

# BRIEF CASE

THE OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

Serving the public school leadership team



## Conference materials heading to school district treasurers this week

Packages containing name badges, tickets, ribbons and the Conference Guide for the 2018 OSBA Capital Conference and Trade Show are being shipped to school district treasurers this week. If your district has not yet registered for the 63rd annual conference, Nov. 11-13 in Columbus, contact **Lesley Moore** at (614) 540-4000, (800) 589-OSBA or [Lmoore@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:Lmoore@ohioschoolboards.org). You also can download registration forms online at <http://conference.ohioschoolboards.org/registration>. OSBA is again offering its members a special school district group registration rate: once a district has signed up more than six people, an unlimited number of additional individuals can register for free. For conference details, visit <http://conference.ohioschoolboards.org>.

## Kirwan Institute releases implicit bias training series for K-12 educators

The Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race & Ethnicity at Ohio State University has announced that it has created the nation's first free and publicly available online implicit bias module series tailored specifically for K-12 educators. The modules include videos, activities and other resources that districts, school buildings and others can use. Kirwan said it believes in the importance of education and training on key topics like implicit bias, historic inequities in the education system and education policy as a comprehensive approach to addressing disparities in K-12 education outcomes. The institute created the online resource because many school districts have limited ability to equip teachers and staff with resources and training related to implicit bias. The modules are available at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/73520>.

## NSBA accepting 2019 Magna Award nominations

The National School Boards Association (NSBA) is seeking nominations for the 2019 Magna Awards. These prestigious national awards recognize best practices in public school districts around the nation. The 2019 program will focus on equity in education by recognizing district programs that remove barriers to achievement for vulnerable or underserved children. A grand prize and five winners will be awarded in these enrollment categories: under 5,000, 5,000-20,000 and over 20,000. NSBA, the American School Board Journal and Sodexo School Services sponsor the program. The nomination deadline is Oct. 31. For details and to submit nominations, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/29781>.

## SERB announces public sector collective bargaining filing requirements

Ohio law requires the State Employment Relations Board (SERB) to collect and analyze all public sector collective bargaining agreements and provide the public and collective bargaining stakeholders with a reliable source of information. The board

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### Route workshop information to:

- ☐ Administrative professionals
- ☐ Administrators
- ☐ Building principals
- ☐ New board members

created the SERB Clearinghouse database to house, manage and preserve this data. To assure the database's accuracy and integrity, state law also requires all Ohio public employers to file copies of all contracts, memorandums of understanding, contract amendments and related documents with SERB within 30 days of completion. Employers must file these documents at [research@serb.ohio.gov](mailto:research@serb.ohio.gov). For questions, contact **Justin Brown** at (614) 466-1122 or [justin.brown@serb.ohio.gov](mailto:justin.brown@serb.ohio.gov).

### **ODE calls for Green Ribbon Schools nominations**

The Ohio Department of Education is seeking schools to apply to be among the state's nominees for the federal Green Ribbon Schools program, which recognizes schools focused on energy efficiency, sustainability and healthy school environments.

Nomination forms are available at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/44111>. Selected schools will be asked to provide additional information for the nomination materials that will be sent to the U.S. Department of Education. The deadline to submit applications is Nov. 20.

### **Middle school students read to shelter dogs**

For an hour once a week, middle school students sit with their legs crossed in front of cages at the Knox County Animal Shelter and begin reading aloud from a book of their choice.

The Working Dogs Awareness Group (WAGS), started by **Mount Vernon City** sixth-grade teacher **Trudy Debolt**, not only instills a love for reading but also is translating into more adoptions, she told a local TV station. WAGS has grown in popularity, from about a dozen students a few years ago to about 50. Many of them, like **Alex Back**, are repeat readers.

"In the beginning, (the dogs) are really shy, and they feel like there is no hope for them, but then we make them realize that people are not going to hurt them," Back said.

Source: WCMH-TV

### **October is National Bullying Prevention Month**

Schools and communities across the nation will observe National Bullying Prevention Month in October. Many websites offer resources to increase awareness of the issue and help prevent bullying, including: [www.stopbullying.gov](http://www.stopbullying.gov), [www.pacer.org/bullying/nbpm](http://www.pacer.org/bullying/nbpm) and <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/23931>.

