



LEGAL UPDATE

For Ohio Community School Boards



STATE BUDGET PROCESS

Ohio's biennial budget process takes several months to complete. The initial budget bill is introduced in February and must be completed by June 30 for the start of the new biennium on July 1st. During the process the House and Senate amend the budget based on each chamber's funding priorities. In April the House completed its budget work by approving amendments to House Bill 96.

988 Crisis Line

Beginning April 9, Ohio law requires schools serving grades 9-12 to include the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline telephone number on student identification cards, planners, and electronic portals provided or used by the school.

The House made several education-related changes, including how the state funds K-12 education. The bill is currently being considered by the Senate and will almost certainly undergo additional amendments. This publication will continue to report school relevant updates to the bill.



MAY REMINDERS

Community schools are required to submit **5-year financial forecasts** twice annually to the Department of Education and Workforce. The spring submission is due May 31st, so be certain your board has reviewed and adopted before then.

May 11-17 is National Charter Schools Week

Annually this is a week to celebrate the good work charters do. 2025 marks the 30th anniversary of the first federal Charter Schools Program grant award to support the growth of charter schools. CSP funds have supported charter schools in 42 states, Guam, Puerto Rico, & D.C.

Question & Answer:

Q: Does Ohio ban student cell phone use at school?

A: Current law only requires that schools adopt a policy by July 1st to limit student cell phone use at school. However, SB 158 proposes to require schools by September 1st to prohibit all cell phone use during the instructional day, except as part of a student's IEP or to monitor a health concern.



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