

# Legal Update

May 2023

## Sunshine Law Training

All board members, fiscal officers, the chief administrative officer and other administrative employees of each community school must complete training on Ohio's Open Meetings and Public Records laws by June 30, 2023 (if not sooner as required by your specific sponsor contract).

Please contact  
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to arrange training  
either in conjunction  
with your board  
meeting or to receive  
connection information  
to a special Zoom  
session.



## This Edition

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### Education Related Bills

Currently numerous education-related bills are in various stages of the legislative process in Ohio's House and Senate.

**Senate Bill 1** proposes to replace ODE with a new agency - the Department of Education and Workforce. The new DEW would be operated by two directors appointed by the governor. One division would focus on elementary and secondary education, the other on career-technical education. This would result in a transfer of most of Ohio's day-to-day education decision-making away from the State Board of Education. Currently, ODE is overseen by the state superintendent who answers to the 19-member body of elected and appointed members of the state Board of Education. Under SB 1 the state board and superintendent would still be responsible for some administrative functions, such as the adoption of requirements for educator licensure, disciplinary actions, and school district territory transfer determinations. This bill, now with the House to consider, is expected to pass into law.

**Senate Bill 27** would enact the Interstate Teacher Mobility Act, which as the name suggests, would allow teachers to obtain licensed teaching jobs in other states included in the network.

**Senate Bill 17** would require that concepts of free market capitalism be incorporated into state academic standards and model curriculum.

**Senate Bill 66** proposes requiring public and private schools to transmit a transferred student's records to the new school within five school days of receiving a request.

**House Bill 48** would require school boards to adopt a policy declaring that in the performance of professional duties, a staff member shall not engage in political, partisan, ideological, or religious advocacy by compelling a student to adhere to a specific political, ideological, or religious belief; or unfairly evaluate a student's work because it does not reflect a specific belief.



## College Credit Plus Update

In mid-April the Auditor of State released a bulletin regarding new audit requirements regarding College Credit Plus (CCP).

CCCP is the program that allows Ohio students to earn high school and college credits at the same time without paying college tuition. According to the AOS, the average participating student graduates from high school with nearly 15 college credits, equivalent to one semester and gains a competitive edge.

An August 2022 performance audit revealed areas in which schools were failing to comply with program requirements. As a result, the AOS will begin to require auditors to annually test CCP compliance beginning this school year.

At the time of this publication, the AOS had not yet issued the audit procedures; however, the bulletin suggested schools review their CCP and grading policies and CCP promotional materials to evaluate compliance.

Schools should evaluate, among other items, whether the school provided program information before February 1<sup>st</sup> of each year to students in grades 6-12; promotes the program on its website; scheduled at least 1 CCP information session each school year; has a policy of awarding grades and the calculation of class standing for CCP courses that includes equal GPA weighting as compared to AP/Honors courses; developed model course pathways.

## Q & A

**Q: What is the latest with the State Superintendent position?**

**A: Recently Interim State Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Stephanie Siddens announced plans to leave the Ohio Department of Education to begin employment elsewhere July 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**The State Board of Education approved a process to appoint a successor Interim Superintendent of Public Instruction, including asking Dr. Siddens for candidate recommendations.**

**The Board plans to interview candidates during their May Board meeting and then plans to appoint a new Interim Superintendent possibly also in May.**

## National Charter School Week

May 7<sup>th</sup> –13<sup>th</sup> is the 2023 National Charter Schools Week.

Annually this is a week to celebrate and highlight all of the good work charters do.

This year the event coincides with Teacher Appreciation Week. As such, the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools encourages charters across the country to celebrate not only their unique schools but their teachers as well.

For ideas of how your school can celebrate visit:

<https://www.publiccharters.org/what-you-can-do/celebrate-national-charter-schools-week>

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