

# BRIEF CASE

## THE OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

Serving the public school leadership team



### State Board of Education names interim state superintendent

Ohio Department of Education (ODE) Associate Superintendent Dr. **Lonny J. Rivera** was named interim superintendent of public instruction Dec. 15 during the State Board of Education's monthly meeting. Rivera, a former **Oregon City** superintendent, was the only applicant for the position. He will serve until the board hires a replacement for Dr. **Richard A. Ross**, who is retiring Dec. 31. Rivera joined ODE earlier this year.

### President Obama signs ESEA reauthorization into law

With President **Barack Obama's** signature on Dec. 10, the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) passed into history. Replacing it is the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), a reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965. ESEA was last reauthorized in 2002 as NCLB. The National School Boards Association offers a number of ESSA resources at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/55519>. Among those resources is a primer on what ESSA means for local school boards, including a transition timetable and frequently asked questions.

### Constitutional commission votes to retain 'thorough and efficient'

The full Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission voted Dec. 10 to retain the "thorough and efficient" public education clause in the Ohio Constitution. The vote came after months of discussion about a proposal to remove the wording. The clause played a key role in the landmark 1997 Ohio Supreme Court *DeRolph* ruling that Ohio's system of funding K-12 education was unconstitutional. In its decision, the court determined that the state had failed to meet its constitutional obligation to "secure a thorough and efficient system of common schools."

### ODE to release state report cards in two parts

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) has announced the 2014-15 Ohio School Report Cards will be released in two parts beginning early next year. An initial report will be issued Jan. 14, with the rest of the data set to be released Feb. 25. ODE said the results are being released later than normal because of the late delivery of PARCC results. The department said the 2016 report card release "will be no later than Sept. 15, 2016." For more information, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/74806>.

### OSBA introducing new subscription transportation service

OSBA is launching a new transportation support service for its member districts in 2016. The OSBA Virtual Transportation Supervisor program is a subscription-based service designed to expand access to transportation expertise, guidance and training. The low annual fee of \$250 entitles districts to attend regional training sessions;

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#### Contents

More news..... 2

*Subscribe to Briefcase electronically and get it free; OSBA continues discount on electronic SMN subscription; OSBA online*

Bulletin Board..... 3

News ..... 4

Information ..... 5

Legislative Report ..... 6

Public Schools Work! ..... 7

#### Route workshop information to:

- ☐ Administrators
- ☐ Board member-elects
- ☐ Newly appointed board members

participate in monthly webinars and conference calls; use OSBA's advanced transportation services library; and have access to cost analysis calculators, efficiency studies, funding forecasting tools and other Web-based resources. To subscribe to this service, ask your treasurer to select the Virtual Transportation Supervisor option on the 2016 OSBA membership invoice, which was mailed earlier this month. For more information, contact OSBA's **Pete Japikse** at [pjapikse@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:pjapikse@ohioschoolboards.org), (614) 540-4000 or (800) 589-OSBA. Information also is posted at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/42283>.

### **Subscribe to Briefcase electronically and get it free**

OSBA is again offering the *Briefcase* newsletter free if *all* subscribers in a member district sign up to receive it electronically. If anyone in the district does not choose the electronic option, the

district rate of \$130 for up to 15 subscribers still applies. Please note your district's preference on the 2016 OSBA membership invoice.

### **OSBA continues discount on electronic SMN subscription**

OSBA is again offering the

### **Award-winning singer gives to auditorium project**

**Springfield City's** \$1 million fundraising campaign to renovate an auditorium is getting a big boost from a famous graduate.

Grammy and Oscar-winning singer **John Legend** will give \$500,000 through his Show Me Campaign to renovate the 700-seat auditorium at the Springfield Center for Innovation: The Dome.

"I wanted to make sure the kids in Springfield had access to that kind of facility so that they can express themselves creatively," Legend, a 1995 graduate, told a local newspaper. "Part of developing young people into great adults and great members of society is having a really well-rounded education."

A good portion of the building renovation was funded by an \$11.3 million Ohio Straight A Fund grant awarded in 2014.

