

# BRIEF CASE

THE OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

Serving the public school leadership team



## Children are demographic most likely to face eviction, study reports

A survey of 38 million eviction court cases released this month reveals that children under age 9 are the demographic most likely to face eviction in the U.S. This is thought to be linked to the circumstances in which families experience financial crisis: often, having children leaves a family less financially stable than it was before, making events such as job loss more impactful and missed rent payments more likely. Housing insecurity during key periods of development can lead to academic underachievement and other risk factors. Read the study at [www.pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.2305860120](http://www.pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.2305860120). OSBA's Leading Our Learners page has a list of resources for educators wishing to address poverty and its effects on students at [www.leadingourlearners.org/overcoming-barriers-to-achievement/poverty](http://www.leadingourlearners.org/overcoming-barriers-to-achievement/poverty).

## Nominations open for 2024 statewide advisory committees

Board members of all backgrounds and experience levels are invited to consider volunteering on an OSBA statewide advisory committee. It's a great way to get to know other board members and to make your district's voice heard in the organization. All prospective committee members, including those who served in 2023, must submit an application to be considered for one of the roles. Committees currently seeking volunteers include the Audit Committee, Diversity and Equity Committee, Student Achievement Leadership Team, Investment Committee and more. Applications for the term beginning Jan. 1 close on Nov. 17, so if you'd like to serve on a 2024 committee, visit [www.ohioschoolboards.org/call-committee-nominations](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/call-committee-nominations) today.

## Going to the Capital Conference? Start here

Attendee resources for the 2023 Capital Conference are online at <http://conference.ohioschoolboards.org/attendee-resources>. These include the Conference Guide, which contains comprehensive information about keynote speakers; workshop topics and presenters; Trade Show exhibitors; networking receptions; related events and meetings; and much more. You'll also find the Conference Planning Guide and Delegate Handbook. Start preparing to make the most of your Capital Conference experience today.

## October is Dyslexia Awareness Month

Schools around Ohio are taking action to support students with dyslexia, a learning disability characterized by unexpected difficulties with accurate or fluent word recognition and poor spelling and decoding abilities not consistent with the person's intelligence, motivation and sensory capabilities. This is a great time to

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### Route workshop information to:

- Administrators
- Principals
- Communication specialists
- Transportation supervisors

review Ohio's Dyslexia Guidebook, available at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/ohio/dyslexia-guidebook>, and ensure your district's support systems for dyslexia and other learning differences are up to date — and all your learners have the opportunity to fulfill their highest potential.

### New resources help schools support justice-involved students

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) has a new webpage designed to help districts support students who are involved with the legal system. Schools have a key role to play in minimizing educational disruptions and providing guidance before and after a student is in court or enters a correctional facility, and a plan for helping justice-involved students maintain their schooling

is a component of Ohio's Every Student Succeeds Act requirements. Visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/ohio/legal-system> to view ODE's District Plans for Educational Stability and Successful Transitions for Justice-Involved Students resource pages.

### Wadsworth students explore careers in agriculture

From piloting drones through obstacle courses to hands-on experiments extracting DNA from strawberries, students at **Wadsworth City's** Wadsworth Middle School explored potential agriculture careers in a dynamic Ag Day event coordinated by the Ohio State University Extension of Medina County.

This year, seventh-graders took part for the first time, redirecting the focus towards career pathways. Professionals in fields like animal husbandry and horticulture shared insights, broadening students' perspectives. Wadsworth Middle School Principal **Eric Jackson** emphasized the program's significance, offering students' exposure to various career options and real-life encounters, encouraging them to discover their passions and preferences.

Source: [medina-gazette.com](http://medina-gazette.com)

### Apply for Green Ribbon Schools recognition in November

Each year, the U.S. Department of Education recognizes schools that are making strides for sustainability, student well-being and environmental stewardship with its Green Ribbon Schools award. Districts must apply by Nov. 17 to be considered. For more information and to download the application form, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/ohio/green-ribbon>.

### OSBA online

● [www.ohioschoolboards.org](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org)

OSBA's five regions celebrated Ohio's public schools with awards, student entertainment and thought-provoking conversation at this year's fall region conferences. Members are invited to view photos of each event on the association's Flickr page at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/ohschoolboards.org>.



## Briefcase

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Leading the way as the respected voice of Ohio public education.



