legal counsel and your sponsor to discuss required actions.



Other SB 229 Provisions

Senate Bill 229, in addition to remote and blended learning options also included several other noteworthy provisions:

Third Grade Reading Guarantee: For the 2021-2022 school year, schools are prohibited from retaining students under the Third Grade Reading Guarantee based solely on academic performance. However, a student may still be retained if the parents, principal and teacher agree that the student is reading below grade level and is not prepared to be promoted to fourth grade.

Special Needs: Licensed service providers are permitted to provide services via telehealth to special needs students at the request of the parent or guardian between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022.

E-school Non-Tested Provision: Internet based schools shall use the 2021-2022 school year as the new beginning point for determining when a student has been untested for two years such that exclusion from internet-based school is applicable.

Financial Literacy: Schools must incorporate financial

literacy instruction to new or existing classes for the 2024-2025 graduating classes.

Report Card Changes:

- Disallows ODE from considering the chronic absenteeism rate of a school on the 2021-2022 report card.
- Added additional members to the report card review committee.
- The four-year adjust cohort graduation rate must be based on students who were continuously enrolled in the same district or building for grades 9 through 12.

Q & A

Q: What are the new financial literacy requirements I heard were recently passed into Ohio law?

A: Senate Bill 1 requires students who enter 9th grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2022 to complete 1/2 unit of financial literacy as part of the 20 units required for a high school diploma.

Students may satisfy the half unit by completing it as an elective course or in lieu of a half unit of math (with some restrictions).

The replaced math course cannot be Algebra II or any course which requires a state end-of course exam. Additionally, the law prohibits students who choose to take one unit of advanced computer science in lieu of Algebra II from completing the half unit of financial literacy to satisfy the math requirement. Rather, those students must complete a half unit of financial literacy as an elective course.

Beginning in 2024-2025 those teaching financial literacy in high school will be required to have a financial literacy education license validation.

Happy New Year!

The team at Amy Goodson Co. wishes you a happy new year!

It has been our pleasure to work for and with you this past year.

We thank you for the opportunity to have done so.

We look forward to our continued work together in 2022.

Our best,
Rebecca
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