Source: *Dayton Daily News*

*School Management News* newsletter at a 21% discount to member districts in which *all* subscribers choose to receive the publication electronically. The electronic subscription rate is \$150 annually for up to 15 subscribers, a \$40 savings over the paper newsletter. Please indicate which option your district prefers on the 2016 OSBA membership invoice.

### **OSBA online**

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

Attendees at the 2015 OSBA Capital Conference and Trade Show took ample advantage of social media to share their experiences and connect with others during the four-day event. Hundreds of tweeted messages used the conference hashtag, #OSBACC. OSBA's tweets during the event were viewed nearly 40,000 times by Twitter users, who received updated information, photos and videos related to the conference.



## **Briefcase**

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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, administrative assistant of communication services

## OSBA executive searches

### Treasurer

#### District

① Indian Hill EV

#### Deadline

Jan. 20

#### Contact

OSBA Search Services, (614) 540-4000



## National searches

#### Position

Superintendent

#### District

Kansas City, Mo.

#### Deadline

Jan. 4

#### Contact

McPherson & Jacobson LLC,  
(888) 375-4814

Superintendent

Rapid City, S.D.

Jan. 4

McPherson & Jacobson LLC,  
(888) 375-4814

## Board changes

Cardington-Lincoln Local (Morrow) Board of Education member **Jim Clinger** announced his resignation effective Dec. 31. ●●● East Liverpool City Board of Education member **Brian Allen** announced his resignation effective Dec. 7. ●●● The Vermilion Local (Erie) Board of Education appointed **Sara Stepp** to the board effective Dec. 8. She replaced **Grant Harding**, who resigned last month.

## Administrative changes

### Superintendents

Clyde-Green Springs EV Superintendent **David W. Stubblebine** announced his resignation effective July 31. ●●●

Washington Local (Lucas) Superintendent **Patrick C. Hickey** announced his resignation effective immediately.

### Treasurers

Riverside Local (Logan) hired **Lucas Ratliff** as treasurer effective Jan. 1. He will replace **Jennifer Blackford**, who is taking the treasurer position at **St. Henry Consolidated Local (Mercer)**. Ratliff currently is an accountant at **Delaware City**.

### 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 East Holmes Local (Holmes), Plain Local (Stark) and Sandy Valley Local (Stark) Superintendent **Thomas "Tom" Melville Cox** died Nov. 28. He was 85. ●●● Former **Gahanna-Jefferson City** Superintendent **Maurice E. "Maurie" Jones** died Dec. 9. He was 92. ●●● Former **Harrison Hills City** Board of Education member **Lloyd Kimble** died Dec. 12. He was 83. ●●● Former **Jackson City** Board of Education member **Dr. Steve E. Stevenson** died Dec. 7. He was 74. ●●● Former **Kent City** Superintendent **Robert W. Stanton** died Dec. 5. He was 96. ●●● Former **Northwood Local (Wood)** Board of Education member **Wilson F. Roecker** died Dec. 8. He was 92.



## NEWS

by Crystal Davis, editor

### 2015 OSBA student video contest draws most entries ever

**Dublin City Schools** took home top honors in OSBA's fourth annual student video contest, which drew more entries than ever before.

Sixty-one videos were submitted by students from across Ohio sharing their views on how public schools make a difference. That's nearly double the number of entries in 2014, when districts submitted 31 videos. The contest is part of OSBA's Stand Up for Public

Schools promotional campaign.

The winning Dublin Coffman High School student team, led by instructor **Scott Caster**, included seniors **Hanna Houseman** and **Lauren Blair**.

"We wanted to show the rest of Ohio what we loved about our school," Houseman said. "We wanted to make everyone see how public schools have made a positive influence on us."

Caster made the contest a

Broadcast and Video Level 2 class project. Another Dublin Coffman team tied for second place with **Trumbull Career & Technical Center**. **Ridgemont Local's (Hardin)** Ridgemont High School took home third-place honors.

Contestants were asked to submit 90-second videos showing how their public school district or building is making a difference in students' lives and future success.

