



## Month of Board Meetings: September Update

### Renewal

The renewal application is currently available in Epicenter. If you need to add a staff member to have access, please let us know. We will examine outcomes in our current accountability plan (contract Exhibit IV) over the contract term. In 2019-20, of course there was no testing and no data to inform the academic measures of the current accountability plan. To supplement the data that we have, we are asking schools eligible for renewal for the following items to help inform renewal decisions: Spring 2021 and fall 2021 Panorama student survey data; pre-Covid performance over time against our standard accountability framework; internal assessment data for the 2020–21 and 2021–22 school years, in particular we are looking for data from spring '21 and fall '21 (to assess summer learning) and fall '20 to spring '21.

### K-12 Quarantine Guidance

Written guidance from the Ohio Department of Health can be found [here](#). Additionally, [Legal Authorization for Quarantine and Isolation](#) and [Mask Research Summary](#) were sent to superintendents.

### Blended Learning Considerations for 2021-22 School Year

As you know, there is no remote option for charter schools in Ohio this year. On September 2, 2021, ODE notified us by phone that it is accepting applications from charters to implement a blended learning model due to extenuating circumstances (i.e., school closures) of the pandemic. This would allow students to receive instruction from home, as opposed to being counted absent. ODE has stated that this is a one-time exception and it is not an option to have students fully remote; rather it is intended to address short term illness and quarantine.

The Ohio statute governing setting forth requirements for blended learning is [here](#) at (A)(29). Additional information on blended learning requirements is [here](#) and [here](#). Note that students must be in the school building 51 percent of the time for the blended model to be deemed implemented.

Opting to implement a blended model is not without risk. The auditor closely scrutinizes blended schools during FTE reviews and it is not uncommon as a result for schools to lose funding. It will be critical to document all learning opportunities outside of the classroom, likely similar to how e-schools are required to document. We strongly recommend that if you are considering the blended option that you review ODE's FTE manual (especially the information at page 14) and other relevant information [here](#). If your school is going to opt for blended learning and you have not received the blended declaration form please let us know.

Schools can of course choose not to opt for blended learning and continue to operate as they have since opening for the 2021-22 school year. In these cases, students who are quarantined will be absent but medically excused. They won't be truant. Schools can send materials home or educate them online; however, the time spent won't count as hours in attendance. The difference is that the number of students impacted will be much higher than during a normal school year. Advantages of this approach: Charters will continue to receive full funding as long as the school meets the minimum hours threshold. Schools will also avoid the added recordkeeping requirements and potential funding losses that could

occur with blended learning. Disadvantages: Students will be absent and will likely be considered chronically absent at the end of the year. Under the new report card mechanism though, this is unlikely to matter much in terms of a school's overall grade. Also, this is going to happen at many schools and will be relatively easy to explain.

Please reach out to us if a conversation regarding the options would be helpful.

### **Adopt an Anonymous Reporting Program**

[HB 123](#), enacted during the 133rd General Assembly requires each local, city, exempted village, and joint vocational school district to register with the Safer Ohio School Tip Line operated by the Ohio School Safety Center (OSSC) or enter into an agreement with an anonymous reporting program of the district's choosing by the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year. The registration link and other resources for the free Safer Ohio School Tip Line can be found [here](#). Fordham schools will be required to submit the proof of registration or agreement to Epicenter.

### **Completion Status for FY21 Report Card Data Review – Updated**

The completion status spreadsheet for the FY21 Report Card Data Review has been updated on the [EMIS Data Review & Verification webpage](#). ODE will update this status document every week.

Superintendents must complete a required review of their 2021 student, assessment, calendar, staff, course, and CTE follow up data reported in EMIS by Friday, Oct. 8. Superintendents must signify whether these data are accurate as they complete and submit the 2021 Report Card Data Review form. For more information about the data review window, timeline, and completion process, visit the webpage above. For questions regarding data reviews, contact ODE's [Office of Data Quality](#).

