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Information for Ohio's nonpublic school administrators

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Deadline to register for Ohio Resident Educator Program is Nov. 15

The deadline for registering Resident Educators in the state's Connected Ohio Records for Educators (CORE) system is **Nov. 15**, **2012**. Resident Educators must be registered in CORE each year that they participate in the program. For example, a Resident Educator (RE) in the first year of the program must be registered as a Year 1 RE, a Resident Educator in the second year of the program must be registered as a Year 2 RE, etc.

For more information about the Ohio Resident Educator Program, refer to this <u>web page</u> or contact the office at REProgram@education.ohio.gov.

Criminal background check requirements clarified

Ohio law requires that all individuals must have a baseline BCI and FBI criminal background check at the time they apply for their first Ohio educator license, certificate or permit, and that those BCI and FBI background checks must be no older than one year (365 days) at the time they are used for initial licensure.

If an individual then resides in Ohio continuously, he or she does not need to update the BCI background check, but must obtain an updated FBI check once every five years.

If an individual lives outside Ohio at any time during the five years after obtaining a BCI check, then both the BCI and FBI background checks must be updated.

This applies to all individuals holding a state of Ohio educator license, certificate or permit, including those with a non-tax certificate, a permanent certificate and an eight-year professional certificate.

Please note that it is the responsibility of educators holding ODE licenses, certificates or permits, as well as their employers, to ensure that they follow the law with regard to obtaining required updated background checks within the five-year time frame prescribed by law, even if the expiration of a background check does not always coincide with the expiration of the license.

It is anticipated that, over time, the expiration of licenses and background checks would align, but in cases where they are not aligned, it is still the educator's responsibility to meet the five-year background check

requirement in law, regardless of when the educator's license is due to expire. Educators should not allow required criminal background checks to expire (beyond five years) just because their license is not yet due for renewal.

If you have questions about educator licensure-related criminal background checks, please contact the ODE Office of Educator Licensure at (614) 466-3593 (toll-free 1-877-644-6338) or by email at Educator.Licensure@education.ohio.gov.

EdChoice Scholarship Program updates provided

More than 15,900 students have accepted EdChoice scholarships for the 2012-2013 school year and are attending a participating private school. In early October, ODE terminated 799 applications because the students did not begin the school year at a participating private school.

The fall payment for 40 percent of the annual tuition has been processed and mailed to private schools. Schools that completed August and September attendance received their payments in October. Additional payments will be made to include schools that did not complete data entry in time for the first round of the fall payment. Annual EdChoice surveys to parents and participating schools will be conducted in November.

The EdChoice application period for 2013-2014 scholarships will be **Feb. 1 – April 19, 2013**. The list of EdChoice-eligible public schools for 2013-2014 is not available yet, since the 2011-2012 Local Report Card ratings, which are needed to determine which schools should be included on the list, have not been released yet. The list will be posted on the EdChoice <u>website</u> as soon as it is available. In early December, ODE will email information regarding program registration for 2013-2014 to all chartered nonpublic school principals.

Cleveland Scholarship Program updates given

Currently, there are slightly fewer than 6,000 students who reside in the Cleveland Municipal School District who have accepted their scholarship awards and are attending a participating private school. ODE terminated approximately 462 scholarships for students who were not attending a participating private school for the 2012-2013 school year.

Fall tuition payment was initiated in late September and mailed to participating schools in early October. Subsequent payment processing will continue for any schools that were not included in the initial round. The winter payment will be processed in mid-January.

During November, the Cleveland Scholarship Program (CSTP) will conduct a survey of all participating schools as well as parents and guardians of current recipients.

The 2013-2014 application period for the Cleveland Scholarship Program will be **Feb. 1 – April 19, 2013**. Please note that the April 19th deadline is **earlier** than the CSTP application deadline of previous years. Now the CSTP deadline is aligned with the application deadline for the EdChoice Scholarship Program. The program <u>website</u> and all program documents have been updated to reflect this deadline date.

Upcoming changes for EdChoice and Cleveland Scholarship Programs noted

Within the next few months, both the EdChoice Scholarship Program and the Cleveland Scholarship Program will added to a new online scholarship system. This new system already is being used by the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program (JPSN) and the Autism Scholarship Program (ASP). Schools that currently participate in JPSN and/or ASP may already be familiar with the new online scholarship system.

