

## SPONSORSHIP NEWSLETTER MARCH 2025



DAYTON LEADERSHIP ACADEMIES - DAYTON EARLY COLLEGE ACADEMY - DECA PREP & DECA MIDDLE - IDEA GREATER CINCINNATI (PRICE HILL & VALLEY VIEW) - KIPP COLUMBUS - REGENERATION SCHOOLS (BOND HILL & AVONDALE) - REGENERATION MIDDLE SCHOOL - SCIOTOVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL - UNITED SCHOOLS COLUMBUS

## Education Laws and Community Schools

Community schools are exempt from some of Ohio's state education laws, such as a required course of study to be offered by the school and teacher employment and contract requirements. For some requirements, such as minimum school year, community schools must comply with provisions of law specific only to those types of schools. However, community schools also are subject to many state education laws, such as state assessments, graduation and diploma requirements, and health and safety standards. [This brief](#) (revised February 2025) lists education laws from which community schools are exempt and those from which they are not exempt.

## Certified Public Records Training

The [Certified Public Records Training](#) is a three-hour virtual session, free of charge, provided to public officials or their appropriate designees and public employees, as well as members of the general public. Certified Public Records Training offered by the Auditor of State is the same training offered by the Ohio Attorney General's office, which is called [Sunshine Laws Training](#). Community schools are required to have a public records custodian. This is separate from the annual requirement for training on public records and open meeting laws, which are required for: members of the governing authority of a community school, the designated fiscal officer of the school, the chief administrative officer and other administrative employees of the school, and all individuals performing supervisory or administrative services for the school under a contract with the operator of the school in [ORC 3314.037](#).

## Special Education Model Policies and Procedures Approval

**NEW  
UPDATE**

Educational agencies must upload verification of local school board approval of the updated special education model policies and procedures for the 2024-2025 school year through the [Monitoring System](#) by **May 30, 2025**. This is an extension of the previous March deadline as the field has indicated it needs more time to meet with Boards of Education. Beginning with the 2025-26 school year, the annual due date is November 30.

## School Safety Grant Funding Available

Attorney General Dave Yost announced that Ohio schools can apply for a share of nearly \$11 million in safety grants being awarded for the current academic year. The grants will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, making prompt application submission a key consideration. Applications are due no later than May 30. More information can be found [here](#).

## ATTENDANCE RESOURCES

- Monthly [ODEW Attendance Webinar Series](#); schedule, recordings, and resources available
- Ohio's [Stay in the Game! Attendance Network](#) membership sign-ups for the 2025-26 school year are open through March 15. Sign-up is required for both previous and new members.
- [Strategies for Addressing Chronic Absenteeism & Boosting Engagement](#) webinars moderated by National Governors Association

## ADDITIONAL UPDATES

- List of [Approved Assessments](#) for the 2025-2026 school year
- ODEW's updated [lists of approved core curriculum and instructional materials](#) in English language arts and [approved evidence-based reading intervention programs](#) are now available.
- The application due date for Ohio's [Comprehensive Literacy Development Grant](#) has been extended to April 8, 2025.

## Other Resources

- [NCSRC Grant Opportunities](#)
- [Ready or Not? A New Way to Measure Elementary and Middle School Quality](#), Jing Liu, Ph.D., Seth Gershenson, Ph.D., Max Anthenelli
- [Nudging Students and Families to Better Attendance](#), Phyllis W. Jordan
- [Kindergarten through Grade 4 Literacy Report for School Year 2023-2024](#), ODEW

## CIVIC LEARNING INSTITUTE: ONLINE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COURSES

The Institute is a program at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and offers online courses to help educators at all levels, from kindergarten through college, deepen their understanding of critical concepts in U.S. constitutional democracy and U.S. history. Each course is four weeks long and costs \$15. Registration and more information can be found [here](#).

## Training & Events

- [Ohio's Free Online PBIS Professional Development](#) - a new series of 14 asynchronous online modules
- [2025 Local Government Officials Conference](#) - March 27-28 at Hyatt Regency Columbus
  - Register by March 19; attendees have the opportunity to participate in a Certified Public Records Training on Wednesday, March 26 from 3:00 PM - 6:15 PM.
- [ReadOhio Policy Hour Webinar](#) - March 28, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
- [New EMIS Coordinator Training](#) - In-person, April 3, 10 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. in Columbus
  - Online sessions are scheduled for various days and times, April 7 through April 16
- [One Funding Training](#) - April 16, May 14, or June 11, virtual webinar, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
  - In-person training sessions are also scheduled throughout the state
- [National Charter Schools Conference](#) - June 29 to July 2 in Orlando, Florida



## Third Thursday Virtual Networking Meetings

**Thursday, March 20th at 11:00 a.m.** - This month's topic is the **Enrollment Documentation**. We'll be reviewing proper enrollment documentation you need to have on file and as part of your enrollment and re-enrollment process and the annual residency verification procedure. The meeting will take place using the google calendar link. Contact us if you have not received the invitation.