### **OSBA online**

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

The 2018 OSBA VendorBook is now posted at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/vendorbook>. You can use this directory to find a wealth of school goods, services and programs. The VendorBook can link you with firms offering nearly everything schools need to increase student achievement and maximize resources. Most of the Capital Conference Trade Show exhibitors are listed in the VendorBook.



## **Briefcase**

Ohio School Boards Association  
8050 North High Street, Suite 100  
Columbus, OH 43235-6481  
(614) 540-4000 — (800) 589-OSBA  
fax: (614) 540-4100 ● [www.ohioschoolboards.org](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org)

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*A one-year subscription to Briefcase is \$135 for up to 15 subscribers. Briefcase also is available electronically by email or by fax. For more information, contact Lesley Moore at the address or fax number above or email [Lmoore@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:Lmoore@ohioschoolboards.org). Briefcase is published semimonthly by the Ohio School Boards Association. Postage paid at Westerville, Ohio. Postmaster: Send address changes to: Briefcase, Attn.: Mailroom, Ohio School Boards Association, 8050 N. High St., Suite 100, Columbus, OH 43235-6481.*

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OSBA leads the way to educational excellence by serving Ohio's public school board members and the diverse districts they represent through superior service, unwavering advocacy and creative solutions.



# BULLETIN BOARD

compiled by Melanie Price, senior administrative assistant of communication services

## Other searches

Position	Location	Deadline	Contact
Superintendent	Archbold Area Local (Fulton)	Oct. 12	<b>Valerie Nafziger</b> , administrative assistant, Archbold Area Local, (419) 446-2728
Treasurer	Chippewa Local (Wayne)	Sept. 26	<b>Todd Steven Osborn</b> , superintendent, Chippewa Local, (330) 658-6368, ext. 101

## Board changes

**Beachwood City** appointed **Jamie Elwell** to the board effective Aug. 29. She replaced **Michael D. Zawatsky**, who resigned effective Aug. 27.

## Administrative changes

### Superintendents

**Chillicothe City** Superintendent **Jon C. Saxton** announced his resignation effective Aug. 23. The district hired Assistant Superintendent **Debbie Swinehart** as interim superintendent effective Aug. 27. ●●● **Miami County ESC** hired **David A. Larson** as superintendent effective Aug. 1. He replaced **Tom Dunn**, who retired effective July 31. Larson previously was the ESC's director of curriculum and instruction.

### Editor's note

Job postings must be received six weeks before the application deadline to ensure timely publication. Thank you for your cooperation.

## Sympathies

Former **Austintown Local (Mahoning)** Board of Education member **John J. "Jack" Dick Sr.** died Sept. 2. He was 84. ●●● Former **Liberty Local (Trumbull)** Board of Education member **Michael A. Marsco Jr.** died Sept. 6. He was 62. ●●● Former **Niles City** Board of Education member **Claude H. Westfall** died Aug. 27. He was 87. ●●● **Henry Charles Baumgardner**, a member of the former **Westwood School District** Board of Education in Hancock County, died Aug. 26. He was 88.



## We can help you reach agreement

OSBA's bargaining consultation services offer your district comprehensive representation during negotiations and/or traditional and alternative bargaining styles.

Bargaining consultation clients receive:

- low-cost service fees;
- flexible rates;
- experienced negotiators;
- statewide experience.

For more information on how bargaining consultation can work for your district, contact OSBA's legal services division at (614) 540-4000 or (800) 589-OSBA.



## COMMUNICATIONS

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by Jackie Smith, communications consultant

### Parent engagement: Making it work in a 24/7 world

Educators agree that parent involvement — both at home and school — has a significant and positive impact on student academic achievement.

Parent involvement is defined, in part, as the participation of parents in regular, two-way, meaningful communication that involves both academics and school activities.

Today's parents are challenged to make time for such involvement. Some parents are active both at home and school. Other parents don't have the time, ability, confidence or know-how to engage in their child's school or classroom activities.

All of those factors can make it difficult to get a handle on parent engagement. One classroom may have more engaged parents than it can handle, while another may struggle to have any parent involvement at all. Some educators who are working to get more parents involved also may be dealing with parents who've become so involved that they are becoming detrimental to the education process.

The key is to find balance in the amount and type of parent involvement and inform parents of the importance of participating at school.

The following tips are designed to help schools develop a planned approach to parent engagement and provide new ideas to those who already have a plan.