Through the new system, schools will be able to do almost everything that they can do now in the current system, plus perform additional functions, such as program registration. The new system also will allow for required documentation to be uploaded into the systems, such as school handbooks, tuition schedules, student address proof, custody documents and birth certificates.

Please note that scanning and uploading documents will be a required activity for all participating private schools in the new system. Participating private schools that currently do not have the ability to scan documents should plan to purchase a scanner or other office equipment that allows for scanning.

Both the EdChoice and Cleveland Scholarship Programs are expected to be added to the new online system by the start of the 2013-2014 scholarship application/renewal period (i.e., February 2013). More detailed information and dates regarding the inclusion of these programs into the new online system will be provided as that information becomes available.

Second application period for Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship ends Nov. 15

The second application period for the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program is underway and will run through **Nov. 15, 2012**. This application period will provide funding for services received Jan. 1 through June 30 of the 2012-2013 school year.

Students awarded during this period will receive half of the scholarship amount typically awarded for their special education category. For example, if the student's special education category is Specific Learning Disability, then the scholarship award amount is \$3,804. If the special education category is Autism, the scholarship award amount is \$10,000.

Please contact the scholarship office at 877-644-6338 or peterson.scholarship@education.ohio.gov if you have additional questions or need assistance.

Ohio Attorney General's Office offers the Take Action Video Contest

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine's Office announces the 2012 Take Action Video Contest. High school students in Grades 9-12 may submit a 60-second video on consumer scams. The top three winning individuals or teams will receive college scholarships of \$2,500, \$1,500, and \$1,000, respectively, and an opportunity to be featured on the Attorney General's website. The deadline to submit videos is **Dec. 14, 2012**. For more information, go to www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/TakeActionContest. Winners will be announced in early 2013.

2013 John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Essay Contest application deadline is Jan. 5

The Profile in Courage Essay Contest encourages high school students to consider the concept of political courage by writing an essay on a U.S. elected official who has chosen to "do what is right, rather than what is expedient." The winner of this annual contest is awarded a \$10,000 prize and is invited to attend the award ceremony hosted in May by Caroline Kennedy at the Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston. More information on this contest, including past winning essays and other resources, can be found here. The deadline to submit an essay is **Jan. 5, 2013**.

Christopher Columbus Awards Program allows students to solve community problems

The Christopher Columbus Awards program challenges middle school students to identify a problem in their community and apply the scientific method to create an innovative solution to that problem. Eight finalist teams and their coaches will receive an all-expense-paid trip to Walt Disney World® to attend National Championship Week and compete for cash prizes and the \$25,000 Columbus Foundation Community Grant, plus a \$200 development grant to further refine their idea. These eight teams also will participate in the Christopher Columbus Academy, an interactive behind-the-scenes look at the science and technology at Walt Disney World®.

Complete details are available <u>here</u>. The deadline for entries is **Monday, Feb. 4, 2013**. For more information, contact Stephanie Hallman at (800) 291-6020 ext. 3154.

USDOE selects 2012 Blue Ribbon Schools

This fall, the U.S. Department of Education recognized four chartered nonpublic schools in Ohio as National Blue Ribbon Schools. The program honors public and private elementary, middle and high schools that are either high-performing or have significantly improved student achievement. The four schools are:

- Holy Family School, Stow;
- Our Lady of the Elms Elementary School, Akron;
- · St. Dominic School, Shaker Heights; and
- St. Edward School, Ashland.

Additional information on the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program is available here.

Important dates for the 2012-2013 school year provided

- **Feb. 1:** Application period begins for the EdChoice Scholarship Program, the Cleveland Scholarship Program, and the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program
- March 11-24: Ohio Graduation Tests administered
- April 15: Application period closes for the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program
- April 19: Application period closes for the EdChoice and Cleveland Scholarship Programs
- April 22 May 10: Ohio Achievement Assessments for Grades 3-8 administered
- June 17–30: Ohio Graduation Tests administered

ODE Web resources

Each Web link below also is available at education.ohio.gov by searching for these keywords:

Private Schools

School Charter Change Forms

Educator Licensure (including certification requirements)

School Finance Area Coordinators

Center for Student Support and Education Options

The Center for Student Support and Education Options oversees nonpublic educational options, including the chartering and oversight of nonpublic schools. Please contact us with suggestions for future newsletter content, or if you have any questions or concerns about the information provided here.

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