



LEGAL UPDATE

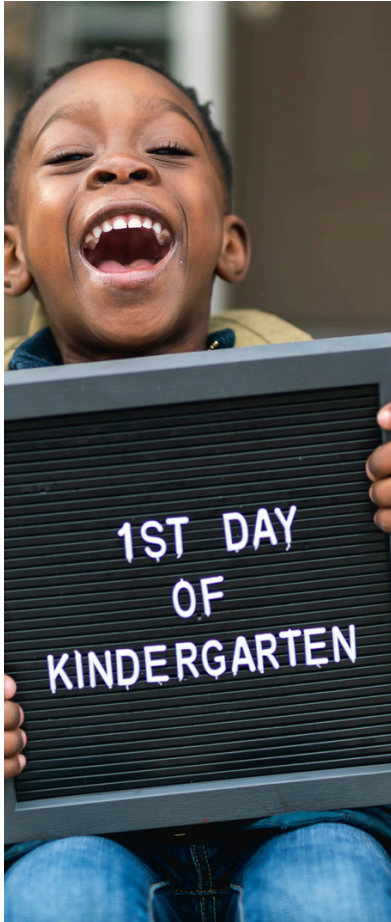
For Ohio Community School Boards



CYBER SECURITY PROGRAM

By July 1, 2026 each community school board will need to adopt a cyber security program which safeguards the school's data, information technology, and IT resources to ensure availability, confidentiality, and integrity. Schools should begin *now* working with their technology providers to ensure that a compliant program is already in place or can be updated to meet House Bill 96 requirements. In order to be compliant with Ohio Revised Code 9.64, programs must be consistent with generally accepted best practices for cybersecurity, such as the national institute of standards and technology cybersecurity framework, and the center for internet security cybersecurity best practices.

Because specifics of the program need to remain confidential, presentation to the board regarding the program should take place in an executive session "for purposes of discussing security arrangements". After a presentation sufficiently informing the board of compliance with the new requirements, the board should formally "adopt the program" via a resolution in open session.



Kindergarten Admission

Effective March 20, 2026 House Bill 114 requires that beginning with the 2026-2027 school year schools admit students to kindergarten only if they are 5 years old on or before the first day of instruction.

This new law replaces the prior system which allowed schools to set either August 1st or September 30th age cut-off deadlines.

Children who will not turn 5 by the first day of school but will by January 1st may still be admitted pursuant to a school's early entrance policy, which requires evaluation to ensure they are prepared to be successful.

Question & Answer:

Q: Must our board adopt a policy regarding meat and eggs?

A: Yes, the recently enacted House Bill 10 requires boards to adopt a policy that prohibits the school from purchasing “misbranded” meat or egg products, or cultivated (lab-grown) protein food products.

Presumably, the new law does not prohibit schools from serving meat and egg alternatives that are properly labeled with qualifying language.

