



Month of Board Meetings: November Update

Site Visits

In-person site visits are being scheduled with school leaders for November and December.

NEW K-12 Student Quarantine Guidelines

The Ohio Department of Health announced new [quarantine alternative guidelines including “Mask to Stay,” and “Test to Play”](#) options. Specifically, in certain circumstances, the new guidelines offer an in-school alternative for students who have been exposed to COVID-19 in the classroom or during a school-related activity. These proposed changes incorporate mask wearing and testing to reduce the chance of spread of COVID-19 within structured school settings.

Report Cards

The data from the 2020-21 school year were released October 14. You can search results by school [here](#).

Substitute Licensure Flexibility

[Senate Bill 1](#) has become law and provides flexibility regarding substitute licensure for 2021-22 only.

See section 4 (B) and (C):

(B) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in sections 3301.071, 3319.226, 3319.30, and 3319.36 and Chapters 3314. and 3326. of the Revised Code, or the administrative rules of the State Board of Education, a school governing body may employ an individual who does not hold a postsecondary degree as a substitute teacher, for the 2021-2022 school year only, provided that the individual also meets the following requirements:

- (1) The individual meets the district's or school's own set of educational requirements.
- (2) The individual is deemed to be of good moral character.
- (3) The individual successfully completes a criminal record check as prescribed in section 3319.39 of the Revised Code.

(C) The State Board shall issue a nonrenewable temporary substitute teaching license to an individual who does not hold a post-secondary degree but meets the requirements prescribed in division (B) of this section for the 2021-2022 school year only.

Auditor of State (AOS) Bulletin 2021-007

The Auditor of State (AOS) recently released a [bulletin](#) regarding community school compliance with public records and open meetings laws. The bulletin provides the AOS interpretation of the statute governing open meetings and open records laws. Specifically, starting July 1, 2022, AOS will require that community school board open meetings and records trainings be certified by the Ohio Attorney General's office. AOS will audit compliance with this requirement for the 2022-23 school year (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023). We will reach out to ODE and to our legal counsel for further guidance regarding this requirement and will update community school boards as we learn more.

Trainings and Events

- [Legal Update for Ohio Community Schools](#) (December 3)
Join Maria L. Markakis and Albin Bauer, II for a complimentary community school law update to be held in-person in Columbus next month. Heads of school, fiscal officers, Governing Authority members, management companies and sponsors are welcome to attend.
- [2021 OLAC & PBIS Showcase](#) (December 9)
With a shared vision for building the capacity of those who lead, teach, and serve students in Ohio's schools and beyond, the Ohio Leadership Advisory Council (OLAC) and the Ohio Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Network will host the 2021 OLAC and PBIS Showcase. This virtual conference will combine the best of the OLAC Action Forum and Ohio PBIS Showcase.

Compliance and Epicenter Requirements

- Public Records Policy - 11/9/2021
- Constitution Day Education Program - 11/16/2021
- LPDC Registration Verification and Approved Signature Form - 11/16/2021
- 5-year Forecast - 11/22/2021
- Monthly Enrollment Verification - 11/24/2021
- Final Approved Board Minutes - 11/24/2021
- Blood-borne Pathogens Training - 12/1/2021
- Fire and Safety Drill Log - 12/1/2021
- Hinkle System Filing Documentation - 12/8/2021
- School Safety and Violence Prevention Training - 12/1/2021
- Semi-Annual Health and Safety Inspection - 12/8/2021
- Governing Authority Meeting Resolution(s) - Resolution Approving Annual Budget - 12/15/2021
- Veterans Day Observance - 12/15/2021

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

[Chapter 117](#)

State fiscal auditing requirements

ORC 117.38 and OAC 117-2-03 Annual financial reports

Community schools are required to file annual financial reports with the Auditor of State that are prepared using generally accepted accounting principles. Community schools are statutorily required to adopt a budget pursuant to Ohio Revised Code (ORC) section 3314.032(C). However, unlike traditional public schools, community schools are not required to follow the specific budgetary process and limits set forth in ORC chapter 5705, unless specifically provided in the contract between the school and its sponsor. Fordham's sponsorship contract requires schools to follow ORC 5705.391 (board of education spending plan).

ORC 117.43 and OAC 117-6-01 Financial records

Community schools must maintain financial records in accordance with the uniform school accounting system (USAS), available [here](#). In lieu of posting daily transactions in accordance with USAS, community schools may convert the information to be in accordance with USAS prior to (1) reporting information to ODE, and (2) annual financial statement reporting. The school should maintain a crosswalk or other documentation to show this conversion.

ORC 117.103 Auditor of state’s system for reporting fraud

All public employers must notify employees of the methods of reporting fraud, including doing so anonymously. New hires must, within 30 days of hire, verify in writing that they have been advised of the system.

How we verify schools are in compliance:

1. School treasurers submit annual budget information and confirmation of their submission to the Auditor of State; this information is collected as part of Fordham’s monthly financial review.
2. Review of financial statements as part of the monthly financial review.
3. Submission of the written proof of reporting fraud to Epicenter.

Other Resources

[Six takeaways from Ohio’s latest school report cards](#), Aaron Churchill

[How Staff Shortages are Crushing Schools](#), Mark Lieberman

[ALDI Smart Kids Grant](#) – open to charter school LEAs and nonprofits; submissions due December 15, 2021. ALDI Smart Kids is dedicated to supporting the health and wellness of children in our communities. ALDI supports local community organizations that encourage kids to be active in the areas of education, physical activity, nutrition, socializing and the arts. ALDI’s support includes monetary donations and ALDI gift cards.

[NewSchools Funding Opportunity](#)

NewSchools is looking for educators who are designing new, innovative public schools launching in fall 2023. Application submissions are being accepted now through January 7, 2022.