# BULLETIN BOARD

compiled by Melanie Price, senior administrative assistant of communication services

## National searches

Position	Location	Deadline	Contact
Superintendent	Arlington, Texas	Oct. 30	<b>Butch Felkner</b> , executive search services director, Texas Association of School Boards, (800) 580-8272

## Board changes

Clear Fork Local (Richland) appointed **Brian Johnson** to the board effective Sept. 20. He will replace **Koti Epperson**, who resigned in August.

## Administrative changes

### Superintendent

Celina City Superintendent Dr. **Kenneth J. Schmiesing** announced his retirement effective Jan. 1. ••• Orrville City Superintendent **James J. Ritchie** announced his resignation effective Dec. 31.

### Treasurer

Ottawa Hills Local (Lucas) Treasurer **Bradley S. Brown** announced his resignation effective Dec. 31.

## Sympathies

Former Ontario Local (Richland) Board of Education member **Linda Lou Crider** died Sept. 26. She was 83.



**OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION**

PLANNING FOR SUCCESS



What will your district look like two, five or eight years down the road?

As leaders in your district, it's important to look toward the future and anticipate opportunities and roadblocks in preparing students for school and lifetime success.

Let OSBA be your partner in developing an effective, aligned strategic plan to map your district's future. Call OSBA's Division of Board and Management Services at (800) 589-OSBA to get started today.



# COMMUNICATIONS

by Angela Penquite, deputy director of communication services

## Region scholarships available for aspiring educators

Four regional scholarships are available to support high school seniors who plan to pursue a degree in education or work with children. These scholarships, which provide grants for books or other supplies, include:

- **Bonnie Eddy** Educational Supply and Book Grant;
- **Lester Marrison** Teacher Education Book Grant;
- **Ronald J. Diver** Memorial Scholarship;
- Southeast Region Education Book Grant.

The Bonnie Eddy Educational Supply and Book Grant is presented to four high school seniors who plan to major in teacher education and whose school district is a member of OSBA's Northwest Region. The award is named in memory of Eddy, who served as OSBA president in 1993-1994 and on the **Napoleon Area City and Four County Career Center** boards. High school seniors are eligible to apply for one of the annual \$500 awards. Students can download an application at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/NWgrantapplication>. The application deadline is Dec. 1.

The Lester Marrison Teacher

Education Book Grant is a \$1,000 grant awarded to a high school senior in OSBA's Northeast Region who intends to become a teacher. The award is named for Marrison, who served as a board member at **Pymatuning Valley Local (Ashtabula), Ashtabula County ESC and Ashtabula County Technical & Career Campus**. Marrison also was a longtime member of the Northeast Region Executive Committee and OSBA Board of Trustees. The application is posted at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/ne-region](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/ne-region). The deadline is Jan. 15.

The Ronald J. Diver Memorial Scholarship is presented to a high school senior who plans to attend an accredited college or university, career-technical school or technical college; who has demonstrated potential as an educational, business or community leader and competent professional; and whose school district board is a member of OSBA in the Southwest Region. The \$1,000 scholarship honors Diver, who served as OSBA president in 1998 and on the **Carlisle Local (Warren) and Miami Valley Career Technology**

**Center** boards before serving as the Southwest regional manager. Students can access the application at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/sw-region](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/sw-region). The deadline is Dec. 1.

The Southeast Region Education Book Grant provides a \$500 grant to high school seniors who have demonstrated an interest in teaching or working with children and whose school district is a member of OSBA's Southeast Region. The application deadline is Dec. 1; the application is posted at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/se-region](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/se-region).

While not specifically awarded to students who hope to teach, the OSBA Black Caucus **Leo Lucas** Scholarship provides graduating ethnically diverse high school seniors funds for college. The scholarship is named for the late Leo Lucas, a **Dayton City** school board member and educator who founded the caucus. It honors his memory by providing scholarships for students graduating from Ohio public school districts. The application period opens Jan. 5; a link to the online application will be available at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/osba-black-caucus](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/osba-black-caucus).



# Master of Transportation Administrator Series



## Student transportation administrator training program

The safety, reliability and efficiency of a district's bus service are maximized when the school transportation manager has the specific knowledge and skills needed to manage the service effectively. The goal of the Master Transportation Administrator (MTA) program is to provide learning opportunities in the many key areas affecting transportation.

OSBA brings its depth of resources in safety practices, fleet management, federal regulations, and state codes for student transportation together to support this training curriculum. This program exceeds the requirement in Ohio Administrative Code for annual transportation in-service training.