*Continued on page 5*

## OSBA Contract Analysis Service



OSBA provides a cost-effective professional analysis of both certified and classified collective bargaining agreements. These written reviews serve as a critique of current contract provisions, suggest potential pitfalls regarding legal compliance and provide specific recommendations as you go into your next round of collective bargaining.

Contact **Van D. Keating**, director of management services, at (614) 540-4000 or (800) 589-OSBA for more information.



# Get up to speed quickly!

## Don't miss the New Board Member Academy



### Two dates and four locations to choose from:

- Jan. 9-10 at the Hilton Garden Inn Dayton South, Miamisburg, or the Embassy Suites Cleveland-Rockside, Independence
- Jan. 23-24 at the Embassy Suites, Columbus, or the Hilton Garden Inn, Perrysburg

School board service is more complex and demanding than ever. To carry out their leadership duties effectively, new school board members must move as soon as possible from the role of involved citizen to that of responsible elected official. High-quality board member education, designed specifically for newly elected board members, can help you become a more effective educational leader in your community.

This two-day intensive academy will focus on the world of boardmanship; effective communication; board policy; Ohio public school funding; transportation; employee relations; and the Sunshine Law and executive sessions.

Cost for the workshop is \$220 per board member. Four books are included with workshop tuition: *Boardmanship*, *Board-Treasurer Partnership*, *Board-Superintendent Partnership* and *Board-Legislature Partnership*. Breakfast and lunch also are included.

### Agenda for Jan. 9-10, both locations

#### Saturday

8 a.m.	Registration and breakfast
9 a.m.	Welcome and overview
9:10 a.m.	Regional manager remarks
9:20 a.m.	Boardmanship — roles and responsibilities
10:30 a.m.	Break
10:45 a.m.	Boardmanship — conduct and ethics
11:30 a.m.	Media relations and social media
12:30 p.m.	Lunch (provided)
1:15 p.m.	Legal division
2:30 p.m.	Lightning round with school board services division, communication services division and legal services division
3 p.m.	Legal division (continued)
3:45 p.m.	Daily wrap-up

#### Sunday

8:30 a.m.	Breakfast
9:30 a.m.	Welcome back and overview
9:45 a.m.	Management services division
10:30 a.m.	Break
10:45 a.m.	Management services division (continued)
11:45 a.m.	Lunch (provided)
12:30 p.m.	Legislative issues, lobbying and finance
1:30 p.m.	Lightning round with management services division and legislative services division
2 p.m.	Legislative issues, lobbying and finance (continued)
2:45 p.m.	Wrap-up and adjourn

### Agenda for Jan. 23-24, both locations

#### Saturday

8 a.m.	Registration and breakfast
9 a.m.	Welcome and overview
9:10 a.m.	Legislative issues, lobbying and finance
11 a.m.	Break
11:15 a.m.	Boardmanship — roles and responsibilities
12:15 p.m.	Lunch (provided)
1 p.m.	Legal services division
2 p.m.	Lightning round with school board services division and legal services division
2:30 p.m.	Legal services division (continued)
3:30 p.m.	Daily wrap-up

#### Sunday

8:30 a.m.	Breakfast
9:30 a.m.	Welcome back and overview
9:45 a.m.	Management services division
10:30 a.m.	Break
10:45 a.m.	Management services division (continued)
Noon	Lunch (provided)
12:45 p.m.	Boardmanship — conduct and ethics
1:45 p.m.	Media relations and social media
2:45 p.m.	Wrap-up and adjourn

# Become a better board leader

## *Attend the Board Officers Training*

**Two dates and four locations to choose from:**

- **Saturday, Feb. 6, at the OSBA office in Columbus or Northeast Ohio Medical University in Rootstown**
- **Saturday, Feb. 20, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Findlay or Hilton Garden Inn Dayton South in Miamisburg**

**The workshops run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

These workshops, led by experienced OSBA staff, will present the tools you need to improve your boardmanship skills and effectively lead your district. You don't have to be a board officer to attend; board members looking to increase their leadership skills also can benefit.

School board officers serve critical leadership roles in their districts. The president is the visible leader of the board and responsible for the efficient operation of board business.

