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January 4, 2018

This issue contains information on the following:

- 1) Transportation funding
- 2) Drug testing changes implemented
- 3) EPA grant opportunity
- 4) CDL renewal changes coming
- 5) Bus recalls
- 6) Bus bidding assistance

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### **1) Transportation funding**

ODE has updated the school transportation funding calculation for both regular education and special education for all schools. The change in funding was effective in the second payment in December. For regular education funding, the amount you are now receiving is calculated on the T1 submitted in October of 2017, using base costs calculated from the T2 submitted in August. The funding formula adopted by the legislature and signed into law this year includes a 12.5% reduction in the calculation, so nearly all districts will see a lower calculated transportation amount on their statement of settlement.

Districts that experience significant changes in their ridership or daily miles since the October T1 report was submitted have the opportunity to update their T1 data "on or before the first of February" (OAC 3301-83-01(6)(a)).

ODE has published the calculations for each district on their website. Use the following link: [2018 Foundation](#)

### **2) Drug testing changes implemented**

U.S. DOT has expanded the drug testing panel for CDL drivers. This change was implemented January 1, 2018.

Four opioids have been added; including hydrocodone, oxycodone, hydromorphone, and oxymorphone. Brand names include OxyContin, Percodan, Percocet, Vicodin, Lortab, Norco, Dilaudid, and Exalgo.

To read the final rule, go to this link: [new drug rule](#)

### **3) EPA grant opportunity (includes school buses, and all counties are eligible)**

Ohio EPA invites applications to a new grant program that will award \$5 million to reimburse

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Ohio owners of large diesel or gasoline vehicles for a portion of the cost to replace or convert the vehicle to run on compressed natural gas (CNG), liquefied natural gas (LNG) or propane autogas (LPG). This may include bi-fueled or dual-fueled vehicles that can run on both an alternative fuel and on gasoline or diesel fuel. Eligible vehicles must be registered in Ohio for operation on public highways and weigh at least 26,000 pounds (class 7 and 8). The program is open to applicants in every Ohio county. The purchased or converted vehicle must be used for business purposes and at least half the miles driven by the new or converted vehicle must be within the state of Ohio.

The maximum grant amount allowed per alternative fuel vehicle will be the lesser of:

- 50% of the adjusted purchase price of the new alternative fuel vehicle, or
- 50% of the cost of the conversion, or
- \$25,000.

The limit on the total grant award to applicants who wish to replace or convert multiple vehicles is \$400,000. The program is supported with \$5 million allocated by the Ohio General Assembly from the Alternative Fuel Transportation Fund of the Ohio Developmental Services Agency.

Guidelines and grant application forms are posted on the [AFV Grant Program Website](#). The earliest date that grant applications may be submitted is **March 6, 2018 at 8:00 a.m.** Ohio EPA will host a public information session on **Thursday January 25, 2018** from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. at the Ohio Department of Transportation auditorium, 1980 West Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43223. Two conference calls are also scheduled in February to take questions from prospective applicants. Dial-in information for the calls is included in the grant application guidelines. It is not necessary to pre-register for either the information session or the conference calls. Ohio EPA will post a summary of questions and answers from these sessions to the program Web page.

Applications must be submitted by email to [derg@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:derg@epa.ohio.gov). Applications will be considered in the order received, and grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis to applicants whose proposals are deemed complete and eligible, until all available funds have been allocated. The status of pending applications will be posted regularly to the Web page after **March 6**.

Questions about the program may be directed to [carolyn.watkins@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:carolyn.watkins@epa.ohio.gov) or **(614) 644-2873**.

#### **4) CDL renewal changes coming**

A federal program called “REAL ID” will soon have an impact on the renewal of CDL licenses. The changes will be implemented in Ohio on July 1, 2018. The Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles has not yet released details of the process in Ohio, but has announced that a public information campaign will be initiated soon. We will continue to monitor this program and share details when they are available. In the interim, included herein is information that is available from federal sources. (CDL license holders whose license expires this summer may want to consider renewing early. Ohio BMV allows renewal of your CDL up to 90 days in advance of expiration.)

The History of REAL ID: After 9/11, the federal government began to look at ways to increase security surrounding state identification cards and drivers' licenses, in an attempt to prevent further terrorism and/or unlawful entry into and out of the country.

In 2005, the House of Representatives passed a bill into law called the REAL ID Act. This Act would set certain federal standards upon all driver's licenses, which are currently regulated by each individual state. After being passed into law, the bill was tabled until 2007, when it was announced that the federal enforcement of the act would be postponed for a period of two years. However, many state governments were slow to support this act, feeling that it not only infringed upon states' rights handed to them by the 10th Amendment, but also created unnecessary cost to taxpayers in order to implement the change. It wasn't until recently that the federal government announced that all states would need to be in compliance with the REAL ID Act.

The REAL ID Act sets forth new federally mandated requirements for all state driver's licenses and ID cards. On each ID, the following information must be present:

- Full legal name
- Residential address
- Birth date
- Gender
- Driver's license/identification card number
- Digital front-facing photograph
- Signature

Drivers' licenses and IDs must now also include a common barcode and security devices to prevent any tampering with or counterfeiting of the card, and must display a star in the upper right-hand corner, signifying that your identification has been approved by the TSA and your identity has been verified. There are also new requirements put in place to obtain an ID or license; all applicants must present the following documents during the application process:

- A photo ID, or non-photo ID that contains the applicant's full legal name and birth date
- Valid birth certificate
- Social Security number
- Proof of legal U.S. citizenship, OR proof of lawful admittance into or temporary residence within the U.S.

## **5) Bus recalls**

School bus owners are required to maintain their buses in compliance with the Ohio school bus construction standards. This includes the obligation to address any and all recalls issued by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

NHTSA issues vehicle safety standards and requires manufacturers to recall vehicles and equipment that have safety-related defects. This recall program also includes a mechanism for vehicle owners to report defects they have experienced, as well as a means to look up individual vehicles to determine if there are outstanding recalls.

The link to NHTSA's recall website is: <https://www.nhtsa.gov/recalls>

A valuable tool on NHTSA's recall website is the option to subscribe to recall notifications on vehicles that you are interested in. By submitting your email address to this service, you can sign up for specific vehicles or ask for recalls on all school buses. The service allows you to update your subscription as needed.

## **6) Bus bidding assistance**

The decision to buy buses is complicated. You want the best bus for your district, at the best price. And, you can only purchase through a legal process that involves a number of detailed

steps. OSBA staff have been assisting a number of districts with this process for several years. We are expanding our service and making it available to all districts. If you are looking for a way to save some of your valuable administrative time, but still design a customized bus specification package unique for your district, give us a call. We will handle all parts of the process for you and provide a final bus bid analysis ready for you to take to your board.

We have discounted our rates for this service for the next couple of months, so if you are interested, now is the time to call. For more information about this service, contact Doug Palmer at (614) 540-4000 or email at [Dpalmer@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:Dpalmer@ohioschoolboards.org).

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