### Curriculum

The complete curriculum includes classes in each of three proficiencies – compliance, operations management and governance (including policy and fiscal matters). Each year of the curriculum focuses on just one of these proficiencies.

Complete all three-modules and the district project framework question form, to be acknowledged as a Master Transportation Administrator by OSBA.



### MTA Module 1

Routing and technology  
Sept. 20, 2023



### MTA Module 2

Personnel management  
Oct. 25, 2023



### MTA Module 3

Transportation rules and regulations  
Nov. 29, 2023



### MTA Module 4

The transportation handbook  
Jan. 24, 2024



### MTA Module 5

Public relations and working with the media  
Feb. 21, 2024



### MTA Module 6

Designing your operational plan, and building keys for success  
March 20, 2024







# Auditorium Stage Equipment Safety 101

## Why attend

Is your stage a safe gathering place for your students? Get valuable insights from **Dan McLaughlin**, president of Scenic Solutions, about the basic safety checks and inspections your school's theatrical equipment should be receiving and the safety practices you may not know you need.

## Key takeaways

- Learn best practices for regular inspections of theatrical equipment, especially stage rigging, soft goods, electrical wiring and lighting apparatus.
- Discuss fire safety best practices.
- Review common sense rules for everyone utilizing your auditorium's theatrical elements.

## Date and time

**Thursday, Oct. 26**  
**9 a.m.-10 a.m.**

## Location

Virtual

## Cost

Free

## Register

[www.ohioschoolboards.org/events](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/events)



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[www.ohioschoolboards.org](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org)  
8050 N. High Street, Suite 100 | Columbus, Ohio 43235

# Reasonable Suspicion Training



## Why attend

Reasonable suspicion drug and alcohol training is the responsibility of all employers who manage drivers with commercial driver's licenses (CDLs) to ensure their staff is trained. OSBA's training is tailored specifically to school district needs. Completion of this course meets the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration U.S. Department of Transportation (FMCSA) requirements. Attendees will receive a certificate of completion. Best practice is that each district has at least two individuals on staff trained.

## Date and time

Thursday, Dec. 7  
10 a.m.-noon

## Location

Virtual

## Cost

\$65

## Register

[www.ohioschoolboards.org/events](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/events)



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# WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

Register at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops)

OSBA members can access member-only information, including workshop registration, by logging in to the OSBA website.

## How to log in

Click on “Log in to your account” on the top right of the website. Log in using your email address on file and your password. Click “Reset your password” if needed.

If it says “We could not find your email address,” or if this is your first time logging in to the site, click “Create new account.” At the username prompt, enter your email address, select your affiliation and school district, and click “Submit.” Create a password and add your job title on the next screen. An email with a link to activate your account will be sent to you. Click on the link to activate your account, and you will be directed to a home screen.



OHIO SCHOOL  
BOARDS ASSOCIATION

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT FAIR 2023

### Nominate a student program or artwork

The OSBA Capital Conference Student Achievement Fair highlights outstanding student performance groups and fresh, innovative initiatives from school districts across the state. The fair will be held during the OSBA Capital Conference.



#### DATE

Monday, Nov. 13

#### TIME

10 a.m.-2 p.m.

#### LOCATION

Greater Columbus  
Convention Center

#### NOMINATION DEADLINE

Friday, Oct. 27

#### Student Achievement Fair district programs

The Student Achievement Fair showcases exemplary programs that improve student achievement. Examples of district programs in the Student Achievement Fair include photography, agricultural, environmental, science and transition-to-work programs.

#### Student digital art display

The Student Achievement Fair features a digital student art show. Outstanding artwork by students from school districts across the state will be on display.

#### Have questions? Contact:

##### Amanda Husmann

[ahusmann@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:ahusmann@ohioschoolboards.org)

##### Kim Miller-Smith

[kmillersmith@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:kmillersmith@ohioschoolboards.org)

(614) 540-4000 or (800) 589-OSBA

Scan the QR code for booth details or to nominate a student program or artwork.







# LEGISLATIVE REPORT

by Nicole Piscitani, lobbyist

## New education bills introduced during the fall legislative session

The Ohio General Assembly is back in session after a two-month summer recess and legislators have introduced several education-related bills in the Ohio Senate.

### Senate Bill (SB) 162

Senate Bill 162, introduced by Sen. **Andrew O. Brenner** (R-Delaware), would require public schools to provide certain academic intervention services to each student who demonstrates a limited level of understanding in math and/or English language arts. School districts could provide the services directly, through a contracted vendor, or using a combination of both approaches.