#### **Develop a plan for parent engagement at school**

First, define the activities that need parent help or would encourage parent participation. Have a brainstorming session at a staff meeting. Be sure to think outside the classroom environment. Are there other areas where parents could be involved such as playgrounds, the school office, library, computer center, health room or lunchroom?

Think about classroom activities. Could a parent listen to students read, help lead small group discussions or work specifically with his or her child? Would it be helpful to invite parents to classroom presentations? Do you need to set a limit on the number of parents in a classroom? How many parents could realistically help in a classroom on a school day without being disruptive to the learning process?

After you have a list of ideas, talk about them. Encourage staff to voice support and concerns about each idea. It is vital to the success of this plan to receive approval

from staff. Nothing will kill parent engagement faster than inviting a busy parent to school and then making the parent feel unwelcome and in the way.

During the first year of the plan, select a dozen ideas to incorporate into the school schedule. The ideas should offer a variety of activities for parents to participate in at home and at school. Include the amount of time required to participate in each activity.

Develop a brief description — similar to a job description — for each activity. Specify its purpose and why it is important. Include dates, times and the physical abilities required for school activities that might preclude parents from participating. The ability to bend, lift and sit on the floor or in small chairs might keep some parents from participating. Describe any special skills that are needed, including a second language, or special requirements such as law enforcement fingerprinting and/or background checks.

#### **Publicize your parent engagement plan**

Put your plan on paper and then put it to work. The first step is to publicize it. Mention it in

*Continued on page 5*



# OSBA MASTER OF TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION (MTA) PROGRAM

This series of workshops will help those involved in student transportation better understand and perform day-to-day operations.

These half-day workshops — offered from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. — include a working lunch and time for questions. Each class is scheduled twice; participants may sign up for either session. Each class is \$95, or you can purchase an MTA subscription for the workshop series; contact **Diana Paulins**, OSBA senior administrative assistant of board and management services, for subscription information. All workshops will be at the OSBA office, 8050 N. High St., Columbus, 43235. Visit [www.ohioschoolboards.org/transportation-training-programs](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/transportation-training-programs) to learn about the MTA certification program.



## Workshop dates and descriptions

### **Oct. 15 or 18 — The budget process — local and state**

Transportation is a significant cost center in every school district. Learn about the local and state budget process, including a review of cost analyses and how to find them, what to do with them and what the numbers mean. Consider bringing your department budget to this class to apply these techniques to it.

### **Nov. 28 or Dec. 6 — Transportation rules and regulations**

Review the rules and regulations that govern pupil transportation in Ohio. Look at state law, administrative code and the role that local policy plays in a successful operation. This class is essential for new transportation administrators as well as any school administrators involved with transportation services. These are the standards to which you are held and for which liability can be assigned when your department fails to meet them.

### **Feb. 6 or 13 — Federal regulations, guidance and agencies**

School transportation is not only governed by local rules, it is subject to a significant number of federal agencies, rules and regulations. We will look at the external impacts on transportation and review the federal alphabet soup, including FMCSA, NHTSA, NTSB, TSB and ODI, as well as landmark federal studies on school transportation.

### **March 6 or 13 — Laws, rules and policy — what, how and why**

What is the difference between revised code, administrative code and department policy? Are they all mandates or just best practices? What happens when they conflict? Review the technical aspects of these various regulatory controls and the process through which ideas become rules or regulations. Learn how you can help influence the future.

### **April 3 or 10 — Hot topics — safety, trends and statistics**

Review hot topics in student transportation, including seat belts in school buses. Learn about NTSB accident studies, Ohio school bus accident statistics and any topics that attendees bring from their local districts. While we look at these hot topics, an underlying focus also is on how to identify the learning points in each of these areas and share them with the staff that delivers our front-line transportation services.

Register by contacting **Diana Paulins** at (614) 540-4000, (800) 589-OSBA or [mta@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:mta@ohioschoolboards.org). You also can purchase a subscription plan for all the workshops in this series; contact Paulins for more information.



# Collective Bargaining in Schools: From Theory to Practice

Monday, Oct. 1, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
OSBA office, Columbus • Cost: \$160

Developed especially for anyone new to public schools and collective bargaining, this workshop will focus on the basics of Ohio's collective bargaining laws, negotiated agreements and the different types of bargaining processes. Once the groundwork is laid, we'll focus on real-life experiences in school negotiations: nuances of contract language, do's and don'ts of proposals, bargaining techniques, team composition and negotiation strategy. Whether you are a new attorney, board member or administrator, this workshop will increase your overall understanding of the process and allow your district to be more effective "at the table."

