

**Inside this issue**

- MBR components move forward in legislative process
- Corrections for adjusted special education transportation funding posted
- Board-approved five-year forecasts due May 31
- Auditor of State announces reporting requirements for all public employers
- Please remember upcoming deadlines for district-ESC primary service agreements
- ODE video recordings and webinars now accessible via YouTube
- Race to the Top (RtT) budget news summarized

**MBR components move forward in legislative process**

Senate Bill 316, which includes the education portions of the Mid-biennium Budget Review, was recently introduced in the Ohio Senate. The General Assembly plans to hold hearings on this legislation over the next several weeks. If you are interested in a detailed look at the bill's provisions, please view the Legislative Service Commission's [bill analysis](#) or view the bill in its entirety [here](#). ODE staff also have prepared a [brief summary](#). Superintendent Stan W. Heffner will provide testimony before the Senate Education Committee on Tuesday, April 17. Stay tuned for further updates as Senate Bill 316 moves through the legislative process.

**Corrections for adjusted special education transportation funding posted**

On the March #2 foundation payment, ODE implemented this year's adjustment for special education transportation funding. Unfortunately, a data error caused all districts with names starting with *Tr* through *Wy* to be omitted from the calculation. That mistake has been corrected, and the corrected payment will be implemented in the April #2 payment. **All districts are affected by the correction.** A revised spreadsheet posted [here](#) details the corrected payments.

**Board-approved five-year forecasts due May 31**

All city, local, exempted village, and joint vocational school districts are required to submit an updated five-year forecast by **May 31**. The forecast should be approved by your board and submitted electronically through EMIS. Community schools need only update their five-year forecast if there are changes to the October submission. Updates to community school five-year forecasts need to be reviewed and approved by the school's governing authority and submitted to Mary Cotton, Office of Community Schools, at [mary.cotton@education.ohio.gov](mailto:mary.cotton@education.ohio.gov).

Traditional districts are reminded of the following details regarding their submissions:

- While the numeric five-year projections **must** be submitted through EMIS, districts continue to have the **option** of submitting forecast assumptions in PDF format via email. If choosing the email option, please be sure that the EMIS assumption submission section has this text: "*Please visit the Ohio Department of Education website at [ftp://ftp.ode.state.oh.us/geodoc/5-yrForecast/](http://ftp.ode.state.oh.us/geodoc/5-yrForecast/).*"
- PDF files should have the naming convention **DISTRICT\_NAME-IRN**, where all parts of the name are separated with an underscore followed by a dash and the IRN, and contain no spaces. For example, Newton Falls Exempted Village School District would be named NEWTON\_FALLS-045567 and Newton Local would be NEWTON-048637. Note that school district type (city, local, exempted village, joint vocational) should **not** be part of the file name. Email PDF assumptions to Sonja Hunter at [sonja.hunter@education.ohio.gov](mailto:sonja.hunter@education.ohio.gov).

**Auditor of State announces reporting requirements for all public employers**

As a result of new House Bill 66 requirements, all public offices, including public (traditional and community) schools, must make their employees aware of the Ohio Auditor of State's fraud-reporting

system by **May 4**, the bill's effective date. In addition, public employers must make newly hired employees aware of the system and have them confirm in writing that they have received this information within 30 days of initial employment.

Per the legislation, the Auditor of State has expanded its existing fraud hotline (telephone) program to allow all Ohio citizens the opportunity to also make anonymous complaints about fraud online or through the U.S. mail. These reports are those regarding misuse of public money by any official or office. The Ohio Auditor of State's [Fraud Center](#) provides more information, including sample confirmation forms for new employees. Also see House Bill 66 language [here](#).

### ***Please remember upcoming deadlines for district-ESC primary service agreements***

Due to changes in House Bill 153 (the budget bill), all school districts are required to sign new primary service agreements with an Educational Service Center (ESC), and file a copy with ODE. The only exception is for districts with an enrollment of more than 16,000. The service agreements are the ones that involve the \$6.50 per-pupil payments and the supervisory service payments. ODE has received a number of questions regarding the agreements:

- *If my local school district is not changing to a different ESC, do I have to file an agreement?*  
Yes. Since Ohio Revised Code (ORC 3313.843) did not apply previously to local school districts, no local school district had an existing agreement as required per that section, so all local districts should sign and file a new agreement.
- *My ESC has had an agreement for many years to charge an amount greater than \$6.50 per student. Do we need to redo that?*  
The primary service agreement is separate from the decision on an alternative to the \$6.50. That amount does not need to be revisited, but you still need to file a new primary service agreement with ODE.
- *If my city school district has a copy of our ESC agreement from 1996, can we just send that in?*  
No. The laws have changed and previous agreements require updating. We are asking for a new agreement.
- *Is this a good time to get legal advice on a proper agreement and to have conversations with my ESC on expectations and possibilities?*  
Yes.