In addition to requiring that a school district provide intervention services, the bill creates a reporting and monitoring framework for student intervention needs. School districts would be required to annually notify the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) of all of the following:

- The number of qualifying students enrolled in the district or school;
- The number of qualifying

students receiving academic intervention services in math, English language arts, or both;

- The number of qualifying students receiving academic intervention services from the district or school directly, through a vendor, or through a combination of both options.

The bill requires each school to notify the parent or guardian of a student who qualifies for academic intervention services prior to the student receiving those services. Additionally, the bill would include the following:

- Require that all academic intervention services provided to a qualifying student align with the academic instruction the student receives.
- Require English language arts instruction to align with the science of reading.
- Require that the academic intervention services provided to qualifying students not supplant the student's core academic instructional time.
- Require each school to periodically update the parent or guardian on the academic intervention services provided to the student and provide resources and

recommendations for ways the parent or guardian may assist the student.

Lastly, the bill includes a requirement that beginning with the 2024-25 school year, DEW randomly select 5% of districts, community schools, and STEM schools for a review of their academic intervention services.

The Senate Education Committee held sponsor testimony on SB 162 and plans to hold additional hearings throughout the remainder of 2023.

### Senate Bill 168

Senate Bill 168, introduced by Sen. **Michele Reynolds** (R-Canal Winchester), would make several changes to teacher licensure and professional development; as well as remove several obsolete provisions of law, among other changes.

Under current law, a school district that meets certain state report card benchmarks — including at least an 85% performance index score; an “A” grade for performance indicators; and at least a 93% four-year and 95% five-year adjusted cohort

*Continued on page 10*

graduation — may be exempt from complying with requirements related to teacher qualification and licensing, mentoring under the Ohio Teacher Residency Program, certain classroom size standards and other requirements. The exemption is for three years only and does not include a renewal.

The bill would permit a school district to renew an exemption and removes the “A” grade for performance indicators due to the discontinuing A-F system on the State Report Card. DEW would be required to annually notify districts, by Sept. 30, of their new or continued eligibility for the exemption.

SB 168 also includes language that would allow schools districts to develop and use their own framework for teacher evaluations. A school district could still use the State Board of Education developed framework but wouldn’t be required to. Additionally, the bill makes several changes related to teacher licensure:

- Modifies license or certificate qualifications for senior or lead professional educators to hold a bachelor’s degree, instead of a master’s degree, as required in current law.
- Requires an individual who holds at least a bachelor’s degree to be issued a professional pupil services license in the area of school counselor or school

psychologist, if the applicant satisfies criteria for the professional pupil service license and relevant subject areas as prescribed by the State Board.

- Modifies the requirement for the professional administrator and alternative superintendent licenses to allow individuals with at least a bachelor’s degree who meet all other criteria prescribed by the State Board to receive licenses. Additionally, the bill codifies the State Board rules into law.
- Permits a school district, community school, or STEM school to employ an unlicensed individual as a teacher, provided the individual holds at least a master’s degree; has successfully completed an exam prescribed by the State Board for the subject area in which the individual will teach; and meets certain other requirements.

Finally, the bill modifies a few additional education-related provisions as follows:

- Eliminates seniority as a preference when making reductions in nonteaching staff positions. Employees under continuing contracts would maintain initial preference but not based on seniority, unless the district is making a decision between two employees with comparable evaluations. Additionally, the bill would

remove seniority as a preferential factor when evaluating restoration of employees whose service under continuing contracts was suspended under a force reduction plan when a position became vacant or was created.

- Allows school districts to determine the number of instruction hours for dyslexia training for professional development if that number is within the statutory requirement of 6 to 18 hours.
- Permits a school district to apply for a waiver from dyslexia screening requirements if the district proves that a student received a dyslexia screening in the prior school year.
- Modifies a contracting requirement related to districts offering classes for high school credit outside the normal school day by making the supplemental contract permissive instead of mandatory.
- Clarifies that a school district is not required to hold a separate, individual public hearing on a proposed school calendar, but that the calendar may be addressed as part of another public hearing or meeting.

SB 168 had a first hearing in the Senate Education Committee and is expected to receive additional hearings during the remainder of 2023.



