Registration opens for virtual Capital Conference and Trade Show
It’s time to register for the 2020 OSBA Capital Conference. Set for Nov. 7-10, this virtual event offers a first-rate program filled with the same high-quality professional development that participants have enjoyed at past conferences. It features over 60 learning sessions, the Trade Show, Student Achievement Fair, networking opportunities, two General Sessions and more. Registration is $175 per person for each of the first six individuals from an OSBA member district. Group registration, seven or more people from a member district, is a flat fee of $1,225. There is no limit to how many people a district can register under the group rate. Ohio Council of School Board Attorneys member registration is $175 per person. Attorneys employed by a school district may register with their district. All learning sessions will be recorded and available to attendees through Dec. 31, 2020. New this year: Your district designee can register your team online at http://conference.ohioschoolboards.org/registration. For conference updates, visit http://conference.ohioschoolboards.org.

Ohio School for the Deaf instructor is 2021 Ohio Teacher of the Year
State Superintendent of Public Instruction Paolo DeMaria surprised Ohio School for the Deaf teacher Anthony Coy-Gonzalez on Sept. 3 by naming him the 2021 Ohio Teacher of the Year. Coy-Gonzalez teaches upper elementary students at the school in Columbus. DeMaria made an unannounced appearance during a video conference staff meeting to share the unexpected news with Coy-Gonzalez and several of his colleagues. “I’m blown away by (his) commitment to his students and their success,” DeMaria said in a news release. “He models persistence, hard work, positive attitude and civic mindedness. He brings an energy and enthusiasm to the classroom that is infectious not only among his students but among his colleagues as well.”

It’s time to register for free OSBA virtual region conferences
Just like the Capital Conference, OSBA’s annual fall region conferences will be virtual events. Registration is now open for these conferences, which are free. Each region has created agendas to replicate the conferences as much as possible while adapting them as online events. Following are the conference dates: Central Region, Sept. 23; Southeast Region, Sept. 24; Northeast Region, Oct. 7; Southwest Region, Oct. 8; Northwest Region, Oct. 15. To register, visit the OSBA Upcoming Training page at www.ohioschoolboards.org/events and scroll down to your region.

Association launches on-demand learning library
It’s difficult to travel for professional development opportunities and gather with other people during the COVID-19 pandemic. OSBA understands those challenges
and has created the OSBA On-Demand Learning program. The on-demand library of webinars allows for easy, flexible and convenient learning that fits your schedule. Titles include: Assessing your district’s financial, operating and academic health; Back to School Safely: Communicating effectively amid a pandemic; Education Equity; Fill Your Tank; Levy Success in the COVID-19 Era; The Dirty Dozen: 12 tips for staying legally compliant; and Understanding Five-Year Forecasts. Visit https://www.ohioschoolboards.org/events/webinar to learn more about these flexible learning options that allow you to learn on your schedule at your pace.

State offering pandemic mental health resources
As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, families and students have experienced unprecedented changes and challenges in school and home life. The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services has created a list of resources that school administrators, parents and caregivers, students and the public can use to find support and respond to mental health needs during these challenging times. A list of those resources is posted at http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/94926.

OSBA online
● www.ohioschoolboards.org
A new season of OSBA’s Leading the Way podcasts is underway. In Season 2, Episode 1, South-Western City officials discuss the district’s reopening plans and what they are doing to keep students and staff safe. The episode also features the Ohio PTA president and president-elect talking about the importance of community engagement. Episode 2 highlights the work of the OSBA Transportation Task Force. Episode 3 examines the legalities of fall sports and COVID-19. You can subscribe to OSBA Leading the Way podcasts through Apple Podcasts and Google Podcasts. Episodes from Season 1 and 2 also are posted at www.ohioschoolboards.org/osba-podcasts.
National searches

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Superintendent</td>
<td>Rocky Mount, Va.</td>
<td>Sept. 18</td>
<td>Gina Patterson, executive director, Virginia School Boards Association, (434) 295-8722</td>
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Other searches

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<tr>
<td>Treasurer/CFO</td>
<td>Lucas Local (Richland)</td>
<td>Oct. 1</td>
<td>Brad Herman, superintendent, Lucas Local, <a href="mailto:Herman.Brad@LucasCubs.org">Herman.Brad@LucasCubs.org</a></td>
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Board changes