Unfortunately, too many board officers attempt to fulfill these roles by going it alone. They believe on-the-job training is all they need to responsibly lead the board, but it is crucial for you to be well-informed and have the skills to carry out your leadership duties effectively. Bring your questions about leadership roles.

Topics to be covered include legal duties and responsibilities; planning a productive board meeting; practical parliamentary procedure; public participation at board meetings; open meetings and executive sessions; successful communications; responding to media requests; building team relationships; consensus building; indicators of an effective board; and effective facilitation.

### **Agenda**

<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Registration and continental breakfast</b>	<b>12:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Lunch (provided)</b>
<b>9 a.m.</b>	<b>Leading the governance team</b> <i>OSBA school board services division</i>	<b>1:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Management matters for 2016</b> <i>OSBA management services division</i>
<b>10:15 a.m.</b>	<b>You ask us! Open Q&amp;A with OSBA staff</b>	<b>3 p.m.</b>	<b>Wrap-up and adjourn</b>
<b>10:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Break</b>		
<b>11 a.m.</b>	<b>Keeping it legal: what board officers need to know</b> <i>OSBA legal services division</i>		



Cost for the workshop is \$165 per board member, and includes a copy of the *Board Presidents' Handbook*. 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).

# OSBA MASTER OF TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION (MTA) PROGRAM

Don't miss the upcoming 2016 sessions of the OSBA 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. All classes are scheduled twice; participants may sign up for either session. 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. Tuition is \$90.



## Upcoming 2016 session dates and descriptions

### Feb. 3 or 9 — Federal regulations, guidance and agencies

Learn about federal agencies, rules and regulations. Review the federal alphabet soup, including FMCSA, NHTSA, NTSB, TSB and ODI and the impacts that these have on daily transportation operations.

### April 6 or 12 — Laws, rules and policy

What is the difference between revised code, administrative code and department policy? Where does local board policy fit in? Are they all mandates or just best practices? Review the process through which ideas become a rule or regulation, and how to influence this process.

### May 4 or 10 — Hot topics, safety, trends and statistics

Review hot topics in student transportation, including seat belts in school buses. Learn about National Transportation Safety Board accident studies, Ohio school bus accident statistics and any topics that attendees bring from their local districts.

Register online at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops). You also can purchase a subscription plan for all the workshops in this series. For questions about the program or to register, contact **Diana Paulins**, OSBA senior administrative assistant of policy services, at (614) 540-4000, (800) 589-OSBA or [mta@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:mta@ohioschoolboards.org).



## School Finance 101: What Board Members Should Know

Thursday, Feb. 25 at the OSBA office in Columbus

School finance is a complicated subject. As board members, it is important to know the basics. Learn from the experts about state and local funding, levies and five-year forecasts. Become your district's expert and find out how to access data and what questions to ask.

8:45 a.m. Registration

9 a.m. State funding formula — what school board members should know

*Aaron Rausch, director, Office of Budget and School Funding, Ohio Department of Education*

10:30 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m. Property tax/school-funding formula implications in the next biennium

*Dr. Howard Fleeter, consultant, Ohio Education Policy Institute*

12:15 p.m. Lunch (provided)

1 p.m. Five-year forecasts

*Michael Sobul, treasurer, Granville EV*

1:55 p.m. Break

2:05 p.m. Levies, levies, levies and local funding

*Michael Sobul*

3 p.m. Wrap-up and adjourn

Cost is \$150, which includes materials, lunch and refreshments. 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).



# WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

## New Board Member Academy

- ☐ Jan. 9-10, Miamisburg, \$220
- ☐ Jan. 9-10, Independence, \$220
- ☐ Jan. 23-24, Columbus, \$220
- ☐ Jan. 23-24, Perrysburg, \$220

## OSBA MTA program

- ☐ Feb. 3, Columbus, \$90
- ☐ Feb. 9, Columbus, \$90
- ☐ April 6, Columbus, \$90
- ☐ April 12, Columbus, \$90
- ☐ May 4, Columbus, \$90
- ☐ May 10, Columbus, \$90

## Board Officers Training

- ☐ Feb. 6, Columbus, \$165
- ☐ Feb. 6, Rootstown, \$165
- ☐ Feb. 20, Findlay, \$165
- ☐ Feb. 20, Miamisburg, \$165