# PUBLIC SCHOOLS WORK!

compiled by Scott Gerfen, assistant editor

## Perry Local dedicates butterfly garden to former teacher

Once a wild patch of plants and vines, a plot of land on the edge of **Perry Local's (Stark)** Genoa Elementary School has been transformed into a vibrant outdoor learning space, thanks to the vision of a late educator.

Before her death from pancreatic cancer, **Ellen Bergman** envisioned turning the uncultivated land into an outdoor classroom for students.

In a heartfelt tribute, school staff, students, community leaders and Bergman's family gathered to

dedicate the area as a butterfly garden in her memory.

Bergman, a passionate reading specialist, initiated Project M at the school, teaching children about monarch butterflies. Project M allowed students to witness the lifecycle of monarchs and release butterflies every September.

To honor Bergman's legacy, a butterfly garden now graces the school grounds, serving as a testament to her dedication to hands-on learning.

The ceremony featured heartfelt moments, including Bergman's granddaughter reading a poem and students singing. The Bergman family donated a bench for the garden with a plaque inscribed with one of Ellen's favorite sayings: "We are here to love others." Genoa Elementary School donated a second bench with a plaque that reads, "Spread your wings and read."

Source: Port Clinton News Herald



Unlock your students' full potential

Student achievement workshops deliver customized results to guide your district to success

To schedule your customized training session, contact Kim Miller-Smith, senior student achievement consultant, at (614) 540-4000 or [kmillersmith@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:kmillersmith@ohioschoolboards.org).



OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

**October 2023**

- 24 OSBA Forum ..... Virtual
- 25 MTA 2023-24 Module 2: Personnel Management..... Columbus and Virtual
- 26 Northwest Region Fall Conference ..... Fostoria
- 26 Auditorium Stage Equipment Safety 101, Public Schools Edition ..... Virtual
- 26 *Pre-general election campaign finance reports must be filed by certain candidates appearing on the ballot (by 4 p.m.) detailing contributions and expenditures made from the last day reflected in the previous report to the close of business on Oct. 18, 2023 (12 days before election) – RC 3517.10(A)(1).*
- 31 *End of first ADM reporting period – RC 3317.03(A).*

**November 2023**

- 2 Capital Conference Business Briefing ..... Virtual
- 7 *General Election Day; Special Election Day – RC 3501.01 (first Tuesday after the first Monday).*
- 12-14 OSBA Capital Conference ..... Columbus
- 12 Northeast Region Executive Committee Meeting ..... Columbus
- 12 Northwest Region Executive Committee Meeting ..... Columbus

- 12 Southeast Region Executive Committee Meeting ..... Columbus
- 13 Central Region Executive Committee Meeting ..... Columbus
- 29 MTA 2023-24 Module 3: Transportation Rules & Regulations ..... Columbus and Virtual
- 30 *Deadline to file consolidated school mandate report – RC 3301.68; last day for the board of education to submit its five-year projection of operational revenues and expenditures for the current fiscal year and the ensuing four fiscal years to the Ohio Department of Education – RC 5705.391.*

**December 2023**

- 1 Winter School Finance Workshop ..... Westerville
- 7 Southwest Region Executive Committee Meeting ..... West Chester
- 7 Reasonable suspicion webinar ..... Virtual
- 10 *Last day to submit certification for income tax levy to Ohio Department of Taxation for March election – RC 5748.02(A) (100 days prior to election).*
- 12 Coffee Chat: Cost of Taking Payments in K-12 Education..... Virtual

- 15 *Last day to submit emergency or current operating expenses levy to county auditor for March election – RC 5705.194, 5705.195, 5705.213, 5705.219(C) (95 days prior to the election) post-general election campaign finance reports must be filed by certain candidates appearing on the ballot (by 4 p.m.) detailing contributions and expenditures made from the last day reflected in the previous request to the close of business on Dec. 8, 2023 (38 days after the election) – RC 3517.10(A)(2).*
- 19 OSBA Forum ..... Virtual
- 20 *Last day for school district to file resolution of necessity, resolution to proceed and auditor’s certification for bond levy with board of elections for March election – RC 133.18(D); last day for county auditor to certify school district bond levy terms for March election – RC 133.18(C); last day to submit continuing replacement, permanent improvement or operating levy for March election to board of elections – RC 5705.192, 5705.21, 5705.25; last day to certify resolution for school district income tax levy or renewal of conversion levy for March election to board of elections – RC 5748.02(C), 5705.219(G); last day to submit emergency levy for March election to board of elections – RC 5705.195.*