Bellefontaine City appointed Karen Wilson to the board effective Aug. 10. She replaced Anne Marie Reames, who resigned in July. Cuyahoga Falls City Board of Education member Dave Martin resigned effective Aug. 11. Jefferson Local (Madison) appointed Whitney Duemmel to the board effective Aug. 10. She replaced Jerry A. Doran, who passed away in June. Lake Local (Stark) appointed Adam J. Doane to the board effective Aug. 24. He replaced David Poling, who resigned in July. Mentor EV appointed Ambreen Hasan to the board effective June 9. She replaced Deanne Roberts, who resigned in April. Van Wert City Board of Education member Tom Losh announced his resignation effective immediately. West Branch Local (Mahoning) Board of Education member John Wallace resigned effective Aug. 26.

Administrative changes

Superintendents

Akron City Superintendent David W. James announced his retirement effective June 30, 2021. Buckeye Local (Medina) hired Jeffrey Harrison as superintendent effective Aug. 17. He replaced Kent Morgan, who is retiring Dec. 31. Harrison previously was the high school principal at Medina City. Gibsonburg EV hired Tom Peiffer as interim superintendent effective immediately. He replaced Tim Murray, who retired Aug. 14. Peiffer is a former superintendent at the district. Solon City hired Interim Superintendent Fred E. Bolden as superintendent effective Aug. 1.

Treasurers

Boardman Local (Mahoning) hired Terry Armstrong as treasurer effective Aug. 31. He replaced Nicholas Ciarniello, who took the treasurer position at Willoughby-Eastlake City. Armstrong will continue to serve as treasurer at Newton Falls EV. Franklin City Treasurer Jana Bellamy announced her resignation effective

Editor’s note

Job postings must be received six weeks before the application deadline to ensure timely publication. Thank you for your cooperation.
Aug. 17. ●●● Jefferson Local (Madison) hired Mark Ingles as treasurer effective Aug. 10. He replaced Jill Smith, who took the treasurer position at Mansfield City. Ingles previously worked for the state auditor’s office.

Sympathies
Former Alliance City Board of Education member Rev. Jack H. Dawson died Aug. 11. He was 94. ●●● Former Ayersville Local (Defiance) Board of Education member Garry Richard Breese died Aug. 20. He was 82. ●●● Former Berne Union Local (Fairfield) Superintendent Hoy J. Seckinger died Aug. 8. He was 87. ●●● Former Brunswick City Board of Education member Grant D. Relic died Aug. 17. He was 66. ●●● Former Eastern Local (Meigs) Board of Education member Ernest “Ernie” Whitehead died Aug. 8. He was 91. ●●● Former Holgate Local (Henry) Board of Education member Victor Sonnenberg died Aug. 10. He was 95. ●●● Former Middle Bass Local (Ottawa) Board of Education member Karl Henry Schmidlin died Aug. 9. He was 75. ●●● Former Morgan Local (Morgan) Board of Education member Ina Horner died Aug. 18. She was 97. ●●● Muskingum Valley ESC Governing Board Member W. Bryce Watt died Aug. 21. He was 78. ●●● Former Old Fort Local (Seneca) and Vanguard-Sentinel Career & Technology Centers board member John C. “Jack” DeMoss died Aug. 9. He was 88. ●●● John “Jack” Henry Ruth, a member of the former Shade School Board in Athens County, died Aug. 22. He was 94. ●●● Former Waverly City Board of Education member Gerald Ray Towler died Aug. 21. He was 86. ●●● Wilmington City Board of Education member Stephen “Steve” Murphy died Aug. 14. He was 68.

Could your board benefit from the insight and direction of a governance expert?

OSBA’s Division of Board and Management Services provides one-on-one consulting workshops that can help your team work through common governance issues such as:

- setting vision-focused goals and priorities;
- strengthening board and superintendent relations during periods of leadership transition;
- developing effective deliberation, meetings and communication;
- superintendent evaluation and board self-evaluation.

