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***Teacher education and licensure standards outlined***

House Bill 1, passed in 2009, established a new licensure structure for Ohio educators, effective in 2011. Click [here](#) for a chart outlining the new structure as well as all other existing licenses, certificates and permits that are issued by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE).

***Background checks required for school employees***

House Bill 190 of the 127<sup>th</sup> Ohio General Assembly established the current laws regarding background checks for school employees. The law specifies that all teachers and other school staff members who hold a state license (e.g., nurses, physical therapists, etc.) are required to have BCI and FBI checks done before a license is issued or renewed. Non-licensed staff members and teachers with non-tax certificates or permanent certificates must have a background checks every five years. [School bus drivers](#) must have a background check every six years.

More information on background checks can be found with the [Background Check FAQ](#).

***Self-auditing tips offered***

Chartered nonpublic schools in Ohio are required to comply with the Operating Standards for Ohio's Schools (Ohio Administrative Code 3301-35-12). To assist in your efforts to maintain compliance with the operating standards, a school must:

- ✓ Ensure that the principal and all teaching staff (including substitutes or volunteers) have a valid Ohio teaching license issued by ODE. They must have at least a non-tax certificate. Teacher aides must have an educational aide permit and coaches must hold a pupil activity permit;
- ✓ Maintain student records that include a copy of the student's birth certificate, immunization records, admissions application, annual assessment results, progress report and promotion cards, emergency authorization forms, transcripts, etc.;
- ✓ Maintain teaching staff records that include copies of background checks, certifications, annual evaluations and employment applications;
- ✓ Confirm that all staff members (teaching and non-teaching) have current Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) and FBI background checks on file;
- ✓ Have current (within last 12 months) fire inspection reports on file;
- ✓ Have current (within last 12 months) health inspection reports on file;

- ✓ Have a school calendar indicating a minimum of 182 days constituting the school year, per Ohio Revised Code ([ORC](#)) [3313.48](#); and
- ✓ Have a principal who has a [SAFE account](#) and is listed in the [Ohio Educational Directory System](#).

### ***Ohio Resident Educator Program requirements explained***

As schools prepare for the 2012-2013 school year, it is important to ensure that any new teachers who meet the eligibility criteria for the Resident Educator Program are registered in CORE. Eligibility criteria for both teacher participation, as well as school participation can be found in the FAQ document on ODE's [Resident Educator Web page](#). Each eligible school must identify a Program Coordinator to administer the program and assign the coordinator the role of "Coordinator-Resident Educator Program" in the state's CORE system. The program coordinator also is responsible for selecting and assigning *certified* mentors. State-required training for mentors to become certified includes both Instructional Mentor (IM) and Resident Educator-1 (RE-1). Available trainings are listed in [STARS](#), which is accessible through a [SAFE account](#). Please send any questions to [REProgram@ode.state.oh.us](mailto:REProgram@ode.state.oh.us).

### ***Professional learning series offered on implementing Ohio's new learning standards***

During the 2012-2013 school year, ODE will offer standards implementation support through a professional learning series focusing on instruction. The series will address the key common instructional shifts for all subject areas and learners, specific instructional shifts within subject areas, and will include examples of model instructional units that will provide opportunities for educators to evaluate and design high-quality instruction around the shifts.

The series is designed for educators of all diverse learners, subjects and grade levels. It will begin with a webinar on Sept. 7, followed by a first round of regional trainings during the last week of September and the first week of October. A second round of trainings will be held during the last week of November and the first week of December.

For more information, see the [Professional Development Series](#) Web link. Participants can register through [STARS](#), where they can find dates, times and locations.

### ***2012-2013 EdChoice scholarships awarded***

In July, the EdChoice Scholarship Program awarded more than 16,000 scholarships to students who attended persistently under-performing public schools. The scholarship, sometimes called a voucher, must be used for a student to attend a participating chartered nonpublic school.

Denial letters were sent to the families of more than 400 students who did not meet the EdChoice eligibility requirements. Families who believe that their child was wrongly denied can have their application re-evaluated by completing the reconsideration process. Completed reconsideration forms and supporting documentation must be submitted to the EdChoice Office by Aug. 15.