## Renovation Open House

After six years of planning, fundraising, and construction, DECA High proudly opened its doors to showcase the stunning completion of their \$6 million high school renovation - entirely debt-free, thanks to the generosity of their community and supporters.

DECA Ambassadors led guests on guided tours of the transformed space, highlighting key upgrades designed to enhance student learning and well-being. Visitors explored our secure entrances, state-of-the-art science labs, and open spaces with flexible seating to encourage collaboration. DECA's innovative maker space, brimming with potential, inspired conversations about hands-on learning and creativity. The final phase of renovations; our brand new cafeteria featuring a full-service kitchen, a stage for performances, and a fitness center, drew enthusiastic praise. Guests also got a first look at the new Bullpen school spirit store, a hub for showcasing DECA pride.

The evening was filled with excitement and appreciation as community leaders, supporters, and friends of DECA came together to celebrate this milestone. The evening concluded with a special ribbon-cutting ceremony, officially ushering in this new chapter for DECA High.





# Compliance and Epicenter Requirements

3/7/25 - Bureau of Workers Compensation and Public Risk Reduction; Records Retention Policy

3/14/25 - Asbestos Management Plan (AMP) and Inspection; Missing Children Policy and Informational Program

3/15/25 - Fiscal Officer Waiver

3/21/25 - Food Service Inspection; Food Service License;

3/28/25 - Final Approved Board Minutes

3/31/25 - Fire and Safety Drill Log; Monthly Financial and Enrollment Report

## Compliance Refresher

### Fraud Notification Training

**Overview:** Ohio Senate Bill 91 of the 135th General Assembly amended [ORC 4113.52](#) regarding reporting alleged fraud, theft in office, or misuse or misappropriation of public money, effective March 28, 2024. Separately, Ohio House Bill 33 of the 135th General Assembly amended [ORC 117.103](#) regarding training material provided by the Auditor of State (AOS) detailing Ohio's fraud reporting system and the means of reporting fraud, waste, and abuse. Law requires the AOS to confirm during the course of an audit, that public employees and elected officials have been provided material as required.

**Guidance from the ODEW/Office of Community Schools (OCS):** Fraud training does include community school governing authority members. Anyone paid by the school is covered by this law. If governing authority (GA) members are unpaid, you should check with legal counsel. The AOS bulletin explaining the requirement and a link to the AOS training video is [here](#). It only takes eight minutes and provides a certificate to confirm compliance with the requirement.

**Guidance from our counsel:** Technically, the changes to R.C. 117.103(B) require that every public employee and elected official of a political subdivision (i.e. community school) complete the training. If any GA member has been paid from the community school as a w-2 employee (which likely is not the case), they would need to complete the training. Governing authority members are not elected, and therefore they do not meet the definition of an "elected official" under R.C. 117.103(B) and receive a certificate of election under R.C. 3505.38 in order to have to complete with the training. However, given the short duration of the training and guidance from OCS, you may want to consider if it is a good practice for GA members to complete the training in any event.

**The bottom line:** This is not required of unpaid community school board members, but the Auditor's office will cite non-compliance in the school's annual audit. **As the requirement is satisfied by viewing a very brief video, we strongly recommend that school board members complete the training.**

### Requirements for schools:

- Current employees and elected officials are required to complete the training within ninety (90) days of November 30, 2024 unless good cause exists for completion at a later date.
- Each new employee or elected official shall confirm receipt of this material within thirty (30) days after taking office or beginning employment.
- The training shall be required every four (4) years for each employee or elected official.

**Resources:** Tools for tracking are available [here](#), including tracking sheets and reporting forms.

How we verify compliance:

1. Schools' contracts, as a responsibility of the governing authority, include compliance with Chapter 117, State fiscal auditing requirements and 4113.52, Ohio Whistleblower Law.
2. Epicenter task requirements to provide the Fraud Notification and the Training for Employees.