Call us at (614) 540-4000 or (800) 589-OSBA. We’ll connect you with a consultant who will work with your board to design strategies and services that best meet your needs.
The Ohio School Boards Association invites all central office staff and school building administrative assistants and professionals to attend this engaging and informative workshop. Join our experts virtually to discuss relationship-building, communication strategies and self-care tips to assist in your day-to-day needs.

10 a.m. Welcome
Teri Morgan, senior deputy director of board and management services, OSBA

10:05 a.m. How do you communicate and work?
We all communicate and work in different ways. Our internal wiring makes us unique in who we are. This session will look at different communication and work styles and ways these differences can be a strength for the work team rather than points of conflict.
Steve Horton, senior board and management services consultant, OSBA

10:40 a.m. Stretch break

10:45 a.m. Policy management in ever-changing times
Your board policies are a critical part of district operations, but how do you manage them when many provisions are temporarily changed or rescinded? We will discuss ways to manage policy updates, communications and questions in light of current temporary provisions and regulations.
Kenna S. Haycox, senior policy consultant, OSBA

11:25 a.m. Lunch break

11:55 a.m. Dealing with difficult parents
We all have to deal with angry people and difficult situations at one time or another. The best approach is prevention, but sometimes you don’t have that option. There are times when you will find yourself on the receiving end of someone’s built-up anger. When it’s not possible to prevent people from getting angry, the best thing you can do is defuse them effectively. Learn specific techniques to help with these challenging situations.
Kim Miller-Smith, senior student achievement consultant, OSBA

12:30 p.m. Stretch break

12:35 p.m. Fall legal roundup: What now?
Whenever someone would knock on her door, writer Dorothy Parker would say, “What fresh hell is this?” Lately, it seems that we are inundated with education-related news, sometimes conflicting or confusing, and we don’t always know where to turn for help and information. This session will feature some of the most current legal issues related to the changing education landscape. We’ll talk about attendance laws and the Ohio Department of Education’s attendance guidance; health and other student records; public records requests; and other emerging legal issues.
Jennifer A. Hardin, deputy director of legal services, OSBA

1:15 p.m. Stretch break

1:20 p.m. Filling your tank
Sometimes we need to be reminded that it is OK to make ourselves a priority. When we improve ourselves, everyone around us benefits. Learn strategies that can help you be the best version of yourself.
Dr. Kathy McFarland, deputy chief executive, OSBA

2 p.m. Adjourn

To register
Visit www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops or email Laurie Miller at Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org
OSBA Master of Transportation Administration (MTA) Program

Don't miss the kickoff of the 2020-21 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. Some classes are scheduled twice; participants may sign up for either session. Each class is $100, 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 to learn about the MTA certification program.

Workshop dates and descriptions
Sept. 16 — Routing and technology (virtual)
In today's school environment, it is essential to maximize route efficiency and get the best use out of your buses. This also becomes key as we manage continuing driver shortages. No one can afford to run extra buses or run buses with only a few students. We will look at some proven strategies for determining how many buses you really need and different styles of routing. This conversation also requires us to look at routing cost analysis. We will examine some of the technologies available to districts to assist with routing and their costs and benefits.

Oct. 28 — Personnel management (virtual)
Employees can either “make or break” any operation. A transportation administrator must have some knowledge of labor practices to effectively manage staff, especially when there is a bargaining unit. Discussion will include not only working with contracts but also discipline, grievances, arbitration, negotiations and practices. We also will review driver qualifications and how to manage issues, evaluations and monitoring driver license records.

Dec. 2 — Transportation rules and regulations (virtual)
Without a working knowledge of the laws and rules, the transportation administrator is flying blind. This class will walk through the key regulations that you might have overlooked, forgotten or not even have known existed. We will explore the relationship between federal, state and local regulations, talk about policy versus practice and then look at a checklist that every transportation department can use to measure its performance and compliance. This class is a favorite not only for brand new supervisors but also veterans and other school administrators who are responsible for pupil transportation service.

Feb. 3 or 10 — The transportation handbook (virtual or in-person)
Transportation administrators cannot afford to “fly by the seat of their pants” or to be inconsistent in management practices. Guidelines and procedures are essential and can be the manager’s best friend. Other issues that are related include board policy, administrative guidelines, labor agreements and other local resources. We will discuss the handbook development process as well as what to include in the handbook and how to keep it current.