## Agenda

**8:30 a.m.**      **Registration and continental breakfast (provided)**

**8:55 a.m.**      **Welcome**

**9 a.m.**            **Collective bargaining basics: Why, what and how to negotiate**  
The process of collective bargaining is governed by Ohio Revised Code 4117, State Employment Relations Board decisions and local practice. Review the legal scope of bargaining, the duty to negotiate in good faith, mandatory versus permissive subjects of bargaining and different types of bargaining models. This session also will discuss unfair labor practice charges.  
*Van D. Keating, senior staff attorney, OSBA*

**10 a.m.**          **Break**

**10:15 a.m.**    **Preparation, proposals, goals and strategies**  
How school districts and their unions prepare for negotiations can have a significant influence on the outcome. Gathering information, analyzing data and developing and drafting proposals are important steps that often are underestimated or overlooked. Learn how careful preparation can result in successful negotiations.  
*Kevin J. Locke, Esq., co-managing partner, Pepple & Waggoner Ltd.*

**11:30 a.m.**    **Lunch (provided)**

**12:15 p.m.**    **The bargaining team: Selection, roles and responsibilities**

Representing a school district in negotiations can be a frustrating experience for anyone unfamiliar with the process. Face-to-face bargaining can be confrontational and, at times, very personal. Learn how to select bargaining team members, recognize group dynamics, assign responsibilities and ensure that every team member is prepared.  
*Megan E. Greulich, staff attorney, OSBA*

**1 p.m.**            **Effectively managing the bargaining process**  
Once negotiations start, developing an efficient plan for discussing proposals, making counter-proposals, reaching agreements and managing time can all become significant issues for the parties. Learn how to manage the strict negotiations deadlines established in Ohio law and use those deadlines to your advantage.  
*Van D. Keating*

**2 p.m.**            **Impasse, settlement or strike?**  
What happens when a district and union fail to reach an agreement for a new contract? Learn the consequences of failed negotiations and the processes that surround impasse and the union's option to go on strike. We'll discuss impasse, mediation, fact-finding, strike notices, strike planning and how districts can operate effectively during a strike.  
*Van D. Keating and George M. Albu, commissioner, Federal Mediation & Conciliation Service*

**3 p.m.**            **Adjourn**

Register online at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops) or contact **Laurie Miller**, OSBA senior events manager, at (614) 540-4000, (800) 589-OSBA or [Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org).

# Seat belts — are they right for school buses or not?



Join us for a frank discussion on the relative safety of school buses. We will look at design features already included in buses, the construction standards that all buses must comply with and what may or may not be missing on today's school buses. We also will view government crash test footage and consider the dynamics of passenger restraints in school buses and their impact on passenger safety.

While cost should never be the deciding factor, we will examine the total cost of outfitting school buses with passenger restraints. The discussion will include a look at the impact investing scarce resources in seat belts has on the bigger picture of student safety.

**Presenter:** Pete Japikse, OSBA senior transportation consultant

**Details:** This workshop is Wednesday, Oct. 3, from 10 a.m. to noon at the OSBA office.

**Cost:** \$50

**Registration:** Online at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops) or contact Laurie Miller, senior events manager, at (614) 540-4000, (800) 589-OSBA or [Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org)

## THINK BIG!

When you are ready to help your district move forward, OSBA can help. Choose the planning option that meets your district's specific needs:

- District strategic planning
- District goal setting
- Superintendent performance goals

For more information about planning options offered by the OSBA Division of Board and Management Services, go to [www.ohioschoolboards.org/school-board-services](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/school-board-services). To schedule a planning session, contact OSBA at (614) 540-4000 or (800) 589-OSBA.



School Board Services  
Ohio School Boards Association





# Amplify Positivity

Suicide Prevention and Behavior Supports to Boost Positivity in Your District

Thursday, Oct. 4, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. • OSBA office, Columbus • Cost \$160

What baggage are students bringing to school, and how can we help them unpack it? Hear directly from students about the issues they are facing today — such as school safety, suicide, depression, drug and alcohol use and abuse — and the impact these problems have on them in the school setting. Ohio school public relations professionals and other stakeholders in education share strategies being used in schools and communities to support student well-being, safety and mental health.

## Agenda

9 a.m.