EdChoice scholarship amounts for the 2012-2013 are a maximum \$4,250 for students in grades K-8 and \$5,000 for students in grades 9-12. EdChoice pays either the maximum scholarship amount or the private school's tuition amount, whichever is less.

Additional information about the EdChoice Scholarship Program is available on the [EdChoice](#) website.

### ***Cleveland Scholarship Program updates provided***

House Bill 487, which removes the parent percentages from the Cleveland Scholarship Program, was signed by Governor Kasich on July 26 and becomes effective on Sept. 26. The maximum scholarship amount for the 2012-2013 school year is \$4,250 for grades K-8 and \$5,000 for grades 9-12. The Cleveland Scholarship Program will pay either the maximum scholarship amount or the private school's actual tuition amount, whichever is less. All families (except those of students in grades K-8 whose family

income is at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines) are responsible for any remaining tuition beyond the scholarship amount. Families of K-8 students responsible for a tuition difference must be provided the option to volunteer in lieu of cash payment. The Cleveland scholarship covers tuition only. Parents and guardians continue to remain responsible for any additional fees that are not included in the tuition amount, such as registration, graduation and extracurricular activities.

Award letters and scholarship acceptance forms for renewal students and first-year applicants who qualified for low income were mailed in July. The form is used to accept or decline the scholarship for the 2012-2013 school year. The deadline to accept the Cleveland scholarship is Sept. 14, 2012. Additional information about the Cleveland Scholarship Program can be found [here](#).

### ***Postsecondary enrollment options updates offered***

The Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) Program allows Ohio high school students to earn college credit and/or high school graduation credit through the successful completion of college courses.

Approximately 1,551 students were recently awarded a maximum of two units (eight semester hours) through the nonpublic PSEO Option B Program for the 2012-2013 school year. With Option B, students are not required to pay for tuition, books, materials or fees that are directly related to a course. However, parents should check to make sure there are no general fees for which they may be responsible.

Visit the [PSEO](#) Web page for more information on this program.

### ***Green Ribbon Schools application deadline is Nov. 15***

The U.S. Department of Education is currently in its second award cycle for the Green Ribbon Schools Program. The program recognizes and honors schools that are exemplary in three areas: 1) environmental impact and energy efficiency; 2) healthy environment, and 3) environmental literacy. In this second year of the program, states also will be able to nominate one school district for this recognition.

Ohio's application will be available in early September, with an application deadline of Nov. 15, 2012. Schools interested in applying for 2012-2013 should contact Brenda Metcalf, Executive Director of the Environmental Education Council of Ohio, at [Brendasmetcalf@aol.com](mailto:Brendasmetcalf@aol.com). Additional information about Ohio Green Ribbon Schools can be found [here](#).

### ***Staff updates provided for the Office of Nonpublic Educational Options***

Although she still works at ODE, Nina Pace is no longer a part of the Office of Nonpublic Educational Options. Questions regarding the following areas should now be directed to the ODE staff member listed:

- Chartering and oversight of chartered nonpublic schools: Myesha Atley
- Homes education: Bev Russell
- Non-chartered, non-taxed schools: Bev Russell
- E-newsletter for nonpublic schools: Stacy Cherry

### ***Important dates for the 2012-2013 school year announced***

- **Oct 1 – 5:** Ohio Achievement Assessments (OAA) in Grade 3 Reading administered
- **Oct 22 – November 4:** Ohio Graduation Tests (OGT) administered
- **March 11 – 24:** Ohio Graduation Tests administered
- **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](http://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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**Chartered Nonpublic Schools**

[chartered.nonpublic.schools@education.ohio.gov](mailto:chartered.nonpublic.schools@education.ohio.gov)

**Ohio EdChoice Scholarship Program**

[edchoice@education.ohio.gov](mailto:edchoice@education.ohio.gov)

**Cleveland Scholarship Program**

[cleveland.scholarship@education.ohio.gov](mailto:cleveland.scholarship@education.ohio.gov)

**Autism Scholarship Program**

[autismscholarship@education.ohio.gov](mailto:autismscholarship@education.ohio.gov)

**Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program**

[peterson.scholarship@education.ohio.gov](mailto:peterson.scholarship@education.ohio.gov)