



LEGAL UPDATE

For Ohio Community School Boards



RELIGIOUS EXPRESSION DAYS ACT

The recently passed "Religious Expression Days" or "R.E.D." Act will require each Ohio public school to adopt a policy that reasonably accommodates the sincerely held religious beliefs and practices of students. Specifically, each school board will be required to adopt a policy that prohibits the school from:

- Requiring any student or employee to ascribe to, or opine about, specific beliefs, affiliations, ideals, or principles concerning political movements, or ideology.
- Using statements of commitment to specific beliefs, affiliations, ideals, or principles concerning political movements, or ideology as part of the evaluation of employees or academic evaluation of students
- Requires the school to permit students to be absent for up to three religious expression days each school year, to take holidays for reasons of faith or religious or spiritual belief system, or participate in organized religious activities

AEDs Required in Schools



In July House Bill 47 was signed into law requiring automated external defibrillators (AEDs) to be placed in Ohio schools including community schools (not e-schools).

Schools will be required to adopt emergency action plans and practice them at least quarterly. The Ohio Department of Health will develop a model emergency action plan for the use of AEDs.

The bill also requires schools to train teachers, administrators, coaches, athletic trainers, and others supervising student-athletes on how and when to use AEDs.

Question & Answer:

Q: Do committee meetings constitute a “meeting” such that they require notice, be open to the public, and minutes?

A: Yes, if a committee is created by a school’s board of directors or given board authority (even if the committee does not include a quorum of the full board) then a meeting of that committee must be noticed, be open to the public, and minutes must be maintained.