**Registration and coffee**

**Noon**

**Lunch (provided)**

9:30 a.m.

**Welcome and introductions**

**1 p.m.**

**We are Firebirds, we are Kettering**

9:45 a.m.

**Grant Us Hope**

After losing her 15 year-old-son, **Grant**, to suicide, **Diane Egbers** founded a Cincinnati-based nonprofit bearing his name. Grant Us Hope focuses on teen suicide prevention by providing a platform for teens, parents and families to engage in pro-mental health conversations, activities and solutions. Hear how Grant Us Hope can help you create a culture of prevention in your district.

*Diane Egbers, founder and board chair, and Dr. Keith Kline, executive director, Grant Us Hope*

The **Kettering City School District (KCSD)** implemented positive behavioral interventions and supports (PBIS) districtwide to encourage positive school environments that are more effective for achieving academic and social goals. Based on this success, Partners for Healthy Youth (PFHY) — a partnership between the city of Kettering and KCSD focused on addressing the needs and issues facing local youth and families — worked with school personnel to develop a community-based initiative known as We Are Kettering, which mirrors the district's PBIS model. Learn how KCSD and PFHY are working together in this unique partnership.

*Valerie Dupler, J.E. Prass Elementary School principal, Kettering City; and Mary Beth Thaman, director, Kettering Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts Department*

10:45 a.m.

**Break**

11 a.m.

**Hope Squad panel discussion**

Grant Us Hope is the Ohio sponsor for Hope Squad, a school-based, peer-to-peer student program with a three-year curriculum emphasizing suicide prevention fundamentals, self-care and anti-bullying. The program empowers students to be the ears and eyes of a school as they watch out for youth in distress. A panel of Hope Squad students will share their insights on the suicide prevention issues they are facing in schools today.

**2 p.m.**

**Turning negatives into positives**

A panel of school PR pros from across the state will share how they turned negative incidents in their districts into positive opportunities.

**3 p.m.**

**Adjourn**

Register online at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops) or contact **Laurie Miller**, senior events manager, at (614) 540-4000, (800) 589-OSBA or [Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org).





# Transitioning Your District Through Engagement Workshop

**Friday, Oct. 5, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. • OSBA office, Columbus • Cost is \$95**

**9:30 a.m. Registration**

**10 a.m. A fresh take on community engagement**

Discover the board's unique role in community engagement and its connection to student achievement. Explore the characteristics of effective engagement and how to use the engagement process to support school improvement.

*Kim Miller-Smith, senior student achievement consultant, OSBA*

**11 a.m. Authentic community engagement in developing CLCs**

Community engagement is essential to the development and ongoing success of community learning centers (CLCs). Learn how to create the policies, processes and infrastructure that put the public back in public education.

*Darlene Kamine, executive director, Community Learning Center Institute*

**Noon Lunch (provided)**

**1 p.m. Community-driven facilities planning**

Hear the rationale for engaging in a master planning process, the various elements of a master facilities plan and how to authentically engage a diverse array of constituents. Learn how integral the involvement of the board of education is in the process.

*Paul W. Imhoff, superintendent, and Stacey Royer, board member, Upper Arlington City*

**2 p.m. Adjourn**

Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. Register online at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops) or contact **Laurie Miller**, senior events manager, at (614) 540-4000, (800) 589-OSBA or [Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org).



## Administrative professionals workshop: Supercharge your role — navigating change

*A workshop for central office and school building administrative professionals*

Friday, Oct. 12, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. • OSBA office, Columbus • Cost \$95