### **FY21 Financial Data Appeals Open**

From Wednesday, Sept. 1, through Friday, Sept. 24, superintendents and treasurers may appeal FY21 Financial data. These data may affect measures on the 2021 Ohio School Report Cards as well as state funding received by the district. For more information about the data appeal window, timeline, and completion process for superintendents and treasurers, visit the [EMIS Data Appeals webpage](#). For questions regarding data appeals, contact the Department's [Office of Data Quality](#).

### **Data Insights: Evidence of the Pandemic's Impact on Students in 2020 – 2021**

A new installment of the *Data Insights* report from the Ohio Department of Education is available to provide information on the pandemic's impact using statewide data collected through the Spring of 2021, including the Spring 2021 state assessments. Information on state-level data points can be found [here](#).

### **Trainings and Events**

- [Ohio Family Engagement Leadership Summit](#) (September 17)  
Hosted by the Ohio Statewide Family Engagement Center at The Ohio State University, this Summit brings research to action by providing schools, families, and community partners with the tools they need to work together to launch all children to success.
- [2021 Virtual Ohio School Safety Summit](#) (Save the date: October 6-8)  
The free summit will provide an opportunity for school safety, public safety, mental health professionals, and others to share best practices, training, and resources with schools and community leaders across the state.

### **Compliance and Epicenter Requirements**

- Heimlich Training; Child Abuse Referral Information; Child Abuse Recognition, Violence and Substance Abuse Training (September 8)

- Parent Notification of Teacher Information; Safety Notification to Parents (September 15)
- Privacy (FERPA) Policy; Wellness Policy (September 22)
- Residency Documentation Policy and Verification Process (September 28)
- Concussion Information Form and Training; Inventory; Promotion and Retention Policy; Final Approved Board Minutes (September 29)
- Renewal Application (September 30)
- Affidavit for Criminal Background Checks; Monthly Enrollment Verification (October 1)
- Child Find Documentation; Fire and Safety Drill Log (October 6)
- Internet Safety and Acceptable Use Policy; Lead Abatement Notification Certification; Parental Involvement Policy; State Testing and Assessment Calendar (October 13)

**Compliance refresher – Legislative Service Commission’s [Laws from which Community Schools Are Not Exempt.](#)**

**[Chapter 102](#), ORC [2921.42](#) and [2921.43](#) Ohio Ethics Law**

All public officials must comply with the Ohio Ethics Law. The Ohio Ethics Law and related statutes are found in Ohio Revised Code (R.C.) Chapter 102. and Sections 2921.42 and 2921.43. These laws generally prohibit public officials and employees from misusing their official positions for their own personal benefit or the benefit of their family members or business associates.

The Ethics Law applies to all people who serve as officials and employees for public agencies in Ohio. Public agencies include community schools. Employees, unless they have supervisory duties, are limited to specific provisions that allow for their individual benefit. While there is no requirement regarding ethics training, there is a requirement in Ohio Revised Code §3314.02 that charter school board members “annually file a disclosure statement setting forth the names of any immediate relatives or business associates employed within the previous three years.”

How we verify schools are in compliance:

1. TBFF requires all board members at any school sponsored by TBFF to annually complete an individual conflict of interest disclosure form.
2. Financial review of payments and check register.
3. School must submit an annual school official disclosure form of related parties (family members and business associates).

**Other Resources**

[The Voice of Ethics](#) (2021 Quarter 3), Ohio Ethics Committee Newsletter

[The State of State Standards for Civics and U.S. History in 2021](#), Fordham Institute

[NWEA measures the impact of the pandemic on student achievement and growth](#), Jessica Poiner

[What supports do high schoolers need to achieve their college enrollment goals?](#), Jeff Murray

National Charter School Resource Center (NCSRC) Funding Opportunity Digest is a monthly rundown of new and upcoming charter sector grants, fellowships, and scholarships from the U.S. government and philanthropic organizations. If you are not already subscribed to this monthly newsletter, you can [subscribe here](#).

[This district built a better, more reliable, supply of substitute teachers – here’s how](#), Elizabeth Heubeck, *Education Week*.