A copy of each new ESC service agreement should be sent to Prabir Sarkar with a cover sheet, which is available [here](#). These agreements are due to ODE by **July 1**, or before **June 1** if the parties want the state to start payments with the first foundation payment in July.

### ***ODE video recordings and webinars now accessible via YouTube***

ODE now features its own [channel](#) on YouTube, where published video content such as recordings of webinars, conferences and interviews with Ohio educators are accessible. YouTube allows ODE to reach a wider audience of educators using various software to view recordings on computers, e-book readers and smart phones. Right now, you can hear from State Board members, ODE leadership and Ohio teachers on such topics as: the transition to the revised content standards in social studies; Ohio's strategies for helping students achieve college and career readiness; and Ohio's No Child Left Behind waiver request. Please note that you can subscribe to the channel and receive email notifications every time a new item is posted. Recorded ODE webinars also are accessible at [education.ohio.gov](http://education.ohio.gov) – the link to the [webinar Web page](#) is at bottom right.

### ***Race to the Top (RttT) budget news summarized***

- *Updated RttT grant allocations* – ODE has posted on the RttT website the updated RttT Grant Allocations for all local education agencies (LEAs) participating in RttT. Funds for LEAs that have withdrawn from the program since May 2011 have been re-allocated to the remaining LEAs. In addition, ODE has provided the *total amount of funds available* per each LEA during the last two

years of the RttT grant. To view this information [here](#), click on the *Budget Info* link in the blue *Achieve* box at left.

- *Notes for updating RttT budget templates in SharePoint* – When examining a budget template (an Excel spreadsheet available by logging in [here](#) to the Collaboration Center), FY2011 should represent a LEA’s actual incurred expenses from FY2011. (This amount should align to the FER for FY2011.) FY2012 should represent the current budget allocation in the CCIP. This amount includes the approved FY2011 carryover. The total RttT Grant Allocation should align to the updated RttT grant allocation amount provided by ODE as noted in the above paragraph. The FY2013 and FY2014 figures also should align to the *total \$ available* amount, as noted above.
- *FY2012 CCIP budget allocation* – FY2012 budget allocations in the CCIP need to remain in “final approved” status, especially on **June 30**. All revisions to FY2012 budget allocations should be proposed before **June 25**. Budget revisions to FY2012 cannot be made in the CCIP after **June 30** (RttT budgets are frozen in CCIP after this date). Amendment documents are located in SharePoint (Collaboration Center) in the *General-Budget-Amendment Documentation* folder.
- *RttT funds should not be collecting “interest”* – If possible, all RttT funds should be held in non-interest bearing accounts. If an LEA accrues any interest on RttT funds, amounts totaling \$100 or more need to be returned to the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) promptly. LEAs can work with [Erik Bower](#) in returning the “interest” amounts to USDOE. “Affirmation” documents were sent to specific LEAs that received an initial 10 percent payment (e.g. RttT Innovation Grant awardees).
- *Request RttT FY2013 and FY2014 CCIP budget allocations by June 8* – ODE requires LEAs to request their FY2013 and FY2014 CCIP budget allocations by **June 8**. This file will be located in the *Budget-Year 3* folder. ODE will load the FY2013 budget allocations into the CCIP during the week of **July 2-6**. FY2012 FERs are to be filed from July 1 to Sept. 30. An updated budget template (Year 3) will be uploaded by each LEA after their FY2012 FER is approved by ODE Grants Management.

***For more information, contact your [area coordinator](#) or the ODE staff member below.  
Office of Quality School Choice and Funding***

- **Eric Bode**  
Executive Director  
[eric.bode@education.ohio.gov](mailto:eric.bode@education.ohio.gov)
- **Finance Program Services**  
[scott.bennington@education.ohio.gov](mailto:scott.bennington@education.ohio.gov)  
[roger.hardin@education.ohio.gov](mailto:roger.hardin@education.ohio.gov)
- **Policy and Payment Services**  
[daria.shams@education.ohio.gov](mailto:daria.shams@education.ohio.gov)
- **Grants Management**  
[brian.jones@education.ohio.gov](mailto:brian.jones@education.ohio.gov)
- **Pupil Transportation**  
[pete.japikse@education.ohio.gov](mailto:pete.japikse@education.ohio.gov)
- **Office of Community Schools**  
[joni.hoffman@education.ohio.gov](mailto:joni.hoffman@education.ohio.gov)
- **Nonpublic Educational Options**  
[sue.cosmo@education.ohio.gov](mailto:sue.cosmo@education.ohio.gov)