### Agenda

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|--|--|
| <p><b>9:30 a.m.</b> Registration and coffee</p> <p><b>10 a.m.</b> Welcome and introductions</p> <p><b>10:05 a.m.</b> <b>Gatekeeper — the administrative professional's role</b><br/>Best practices for hostile intruders include a series of secured barriers to safeguard students and staff. This session will train the person behind the buzzer to identify potential building threats.<br/><i>Travis Thompson, director of risk management, Ohio School Plan</i></p> <p><b>11:05 a.m.</b> <b>Legislation and policy changes — what you need to know</b><br/>Policy and lobbying experts will provide an overview of the legislative process from the Statehouse to the schoolhouse and the impact of legislative changes on your district policies. We also will review recent legislative changes impacting your central office operations.<br/><i>Kenna S. Haycox, senior policy consultant, and Will Schwartz, lobbyist, OSBA</i></p> <p><b>12:05 p.m.</b> <b>Working lunch — Build a better mousetrap!</b><br/>Share tips and ideas about tasks and processes we all manage regularly. Use the power of the group to find the most efficient way to accomplish your to-do list.<br/><i>Cheryl W. Ryan, director of board and management services, and Teri Morgan, deputy director of board and management services, OSBA</i></p> | <p><b>12:35 p.m.</b> <b>Energy pick-me-up</b><br/>Get ready to get up and out of your seat to get re-energized for the remainder of the day. Simple stretches will be performed to get the blood flowing. Take these techniques back to the office with you.<br/><i>Wanda Bloch, marketing and trade show manager, OSBA</i></p> <p><b>12:45 p.m.</b> <b>Lessons from the schoolhouse</b><br/>Learn how to deal with conflict without getting sent to the principal's office. Review the ABCs of working with difficult co-workers, staff, parents and students while creating a collaborative, positive work culture.<br/><i>Dr. Kathy McFarland, deputy chief executive, OSBA</i></p> <p><b>1:30 p.m.</b> <b>Navigating the OSBA database and website</b><br/>Do you know enough to be dangerous? Or at least enough to look like a superstar to your boss? Let us help you become the expert. We will cover how to log in to and navigate the OSBA website; reset your password; find upcoming events, legislative updates and member services; and how to help new board members.<br/><i>Laurie Miller, senior events manager, OSBA</i></p> <p><b>1:50 p.m.</b> <b>Final discussion and wrap-up</b></p> <p><b>2 p.m.</b> <b>Adjourn</b></p> |
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Register online at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops) or contact **Laurie Miller**, senior events manager, at (614) 540-4000, (800) 589-OSBA or [Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org).



# Student Achievement and ESSA

Wednesday, Oct. 17, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Cost \$95



Since its inception, the intent of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 — recently reauthorized as the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) — has been to raise achievement for low-income and otherwise disadvantaged children. Under the new law, the responsibility to deliver equitable educational opportunities rests primarily on local school districts. This seminar is focused on helping local boards and administrators understand their new responsibilities under ESSA.

## Agenda

**9:30 a.m. Registration**

**10 a.m. Ohio's ESSA plan and what boards need to know**

Now that the Ohio ESSA plan has been approved by the U.S. Department of Education, what happens next? How will you be prepared for what is coming in the near future? Get an overview of what boards of education are required to do with ESSA and what your next steps should be.

*Dr. J. Christopher Woolard, senior executive director, Center for Accountability and Continuous Improvement, Ohio Department of Education*

**11 a.m. What to do about chronic absenteeism?**

ESSA defines chronic absenteeism as missing 10% or more of the school year for any reason — excused absences, unexcused absences and absences due to out-of-school suspensions. Students who are chronically absent are missing a significant amount of school and missing out on important classroom time. Despite demographics, any student who is chronically absent is more likely to have lower achievement and is less likely to graduate than their non-chronically absent peers. This session will discuss evidence-based practices to help school leaders address chronic absenteeism with their students.

**Noon Lunch (provided)**

**1 p.m. ESSA and parent/family engagement**

We know that gaps in educational opportunity and achievement will only be remedied when those closest to the affected students — parents, families and communities — are involved in decision-making and engaged in the process. This presentation will provide an overview of ESSA's requirements and opportunities for parent, family and community engagement.

*Kim Miller-Smith, senior student achievement consultant, Ohio School Boards Association*

**2:30 p.m. Adjourn**

This workshop will be held at the OSBA office, 8050 N. High St., Columbus, 43235. Register online at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops) or contact **Laurie Miller**, OSBA senior events manager, at (614) 540-4000, (800) 589-OSBA or [Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org).



# 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 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.



## Get on board with OSBA School Transportation SERVICES

OSBA consultants can help districts assess their transportation needs and offer personal assistance with transportation rules interpretations, policy questions and technical advice. Consultants also provide the following services:

- transportation operation cost analysis and benchmarking studies
- routing analysis
- fleet management assistance
- general operations evaluation
- regional coordination studies
- in-service presentations for drivers and administrators
- evaluation of specific transportation services, including payment in lieu of transportation
- bus purchasing and specification development
- driver qualifications compliance review
- transportation emergency plan development
- development of local student transportation handbooks

To learn more, contact **Pete Japikse** ([pjapikse@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:pjapikse@ohioschoolboards.org)) or **Doug Palmer** ([dpalmer@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:dpalmer@ohioschoolboards.org)) at (614) 540-4000, (800) 589-OSBA or [schoolbus@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:schoolbus@ohioschoolboards.org).



