



LEGAL UPDATE

For Ohio Community School Boards



POLICY ACTION REQUIRED

The following new policies, updates to existing policies, and annual readoption of policies will be required to be board-adopted this summer:

- Newly required **Artificial Intelligence Policy** governing staff and student use of AI must be adopted by July 1st.
- Political subdivisions (including community schools) must adopt by July 1st a **Cybersecurity Program** that safeguards data and information technology to ensure availability, confidentiality, and integrity.
- By August 1st an updated **Attendance Policy** that shifts away from punitive truancy triggers focused on strict hourly definitions and instead emphasizes early intervention, tiered supports, family-focused intervention, and collaboration with juvenile courts.
- Re-adoption of an **Online Day Plan** by August 1st allowing brick and mortar schools up to 3 days of instruction to be online when in-person school is closed for allowable events such as epidemic, weather, inoperable buses.



Sunshine Law Training

If board members, treasurers, administrators, and others performing supervisory or administrative services for your school have not participated in Public Records and Open Meetings training this fiscal year, please reach us to schedule training. If you do not participate in such training between July 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026 your school will be out of compliance.



Changes to Financial Forecasts: Last summer, Ohio's budget bill changed the timing and requirements for school financial forecasts. Rather than 5-year projections of operational revenues and expenditures, schools are now required to submit appropriations, revenue, and fund balance assumptions contained in the board-adopted budget for the current fiscal year and projections of expenditures and revenues, and fund balance for the following 3 fiscal years. The two annual forecast due dates were changed from October and May to August 31st and the last day of February.

Question & Answer:

Q: Is there anything our board needs to do this summer if our sponsor contract is expiring next summer?

If your school's current sponsor contract is set to expire June 30, 2027 your board may want to be mindful of several timelines. If you wish to remain with your current sponsor, that sponsor will be providing your board information about how and when to apply for renewal. If your board wishes to explore options with different sponsors you may need to provide a notice of intent to apply as soon as July 1st of this summer! Also keep in mind that statutorily any board not desiring to renew with its current sponsor, must provide notice 180 days' prior to the expiration date. So if your contract is set to expire June 30, 2027 and you wish to change sponsors your board **MUST** provide notice to your current sponsor by December 31, 2026.



330-962-6776



www.AmyGoodsonLaw.com



Amy@AmyGoodsonLaw.com