## School Finance 101

- ☐ Feb. 25, Columbus, \$150

## OSBA Workshop Registration Form

Workshop name \_\_\_\_\_ Workshop date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Attendee name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_  
 Daytime phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 District/firm \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or P.O.# \_\_\_\_\_ to cover \_\_\_\_\_ registration(s). Make checks payable to OSBA and mail to 8050 N. High St., Suite 100, Columbus, OH 43235-6481, fax to (614) 540-4100 or email **Laurie Miller**, senior events manager, at [Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org). Include a purchase order number with fax or email.



\_\_\_\_\_ Please check here if you require special accommodations. Contact us or attach a written description of needs.

**Please photocopy this form for each person**

## OSBA workshop registration procedures

OSBA sends email confirmation of registration if an email address is provided. Registration is open to all boards and staff of OSBA members. "Walk-in" registrations are welcome on a space-available basis only. Please call OSBA to check the status of registration before you arrive at the workshop. To register, you must have a purchase order number or a check payable to OSBA and a completed registration form. You may register with a purchase order number by phone, fax, email or Web page 24 hours a day.

### Award of Achievement/LPDC

Most workshops entitle members to Award of Achievement credits. Local Professional Development Committee certificates of attendance will be issued to all workshop attendees.

You may register on our website at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops). You will need a username and password.



Mail

OSBA  
8050 N. High St.,  
Suite 100, Columbus, OH  
43235-6481



Phone  
or fax

OSBA Registration Hotline,  
(614) 540-4000, ext. 300;  
toll free (800) 589-OSBA,  
ext. 300; or fax us at  
(614) 540-4100.



Email registrations can be sent to Laurie Miller at [Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org). Please include a purchase order number.

### Cancellation and refund policy

- Cancellations received by OSBA at least five workdays before the date of the workshop will receive a full refund or no charge to the district.
- Cancellations received less than five workdays before the date of the workshop will be charged half of the registration fee.
- No-shows and cancellations the day of the workshop will be charged the full registration amount.



News, continued from page 4

The top three videos won prizes for their respective schools' video production program and were shown during a General Session at OSBA's 60th annual Capital Conference in November.

A panel of independent media

professionals judged the videos: **Glenn Battishill**, reporter, *The Delaware Gazette*; **Maria Durant**, anchor/reporter, WSYX/WTTE TV; and **Ken Stevens**, assistant news director/anchor, WTVN-AM.

To view the winning videos, go to [www.standupforohpublicschools.org/student-video-contest](http://www.standupforohpublicschools.org/student-video-contest).

Information on the 2016 student video contest will be available in early September. The deadline is Oct. 7.



## INFORMATION

by Angela Penquite, assistant editor

### Award of Achievement application due Jan. 19

Do you spend extra hours improving your boardmanship skills?

Do you attend workshops and conferences that let you learn from the experts and network with other board members?

Do you faithfully serve your home board?

Did you know that you might be eligible for the OSBA Award of Achievement and Master Board Member awards?

OSBA rewards Ohio public school board members for their dedicated service to their boards, as well as their work to strengthen their boardmanship skills. The OSBA Award of Achievement and Master Board Member awards honor these board members by recognizing their accomplishments.

Board members can earn points for attending OSBA workshops; serving as the president of their home boards; serving on a JVS

board; attending OSBA region events; and serving as a delegate, an OSBA officer or an OSBA committee member.

The Award of Achievement is a special distinction available only to Ohio school board members from OSBA member districts. Board members earning 100 points within a two-year period are eligible for the Award of Achievement. The credits must have been accumulated between January 2014 and December 2015. In-service and special activity credit values are listed on the application.

Excess credits submitted may not be carried over for other Awards of Achievement, but may be used toward the Master Board Member Award. That award, a lifetime distinction, is given to those leaders who earn 300 Award of Achievement credits over a four-year period.

The application deadline for the

awards is Jan. 19. Applications can be downloaded at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/43085>. If you need a printed application, contact OSBA at (614) 540-4000 or (800) 589-OSBA. Award winners will be notified after the application information is verified. The awards will be presented at the 2016 spring region conferences.