Communications, continued from page 4

correspondence you send to parents. Ask teachers to include the plan in their communications with parents. Make sure Parent Engagement is a topic on your school's website, Facebook page and other social media you may use. Discuss your plan at PTA meetings and at other meetings for parents, boosters and support groups.

### Parent engagement at home

Many parents have limited time and accessibility to school. For

some, it may be easier to engage in their child's learning at home. Often, parents don't know the best way to find those opportunities. That's where the school can provide training and information on best practices for parent involvement at home. Parent engagement at home includes homework help, limiting screen time or completing classroom tasks to support the teacher. The tasks might include prepping art materials for projects.

### Communicating with parents

Communication is key to parent involvement. Keep parents informed about their child's progress and what is happening in the classroom. Whether you are praising or offering constructive suggestions, encourage the parent to call or stop by the classroom — with advance notice. Two-way communication is essential to student success.

Develop a schedule of classroom communications that doesn't over-

*Continued on page 6*



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**Ohio School  
Boards Association**

Communications, continued from page 5

burden the teacher or overwhelm the parent.

### Ideas for better parent engagement

- In the elementary grades, a teacher might send a positive note home with a child each day to reach five students a week.
- At the end of the week, consider a memo or newsletter that recaps what happened in the classroom. It may include an upcoming schedule of lessons, speakers, presentations and tests. Encourage parents to talk with their children about topics in the letter/newsletter. This makes it easy to engage in the child's

learning at home.

- Ask parents to get involved. Some people lack the confidence to volunteer, but would jump at an opportunity if asked to participate. A gentle nudge might be all they need.
- Be sensitive when addressing special circumstances. Think about parents who may not speak English as their first language and those with hearing or visual impairments. Families also may be dealing with extreme situations such as major illness, unemployment and/or homelessness.
- When scheduling parent meetings throughout the year,

either one-on-one or in large group events, consider scheduling get-togethers during times that are convenient for parents. Plan for after the workday and not during the dinner hour. Provide translators as required, offer free child care and make snacks available.

- If you are having trouble getting parents to school for the first time, consider hosting a welcome dinner that would take place on the back-to-school night. Ask the PTA to co-sponsor the event. Make sure each new family at school gets a personal invitation by phone or email. Suggest that a PTA member welcome parents who are attending the event for the first time. The principal and child's teacher should personally welcome the parents.

- Make available a list of parent involvement activities and the time commitment required for each. Be sure the list is available in all classrooms during back-to-school nights, curriculum nights and parent-teacher conferences. Teachers should be able to answer questions and encourage parents to sign up.

- Other options include offering free workshops and speakers on topics such as nutrition, exercise, homework helping tips, how to read to children and vacation activities. Provide handouts and tip sheets. If needed, ensure translators and child care are available.

- If parents who have never visited their child's classroom come to a presentation, offer to

*Continued on page 7*

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# PUBLIC SCHOOLS WORK!

compiled by Scott Gerfen, assistant editor

## Students use food scraps in their fight against hunger

A student-run nonprofit has earned international attention for its work to fight hunger and poverty.

JEE Foods, which was developed in the **Butler Tech** Information Technology program at **Ross Local's (Butler)** Ross High School, recently sent four of its student business leaders to South Africa, where they won the 2018 SAGE World Cup Tournament for social enterprise business and \$2,000 in prize money. SAGE —

Students for the Advancement of Global Entrepreneurship — operates in 11 countries.

JEE Foods works with area restaurants and grocery stores to repurpose food nearing or at its use-by date or produce that might be slightly blemished but still edible. "It's very common in the food industry that there is a lot of food waste," JEE Foods CEO and Ross High School senior **Michael Rivera** told a local TV station. "Frankly, it was sickening that

there are so many poverty-stricken people that don't have access to food, and we are throwing away such large masses of food."

For example, the students dehydrate bananas and apples to make chips that are distributed to food banks and the homeless. The work is done in a kitchen at the Ross Local administration building.

Butler Tech has participated in SAGE for 12 years. This is its first international win.

Source: WKRC-TV

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*Communications, continued from page 6*

show them around. This could be the first step in getting parents to come back to the school. If your district has a public television station, televise the presentations for parents who are unable to attend or provide a link to a video on your school's website.

