



LEGAL UPDATE

For Ohio Community School Boards



RELIGIOUS EXPRESSION DAYS ACT

Effective in October the "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.

Additionally, schools will need to begin 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



Beginning in October, all brick and mortar Ohio schools (not e-schools) will be required to have automated external defibrillators (AEDs)

Along with the equipment, schools will be required to adopt emergency action plans and practice them at least quarterly. Once the Ohio Department of Health releases its model plan legal counsel will review and advise your board to adopt in order to be compliant with the new law.

House Bill 47 also requires schools to train teachers, administrators, coaches, and trainers on how and when to use AEDs.

Q: Are community school board members required to complete the new fraud reporting training?

A: The Auditor of State's office is providing conflicting information on whether the new training is required of "appointed" community school board members. To err on the side of caution, our office recommends that the 8 minute training video be played during an upcoming board meeting and that documentation of attendees is retained. The training may be accessed ohioauditor.gov/trainings/fraud.html

