



LEGAL UPDATE

For Ohio Community School Boards



BUDGET BILL - HOUSE BILL 96

Ohio's biennium budget bill signed into law this summer has numerous education related provisions which will go into effect at various times throughout the school year and beyond. Some of the highlights are as follows:

- Eliminates the annual submission of comprehensive plans to sponsors.
- Changes the requirement that child sexual abuse in-service training be provided by law enforcement or prosecutors. Rather, schools must develop their own in consultation with experienced agencies or persons.
- Requires changes to policy addressing habitual truancy.
- Allows multiple community schools to create a transportation consortium.
- Permits any community school to be located in multiple facilities in more than one school district under the same charter contract.

DOPR DESIGNATION



The budget bill changes the qualifications for "dropout prevention and recovery" (DOPR) school to a school that enrolls only students who are between ages 14 and 21, and who are at least one grade level behind their cohort age group or who experience crises that significantly interfere with their academic progress such that they are prevented from continuing their traditional educational programs. For the next two school years, however, community schools that *primarily* serve students enrolled in DOPR program may continue operating as-is.

Question & Answer:

Q: Did HB 96 address anything about the evolving use of AI?

A: Yes, the bill will require schools to adopt a policy on the use of Artificial Intelligence by July 1, 2026. The Department of Education and Workforce will be required to develop by December 31, 2025 a model policy addressing the appropriate use of AI by students and staff for educational purposes.



[330-962-6776](tel:330-962-6776)



www.AmyGoodsonLaw.com



Amy@AmyGoodsonLaw.com