Board members can confirm the OSBA committees they have served on and workshops they've attended by visiting the OSBA website ([www.ohioschoolboards.org](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org)). You must log in, then click on "My Account" at the top right of the page to see a list of workshops attended, upcoming training and 2015 committees and roles. If you do not have a username or password, follow the "First time logging in?" or "Forgot password?" prompts in the Login box.

Continued on page 6

Information, continued from page 5

If you have questions about the Award of Achievement, Master Board Member award or the

application process, contact **Judy Morgan**, OSBA senior administrative assistant of school

board services, at (614) 540-4000; (800) 589-OSBA; or [jmorgan@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:jmorgan@ohioschoolboards.org).



## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

by Jay Smith, deputy director of legislative services

### Lawmakers seek changes to deal with truancy

House Bill (HB) 410 recently was introduced in the Ohio House of Representatives to address how schools deal with truancy.

Sponsored by Rep. **Bill Hayes** (R-Granville) and Rep. **Jeff Rezabek** (R-Clayton), the legislation focuses on collecting statewide data on truant students and requiring schools to create individualized intervention plans for absent students.

The bill calls for schools to notify parents when a student gets close to a certain level of truancy. If the student reaches that level, the school must form a team of administrators, teachers and parents to develop an intervention plan to address the absences. The school, and possibly a court, will be required to report throughout the intervention process on how students are doing and the reason for their absences.

Under current law, a court does not get involved unless a complaint is filed. However, under HB 410, a court could become involved by implementing a

diversion program before a complaint is filed.

Following are the proposed changes in the bill:

- Absences, both excused and unexcused, that reach 38 hours in a month or 65 hours in a year will trigger a notice to parents and allow a school to develop an intervention plan.
- “Habitual truancy” is defined as absences of 30 or more consecutive hours; 42 or more hours in one school month; or 72 or more hours in a school year. Once a student is defined as a habitual truant, an intervention team must be assembled within 10 days. The team then must develop a plan to address the problem within 30 days. That plan could include a court diversion program.
- The intervention team must include a school or district administrator, a teacher and the child’s parent or guardian. It also could include a school psychologist, counselor, social worker or representative from an agency designed to help students

and their families reduce absences. Each school within a district may establish an absence intervention team or series of teams to be used in lieu of the district team.

- If a student refuses to follow the intervention plan, the school attendance officer will file a complaint with the juvenile court alleging the student is unruly for being habitually truant. If the complaint is based solely on a student being a habitual truant, the court shall hold the complaint in abeyance pending the student’s completion of, or failure to comply with, a court-ordered diversion program.

- If a student is adjudicated an unruly child for being a habitual truant, the court must provide notice within 10 days to the school district in which the student is entitled to attend school and the school in which the student was enrolled when the complaint was filed.

- A student is defined as “chronic truant” if he or she has been

*Continued on page 7*



# PUBLIC SCHOOLS WORK!

compiled by Scott Gerfen, assistant editor

## Lima student collects coloring books for kids in hospitals

**Logan Stratton** was born with a heart condition, so he knows all about lengthy stays at the children's hospital in Ann Arbor, Mich.

"The kids have nothing to do," the **Bath Local (Allen)** Bath High School student told a local newspaper. "They just sit there watching TV, and they can't get up and do anything. I figured I could give them something to do."

His Christmas wish is bringing joy to hundreds of children in hospitals and foster care.

The teenager has been collecting hundreds of coloring books with the help of the school district and the community.

Stratton's parents were supportive of their son's idea, but weren't sure how to make it happen.

"We were not financially able to buy all those because there are 250 beds in that hospital," **Kristin Stratton** said. "So I decided to put a small post on my Facebook page to my friends and family."

The effort grew from there.

A teacher at Bath put a request for coloring books in the school newsletter.

Soon the school district and the Bath Township Fire Department began collecting coloring books.

Through social media, donations arrived from other states as far as California.

Stratton has collected more than 600 coloring books with more on the way.