- Enlist the help of parents with specific skills to provide sessions for students and parents on topics of interest, such as technology or cooking an ethnic dish.
- Many parents are unable to come to the school during the day but would be willing to help from home. As an example, a parent might be willing to put together a classroom e-newsletter or format academic tip sheets for parents if

they could do it from a home computer.

- If parents can't commit to a regular volunteer schedule, ask them to participate in some one-time opportunities, like chaperoning a field trip or providing treats for a special classroom activity.
- Involve parents in decision-making activities. Let them know about the variety of committees and advisory groups on which they could serve. If you know parents who would be a good fit for a particular committee, tell them so and encourage them to apply for membership. Again, just a gentle nudge from someone like the principal or a teacher may be

all it takes to get parents involved.

- Invite parents to the classroom for special presentations and follow up with thank-you notes for those who attend. Technology can be helpful. Skype might enable a parent who is out of town on business or unable to get away from the office to virtually attend a child's classroom presentation.
- Review your parent engagement activities at the end of the year. Celebrate your successes and revamp ideas that didn't work. Revise and update the plan regularly and keep it at the forefront of importance to academic success.

Source: Washington State School Directors' Association

## September

- 25 NE Regional Legislative  
Breakfast..... Brecksville
- 25 Reasonable Suspicion  
Training ..... Beloit
- 27 Southeast Region Fall  
Conference..... Nelsonville
- 30 Last day to file business advisory council  
plan with the Ohio Department of  
Education — RC 3313.821.

## October

- 1 Collective Bargaining in Schools:  
From Theory to Practice  
workshop ..... Columbus
- 1 Last day for board to adopt annual  
appropriation measure — RC 5705.38(B).
- 2 OSBA Book Club: “What Schools  
Could Be: Insights and Inspiration from  
Teachers Across America” webinar 1
- 3 Seat Belts — are they right for school  
buses or not? workshop ..... Columbus
- 3 Northeast Region Fall  
Conference..... Wadsworth
- 4 Amplify Positivity  
workshop ..... Columbus
- 4 Northwest Region Fall  
Conference..... Tiffin
- 5 Transitioning Your District Through  
Engagement Workshop ..... Columbus

- 9 SW Regional Legislative  
Breakfast..... Cincinnati
- 9 Last day for voter registration for November  
election — RC 3503.01, 3503.19(A) (30  
days prior to election).
- 11 Southwest Region Fall  
Conference..... Englewood
- 12 Supercharge Your Role — Navigating  
Change workshop ..... Columbus
- 15 OSBA Master of Transportation  
Administration: The budget  
process — local and state ..... Columbus
- 15 Last day for certification of licensed  
employees to State Board of Education —  
RC 3317.061.
- 16 OSBA Book Club: “What Schools  
Could Be: Insights and Inspiration from  
Teachers Across America” webinar 2
- 17 Student Achievement and ESSA  
workshop ..... Columbus
- 18 Master of Transportation Administration  
Program: The budget  
process — local and state ..... Columbus
- 18 Northwest Region Fall  
Conference..... Van Wert
- 31 OSBA Book Club: “What Schools  
Could Be: Insights and Inspiration from  
Teachers Across America” webinar 3
- 31 End of first ADM reporting period — RC  
3317.03(A).

## November

- 1 Last day for classroom teachers to develop  
online classroom lessons (“blizzard bags”)  
in order to make up hours for which  
it is necessary to close schools — RC  
3313.482(A)(3)(a).
- 6 General Election Day — RC 3501.01 (first  
Tuesday after the first Monday).
- 11-13 OSBA Capital Conference and Trade  
Show ..... Columbus
- 11 Central Region Executive Committee  
Meeting ..... Columbus
- 11 Northwest Region Executive Committee  
meeting..... Columbus
- 11 Northeast Region Executive Committee  
Meeting ..... Columbus
- 11 Southeast Region Executive Committee  
Meeting ..... Columbus
- 28 OSBA Master of Transportation  
Administration: Transportation rules  
and regulations ..... Columbus
- 29 Reasonable Suspicion  
Training ..... Columbus
- 30 Winter Finance Workshop..... Columbus

## December

- 3 Southwest Region Executive Committee  
Meeting ..... TBD
- 4 Understanding HR for Board  
Members ..... Columbus