



LEGAL UPDATE

For Ohio Community School Boards



HOUSE BILL 455

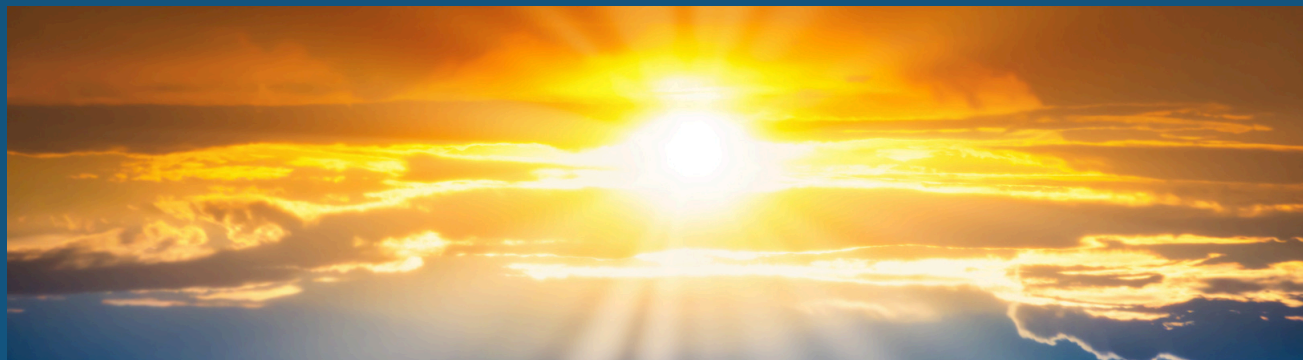
In July Governor DeWine signed into law HB 455, which includes several provisions affecting community schools:

New Automatic Community School Closure Standards

- Replaces much of the prior star-rating-based closure system with a system based on statewide performance rankings.
- Schools serving only up to grade 3 may be subject to closure after ranking in the lowest 5% statewide on Performance Index for 3 consecutive years.
- Schools serving grades 4–12 may be subject to closure after:
 - Ranking in the lowest 5% statewide on the Performance Index; &
 - Ranking in the lowest 60% statewide on the value-added measure.
- The new closure standards will be phased in during the 26–27 and 27–28 school years and will be fully implemented beginning in 2028–2029.
- *DOPR schools and schools in which a majority of students receive special education services remain exempt from this general automatic closure.

E-School Remote Testing

- Internet- or computer-based community schools must make remote state testing available to students when the statutory remote requirements can be met: security, 11:1 proctoring, video & audio monitoring, etc.
- E-schools may identify a preferred testing method, but a parent may elect an alternative, which the school must accommodate to extent practicable.



New Sunshine Law Training Requirements

Summer break may be over for schools, but the new sunshine law training requirements are just getting started. Beginning July 1, 2026 Open Meetings & Public Records annual community school training must:

- Be completed by all board members, fiscal officers, chief administrative officers, and all administrative and supervisory employees working for or assigned to the school
- Be a live (not recorded, but can be virtual) at least 1 hour session
- Conducted by an Ohio-licensed attorney who serves as counsel for, or is employed by, a community school, sponsor, or operator

The existing three-hour training provided by the Auditor of State or Attorney General remain eligible alternative training options.

JOIN THESE TRAININGS TO BE COMPLIANT FOR FY27

Thursday, August 27th 6:00 PM

Wednesday, September 23rd 12:00

Simply click on the link above to join. No need to register, but you must enter your full name when you join the Zoom and remain for the entire hour in order to receive a certificate.

Reach our office to arrange other dates at your board's convenience.



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