



LEGAL UPDATE

For Ohio Community School Boards



SUNSHINE LAW TRAINING - FY 24 UPDATE

“Certified” sunshine law training will not be required of community schools this fiscal year as originally reported. The Auditor of State recently revised [Bulletin 2021-007](#) to delay implementation of their interpretation that community school board members must participate in training certified by the Ohio Attorney General. The revisions indicate that the implementation is delayed until “further notice.”

This is welcome change to many as the certified training is three hours in length and not customized to the needs of community schools.

Training on Ohio’s public records act and open meetings laws is still required this fiscal year (and future years) for all community school board members, the designated fiscal officer of the school, the chief administrative officer and other

administrative employees of the school, performing supervisory or administrative services for the school under a contract with the operator.

3rd Grade Paper Testing

If your school would like to administer 3rd grade state tests in 2024-2025 via paper rather than on-line, the school’s governing authority must pass a resolution so authorizing by this May 1st.

The training needs to be completed by June 30th or sooner per your specific sponsor contract. Your board legal counsel can conduct the training in conjunction with a board meeting or via Zoom (which is permissible as trainings in which board members are not deliberating may be lawfully conducted via video conference.)

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY



Following a school bus crash last summer, which killed one child and injured 23 others, Governor DeWine formed a task force to study safety on school transportation. Last month the report from the 15-member Ohio School Bus Safety Working Group made numerous suggestions. Those include more driver training; driver benefits, recruitment, and retention; and safety features, including external cameras and collision avoidance systems.


Recommendations did not include a mandate for seat belts, leaving Ohio as one of the large majority of states (42) that do not require seat belts on school buses. DeWine said his administration has begun discussions with the legislators about establishing a grant fund to help schools pay for vehicle upgrades or new safety-enhanced buses to align with the taskforce's guidance.

Question & Answer:

Q: What can we do to ensure our students receive bussing?

A: To help ensure your school's eligible students receive transportation from their resident school districts, your school must provide relevant districts with your 2024-2025 daily start and end times by April 1st. After timely receiving your school's information the district must develop a plan with schedules and routes. This transportation plan must be provided to your school within 60 days. If your school does not meet the April 1st deadline, district responsibility falls from an obligation to simply making an attempt.



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