Rapback Expansion

- Starting in July, schools and districts will need to enroll non-licensed staff members in the Rapback system using the State Board of Education’s CORE system. In addition, the State Board of Education will take over the Rapback process for school bus and van drivers, while all other transportation activity will still be handled by the local school or district and the Department of Education and Workforce’s Office of Field Services and Pupil Transportation.

- To prepare for the Rapback transition, each non-licensed staff member and driver should create an educator state ID as soon as possible. A step-by-step guide of how to obtain an educator state ID is available on the State Board’s website.

- For drivers, this will allow their current Rapback enrollment to be successfully transferred over when the July updates are released. In July, the drivers who are successfully transitioned for enrollment should not need to obtain additional background checks.

- For non-licensed staff, obtaining an educator state ID will allow them to complete the first few steps of the process early before the start of a new school year. Schools and districts may immediately assist their employees and contractors before the summer break in obtaining an educator state ID, however the school or district should email contact.center@sboe.ohio.gov if they intend to assist multiple individuals from the same IP address.

EMIS Reporting:

- Non-licensed staff state ID’s do not have to be reported to EMIS for districts that have been reporting with Z-IDs. Though districts can start reporting state IDs for these staff, they do not have to start reporting them. Districts can continue reporting Z-IDs for non-licensed staff.

- See EMIS Manual Section 3.3, State Staff ID Element: “For staff who have never been issued a credential by the Department, a Z-ID should be reported.” The guidance is to report Z-IDs for these staff. However, districts are able to report state IDs. There will be an FY26 change to the EMIS Manual to clarify that either a Z-ID or a state ID can be reported for non-credentialed staff.

- Note that, with the exception of new staff, changing the ID reported for a staff member will cause the ID no longer being reported to appear on the Staff Missing List. If a staff member begins appearing on the Missing List due to a change from a Z-ID to a state ID, districts will continue to have the option of either ignoring that staff member’s record on the missing list or requesting an override through their ITC to remove the record from the missing list.
OHIO’S TOOLKITS

- The AI K-12 Education Toolkit is a practical guide for developing policies and recommendations in response to the proliferation of AI tools. The goal of the toolkit is to help prepare all Ohio students for jobs in an increasingly AI-driven world.
- The Cell Phones in Schools Toolkit includes the Department’s model policy, as well as guidance to support school administrators, teachers, parents, and students.

OHIO ACE PROGRAM

Families who have been awarded funds from the Afterschool Child Enrichment Education Savings Account program (ACE) have more time to spend their money. The deadline for families to spend funds has been extended to September 1, 2025.

Training & Events

- **ReadOhio Literacy Academy 2024** - resources and conference handouts available
- **Coming Together on Chronic Absenteeism: School’s Top Priority This Year** - July 17
  - Public panel event by American Enterprise Institute (AEI), Attendance Works, and the Education Trust
- **EMIS Coordinator Training** - August 6, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., In-Person in Columbus
  - August 2024 Online Sessions are also listed on the Department’s website
- **AOS 2024 Community Schools Training** – August 27, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Third Thursday Virtual Networking Meetings

**Thursday, July 18th at 11:00 am** - This month’s topic will be Chronic Absenteeism & Tiered Interventions. We’ll report on our gap analysis of school chronic absenteeism reduction strategies compared to Attendance Works strategies. Let us know if you would like anyone added to the invitation list.

- August: Report Card Technical Guidance & Reporting
- September: Finance/Transportation Updates & Compliance Deadlines
- October: PBIS & Restraint and Seclusion
- November: In-Person Event & Meeting
- December: Internal Assessments & Data Reporting

Secure Data Center Updates

A new District Trends Dashboard Report now is available and will assist districts in reviewing data for the 2023-2024 school year. The dashboard contains a variety of visualizations to help districts identify significant changes in report card metrics over time that may be a result of underlying data reporting errors. More information [here](#).

Other Resources

- NCSRC Grant Opportunities
- **The kids missing the most amount of school may surprise you: kindergartners**, NPR Interview (Cory Turner)
- **Ohio charter schools after the pandemic: Are their students still learning more than they would in district school?**, Stéphane Lavertu
- **Charter Schools and Competitive Federal Grants: How to know if you’re ready to apply and tips for a winning application**, National Alliance for Public Charter Schools video series
Thank you for sharing your wonderful celebration pictures with us! Best wishes to all students ready for their next stage of learning and congratulations to your 2024 graduates!

Congratulations!
Screening of beginning pupils for special learning needs - ORC 3313.673

When a student is enrolled for the first time in either kindergarten or first grade, the student must be screened for "hearing, vision, speech and communications, and health or medical problems or for any developmental disorders." Each district board must provide information about the district's screening program to the parents of students subject to the screening requirements.

Administration for the 2024-2025 school year and beyond:

- Screening must take place prior to the first day of November of the school year in which a pupil is enrolled for the first time in either kindergarten or first grade.
- Pupils screenings must include hearing, vision, speech and communications, and health or medical problems and for any developmental disorders.
- If the results of any screening reveal the possibility of special learning needs the school needs to conduct further assessment.
- The school may provide any of the elements of the screening program itself, contract with any person or governmental entity to provide any such elements, or request the parent to obtain any such elements from a provider selected by the parent.
- Prior to the first day of August of the school year in which a pupil is required to be screened under this section, the school must provide parents with information about the district's screening program.
- If the schools choose to request parents obtain any screening services, a list of providers must be given to parents together with information about such screening services available in the community to parents who cannot afford them.

How we verify compliance:

- Schools' contracts, as a responsibility of the governing authority, include compliance with the code sections noted above.
- Schools must submit, via an Epicenter requirement, the information for the current school year. The information needs to have the school's name and date the notification occurred and could be posted on the school’s website.

**IMPORTANT UPCOMING DEADLINES**

- 7/19 - Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid and Student Wellness and Success report deadline extended
- 8/1 - Last day to notify school districts that the community school is assuming responsibility for transportation
- 8/1 - Adopt Online Day Plans
- 8/1 - Parent Information District Screening Health and Developmental Disorders (see refresher below)
- 8/2 - OhioMeansJobs K-12 Survey closes
- 8/5 - PBIS/Restraint and Seclusion Data Collection

**Compliance Refresher**

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**Epicenter Coordinator update and review session** - July 22 at 11 am, for new and continuing coordinators