



LEGAL UPDATE

For Ohio Community School Boards



COMING IN THE NEW YEAR...

Several law and policy changes are worth noting heading into 2026:

- New cell phone policy must be adopted by January 1, 2026, which requires schools to prohibit student cell phone use during the instructional day.
- Ohio Auditor of State recently indicated that they interpret the new law requiring political subdivisions to adopt a cybersecurity program as applying to community schools. Therefore, by July 1, 2026 your board will need to adopt a written program plan that includes assessment of critical functions and associated cybersecurity risks, impacts of a breach, mechanisms to detect threats, procedures for incident response, and employee training.
- Effective January 19, 2026 schools will be authorized to obtain and maintain a supply of overdose-reversal drugs such as Naloxone. While the new law does not require schools to have such drugs, if a school does then the law requires adoption of a policy governing storage, supply, accessibility, training, and administration reporting.

Calendar Year End



Though your school's fiscal year runs from July 1st through June 30th, some calendar year end dates are worth noting.

If your board's sponsor contract/charter is due to expire June 30, 2026 and you do not wish to renew with your current sponsor, you must notify your sponsor by December 31st. Similarly, if your board has an operator and your management agreement expires June 30, 2026, the agreement may require 180 days' notice of your intent to non-renew so that automatic renewal does not occur.

Lastly, it is common for community school facility leases to include 6 month renewal notices which might be calendar year end.

HAPPY
Holidays!

Thank you all for another great year collaboratively serving Ohio students!

To continued success in 2026,

Amy, Angelina, Carlana, Becky


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