March 3 or 10 — Public relations and working with the media (virtual or in-person)
We will have two related focus points for this session. First, we will experience a live interview process to refine our skills in developing talking points and staying on target in an interview about a real event. Second, after focusing on reactive news responses, we will shift focus to proactive news relationships to inform your community about the resources your transportation department offers.

April 7 or 14 — Designing your operational plan and building keys for success (virtual or in-person)
We will start this final class of the year by looking at how to put the operational plan together. What is your work calendar? When do you need to do what, and how do you schedule or delegate that project? Much of what we do has a critical work path, and unless you plan your work in advance it is easy to get “behind the curve” and feel like you are trying to catch up. After that, we will focus on building support networks, identifying friends and foes and how to recognize where you need allies to succeed. Building your stakeholders’ group and support network is key to your success and helps broaden your potential for positive impact.

Register by contacting Diana Paulins at (614) 540-4000, (800) 589-OSBA or mta@ohioschoolboards.org. You also can purchase a subscription plan for all the workshops in this series; contact Paulins for more information.
Each year, Ohio’s public education leaders attend the OSBA Capital Conference to find inspiration, innovations and insights and refresh their commitment to their students, schools and communities.

This year will be no different, as the virtual experience will offer boundless opportunities to acquire new knowledge, learn new strategies and build upon your leadership skills — all from the comfort of your home or office.

The agenda is filled with an impressive array of topics and will include two General Sessions, more than 60 learning sessions, cutting-edge vendor exhibits, student performances, a new student art show, networking opportunities and much more.

No matter your role, the conference is sure to renew and refresh you and elevate your skills to the next level. Embrace the conference philosophy of leadership for learning and register today for this exciting professional development opportunity.
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.

LEGAL WEBINAR

Accommodating Transgender Staff and Students in 2020
Tuesday, Oct. 6 • noon–1 p.m. • Cost: $50

The laws regarding the rights of transgender staff and students and what public schools may or must do to accommodate their needs continue to evolve. In addition to examining the current status of the law, panelists will discuss frequently requested accommodation requests, including the use of names and pronouns consistent with gender identity, updates to school records, field trips and access to restrooms and locker rooms aligned with gender identity.

Alex Shanks, associate director, Equitas Health; Dr. Scott F. Leibowitz, child and adolescent psychiatrist, Nationwide Children’s Hospital; medical director of behavioral health, THRIVE; and associate clinical professor, Ohio State University College of Medicine; Heather Throbe, clinical coordinator, THRIVE; and Sara C. Clark, chief legal counsel, OSBA

To register
Visit www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops or email Laurie Miller at Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org.
As the 2020-21 school year begins under the cloud of the COVID-19 pandemic, a bipartisan duo of state lawmakers has introduced legislation to extend the flexibility and relief measures previously afforded to school districts in the 2019-20 school year. Sens. Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo) and Nathan H. Manning (R-North Ridgeville) on Sept. 1 introduced Senate Bill (SB) 358, which will continue certain provisions of House Bill (HB) 197 and HB 164 into the 2020-21 school year. Those bills, enacted in March and June, respectively, reflected the General Assembly’s initial attempts at tackling the pandemic’s effects on K-12 education. SB 358 contains an emergency clause and would take effect immediately upon the governor’s signature.

In joint testimony to the Senate Education Committee, Fedor and Manning expressed their support for the emergency legislation, telling the panel, “Without the extension of these provisions, the uncertain learning conditions in the 2020-2021 school year will be even more stressful for teachers, students and families. … Any pressure we can relieve so that the focus is on teaching and learning, rather than testing and evaluating, will help our students succeed in the long term. Schools need to know what adjustments will be made to any requirements in order to have as much time as possible to achieve what needs to be accomplished.”