Source: [limaohio.com](http://limaohio.com)

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*Legislative Report, continued from page 6*

adjudicated an unruly child for being a habitual truant and has violated a court order under that adjudication. If a student is adjudicated a delinquent for being a chronic truant, the court must provide notice within 10 days to the school district in which the student is entitled to attend school and the school in which the student was enrolled when the complaint was filed.

- Truancy is removed from the state-mandated zero-tolerance policy.
- Schools are prohibited from suspending or expelling a student solely on the basis of his or her absences from school without a legitimate excuse.

● Boards of education are required to adopt a new or amended policy to guide employees in addressing student absences. The policy must include the following intervention strategies: a plan for any student who is excessively absent; counseling for a habitual truant; parental involvement programs; truancy prevention mediation programs; notifying the motor vehicle registrar; and taking legal action.

- Courts are required to report the number of children in diversion programs, the number who have successfully completed these programs and the number who are adjudicated unruly.
- Schools are required to report

the number of students reaching notice of the truancy requirement; when a student reaches the habitual truancy level; when an absence intervention team is implemented; and when a student violates a court order for being habitually truant.

According to Rep. **Andrew Brenner** (R-Powell), chair of the House Education Committee and co-sponsor of HB 410, the legislation likely will have hearings in January and February, with passage anticipated through the House and Senate by May or June.

*Editor's note:* The information in this article was current as of Dec. 17, 2015.

## December 2015

- 31 *Last day for treasurer to canvass the board to establish a date of the organizational meeting — RC 3313.14.*

## January 2016

- 6 Central Region Executive Committee meeting..... Columbus  
9-10 New Board Member Academy..... Miamisburg  
9-10 New Board Member Academy..... Independence  
12 Southwest Region Executive Committee meeting..... Franklin  
15 *Deadline for boards of education of city, exempted village, vocational and local school districts to meet and organize — RC 3313.14; last day for boards of education of city, exempted village, vocational and local school districts to adopt tax budgets for the coming school fiscal year — RC 5705.28(A) (1).*  
20 *Last day for boards of education to submit fiscal tax-year budget to county auditor — RC 5705.30.*  
23-24 New Board Member Academy..... Columbus  
23-24 New Board Member Academy..... Perrysburg  
29 *Annual campaign finance reports must be filed by certain candidates, political action*

*committees, caucus committees (legislative campaign funds) and political parties (by 4 p.m.) detailing contributions and expenditures from the last day reflected in the previous report through Dec. 31, 2015 — RC 3517.10(A)(3).*

- 31 *Deadline for educational service center (ESC) governing boards to meet and organize — RC 3313.14.*

## February 2016

- 3 OSBA MTA Program: Federal regulations, guidance and agencies..... Columbus  
3 Northeast Region Executive Committee meeting..... Wadsworth  
6 Board Officers Training..... Columbus  
6 Board Officers Training..... Rootstown  
7 Northwest Region Executive Committee meeting..... Bowling Green  
9 OSBA MTA Program: Federal regulations, guidance and agencies..... Columbus  
14 Southeast Region Executive Committee meeting..... Logan  
15 *Last day for voter registration for March election — RC 3503.01, 3503.19(A) (30 days prior to the election).*  
20 Board Officers Training..... Findlay  
20 Board Officers Training..... Miamisburg

- 25 School Finance 101: What Board Members Should Know..... Columbus

## March 2016

- 1 SchoolComp Workers' Compensation Workshop..... Miamisburg  
1 *Last day to take action and deliver written notice of nonrenewal of superintendent's contract — RC 3319.01; last day to take action on and deliver written notice of nonrenewal of treasurer's contract — RC 3313.22; deadline for secondary schools to provide information about College Credit Plus to all students enrolled in grades six through 11 — RC 3365.04(A).*  
4 Special Education Law Workshop..... Columbus  
4 SchoolComp Workers' Compensation Workshop..... Athens  
8 Southwest Region Spring Conference..... Cincinnati  
9 Central Region Spring Conference..... Columbus  
10 Northwest Region Spring Conference..... Bowling Green  
15 SchoolComp Workers' Compensation Workshop..... Findlay  
15 Southeast Region Spring Conference..... Pomeroy