SB 358 extends many provisions of HB 197 and HB 164 through the 2020-21 school year, including the following:

● an exemption from the requirement to administer state assessments;
● an extension of the prohibition on deducting state funding from districts if they did not administer assessments to one or more students;
● an authorization for districts to grant high school diplomas up until Sept. 30, 2021;
● an authorization for high school students to use final course grades in lieu of the corresponding end-of-course exam if that exam was not administered in the 2020-21

Continued on page 6

We can help you reach agreement

OSBA’s bargaining consultation services offer your district comprehensive representation services 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.
school year;
● an extension of the partial freeze in eligibility for the Educational Choice (EdChoice) Scholarship program, with minor exceptions;
● an authorization for the superintendent of public instruction to waive or extend deadlines for certain actions;
● a prohibition on the use of value-added from being used in teacher evaluations;
● an authorization for districts to complete performance evaluations of principals without student growth measures;
● an authorization for districts to evaluate certain “accomplished” and “skilled” teachers on separate evaluation schedules.

Not all education provisions of HB 197 and HB 164 were extended in SB 358, like the provision that temporarily permitted boards of education, and other public bodies, to hold their meetings electronically.

The bill extends some provisions of HB 197 and HB 164 beyond the 2020-21 school year. For example, the bill prohibits the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) from publishing the 2020-21 and 2021-22 state report cards and issuing letter grades to districts and schools based on those report cards. Accordingly, any data from those report cards also cannot be used to determine eligibility for penalties like EdChoice program vouchers or academic distress commissions.

In addition to the bill’s test exemption, the bill requires ODE to seek a federal waiver from federal test requirements for the 2020-21 school year. In the event a waiver is not received, ODE must determine which state assessments are federally required and administer those assessments.

The possibility of a federal waiver now appears unlikely as U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos recently poured cold water on the issue in a Sept. 3 letter to the directors of state education departments. DeVos said education leaders should not anticipate waivers from federal test

Continued on page 7

Going nowhere fast?

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. To schedule a planning session, contact OSBA at (614) 540-4000 or (800) 589-OSBA.
Granville mom organizes fundraiser for teacher safety shields

The mother of a Granville EV fourth-grader wanted to help educators feel more comfortable about returning to in-person learning.

“There was a lot of discussion on Facebook about kids going back to school,” Chrissy Wissinger told a local newspaper. “It kind of emerged from … teachers (having) mixed emotions about (returning).”

That’s when Wissinger started thinking about what the community might be able to do beyond the safety precautions provided through district resources.

“They had plexiglass for common areas, sanitary wipes, but what outside of those normal things could we do for teachers?” Wissinger asked.

She also posed that question to the community on Facebook, asking what teachers needed. “This theme emerged about (how) it would be nice to have plexiglass dividers,” she said.

Through a PayPal pooling effort, Wissinger said the community contributed more than $4,000 to fund plexiglass dividers for numerous classrooms throughout the district.

With the help of local businessman Ryan McGuire and an Ace Hardware store, nearly 200 dividers were distributed throughout the district’s three buildings.

Source: Newark Advocate

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 at (614) 540-4000 or (800) 589-OSBA for more information.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>OSBA Master of Transportation Administration Program: Routing and technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Central Region Fall Conference</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Southeast Region Fall Conference</td>
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<td>Last day to file business advisory council plan with the Ohio Department of Education</td>
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<td>Last day for board to adopt annual appropriation measure</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Administrative Professionals Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Last day for voter registration for November election</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Accommodating Transgender Staff and Students in 2020</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Northeast Region Fall Conference</td>
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<td>Northwest Region Fall Conference</td>
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<td>Last day for certification of licensed employees to State Board of Education</td>
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<td>November 2020</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Last day for classroom teachers to develop online classroom lessons (“blizzard bags”)</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>General Election Day: Special Election Day</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>2020 Capital Conference Orientation</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Ask us anything!</td>
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<td>7-10</td>
<td>OSBA Capital Conference</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Deadline to file consolidated school mandate report</td>
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<td>December 2020</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>Last day for treasurer to canvass the board</td>
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<td>2021 January 2021</td>
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<td>Deadline for boards of education of city, exempted village, vocational and local school districts to meet and organize</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>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</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Last day to submit certification for income tax levy</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Last day to submit emergency, current operating expenses or conversion levy</td>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Deadline for educational service center (ESC) governing boards to meet and organize</td>
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