



**Department of
Education &
Workforce**

DEW Public Meeting

Thursday, Jan. 22, 2026

9 a.m.

25 South Front Street

Columbus, Ohio 43215



**Department of
Education &
Workforce**

Director's Welcome

Stephen D. Dackin

Director



**Department of
Education &
Workforce**



Meeting Overview

Chris Woolard, Ph.D.

Chief Integration Officer



**Department of
Education &
Workforce**



Meeting Agenda

1. Literacy and Academic Success Updates
2. Workforce Readiness and Career-Technical Education Updates
3. Student Group Accountability Updates
4. Model Policy on the use of Artificial Intelligence in Schools
5. Administrative Rules Proposed for Review

Opportunity for Public Comment

Individuals are welcome to ask questions or provide comments regarding the information covered during each agenda item presentation.

Comments may be provided in-person during the meeting or submitted in writing.

Sign-up form:

- Sign-up online before the meeting, or in-person during the meeting.
- Contact information is collected for additional follow-up from the Department.



Literacy and Academic Success Updates

Melissa Weber-Mayrer, Ph.D.

Chief Academic Officer



**Department of
Education &
Workforce**



HQIM EMIS Reporting Reminder

- Reviewing EMIS data for alignment of materials to approved lists.
 - Department has been in contact with those who were not aligned as of close of reporting in August 2025.
- Data still needs to be reported each year.
- [EMIS Training](#) video and [PowerPoint](#) on Department's [webpage](#).



Local 6-8 HQIM ELA Rubric

- Encourage the use of high-quality instructional materials in ELA that allow for coherence and consistency in grades 6 and up.
- Schools and districts may use this rubric to determine how well instructional materials align with the Science of Reading and Ohio's Learning Standards for English Language Arts.

Local 6-8 HQIM ELA Rubric

Review and selection of materials is an important school and district decision and is essential for meeting the needs of students at the local level.



Ohio's Refresher Course in the Science of Reading

- Modules will be available in the Department's Learning Management System.
- Course designed to:
 - Provide a review of key concepts in the Science of Reading.
 - Connect participants to usable strategies and resources for their students and content areas.
- Participants must complete two modules to meet the training requirements.
- Completion of Module One option will unlock availability of Module Two options.



Refresher Course Module Topic Overview

Module One – Choose One	Module Two – Choose One
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• K-5 Science of Reading Review• 6-12 Science of Reading Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Literacy for English Learners• Students with Reading Difficulties• Gifted Students• Science• Social Studies• Mathematics• Arts• Career-Technical Education• Students with Low-Incidence Disabilities

Course Release Details

- Both Module One options and select Module Two options will be available by late Spring 2026.
- The Department will continue to release Module Two options throughout 2026 and 2027.
- Announcement of new module options will be made through EdConnection, the Department's social media, and professional organizations.
- More information on birth-kindergarten entry (PreK) options forthcoming.



Training Requirements and Deadlines for School Personnel

Teachers and Administrators hired before July 1, 2025

- Refresher Course - June 30, 2030
- Refresher Course - Every five years thereafter

Speech-Language Pathologists and School Psychologists

- Refresher Course - Within five years of completing the Department's Introduction to Science of Reading Course

Governor's Science of Reading Champions

- Recognize schools demonstrating strong implementation of evidence-based instructional practices aligned to the Science of Reading and where students are making significant progress.
- 47 schools currently have this designation from the 2024 application process.
- In 2025, 213 schools applied for consideration.
- Applications are under review; award decisions will be made in early spring.



COMMENTS

EDUCATION.OHIO.GOV



**Department of
Education &
Workforce**



Workforce Readiness and Career-Technical Education Updates

Jeremy Varner

Deputy Director, Workforce Readiness and Career-Technical Education

Graham Wood

Administrator, Office of Graduate Success



**Department of
Education &
Workforce**



Career Pathway Support Networks

- CPSNs in each of the 7 Jobs Ohio Regions are now established.
- Regional representative Steering Committees have been formed that represent the workforce, CTE, and broader education communities.
 - Steering Committees will play an important support role in the planning process of regional CTE expansion.
- In each of the CPSN Regions, the important work of supporting schools to increase access to Middle Grades CTE has begun. The CPSNs have started the task of building services to support schools on Career Connected Learning, Career Advising, and Mentoring.
- The CPSNs are also charged with coordinating, establishing and maintaining relationships among educators, businesses, and community partners to support new teachers and administrators.
- We are excited about the progress to date and are optimistic that this new opportunity will prove to have a significant impact on the growth of CTE programming and access for all Ohio students.



Industry-Recognized Credential System Redesign

- Close partnership with OhioExcels to redesign list, process, and evaluation criteria for credentials.
- New list and criteria expected early Summer 2026.
- Working with Accenture via OhioExcels to redesign all aspects.
- Stakeholder engagement in coming weeks.
- Rollout of new list will come with significant supports and resources for all schools.
 - Identification of high-impact schools and districts

Ohio's Future for Career Exploration and Planning



Career and Self-
Exploration Starting in
Middle Grades



High Quality Career
Coaching and Advising



Transition to Meaningful
Post-High School Pathway

Career Connections Framework Redesign Committee

Committee Outcomes

- Three-week sprint
- 20 stakeholders: State, regional, community, and school-based partners
- Three intensive whiteboarding sessions
 - Outcomes:
 - ✓ Draft Framework
 - ✓ Draft Definition
 - ✓ Recommendations on defining success across the implementation chain

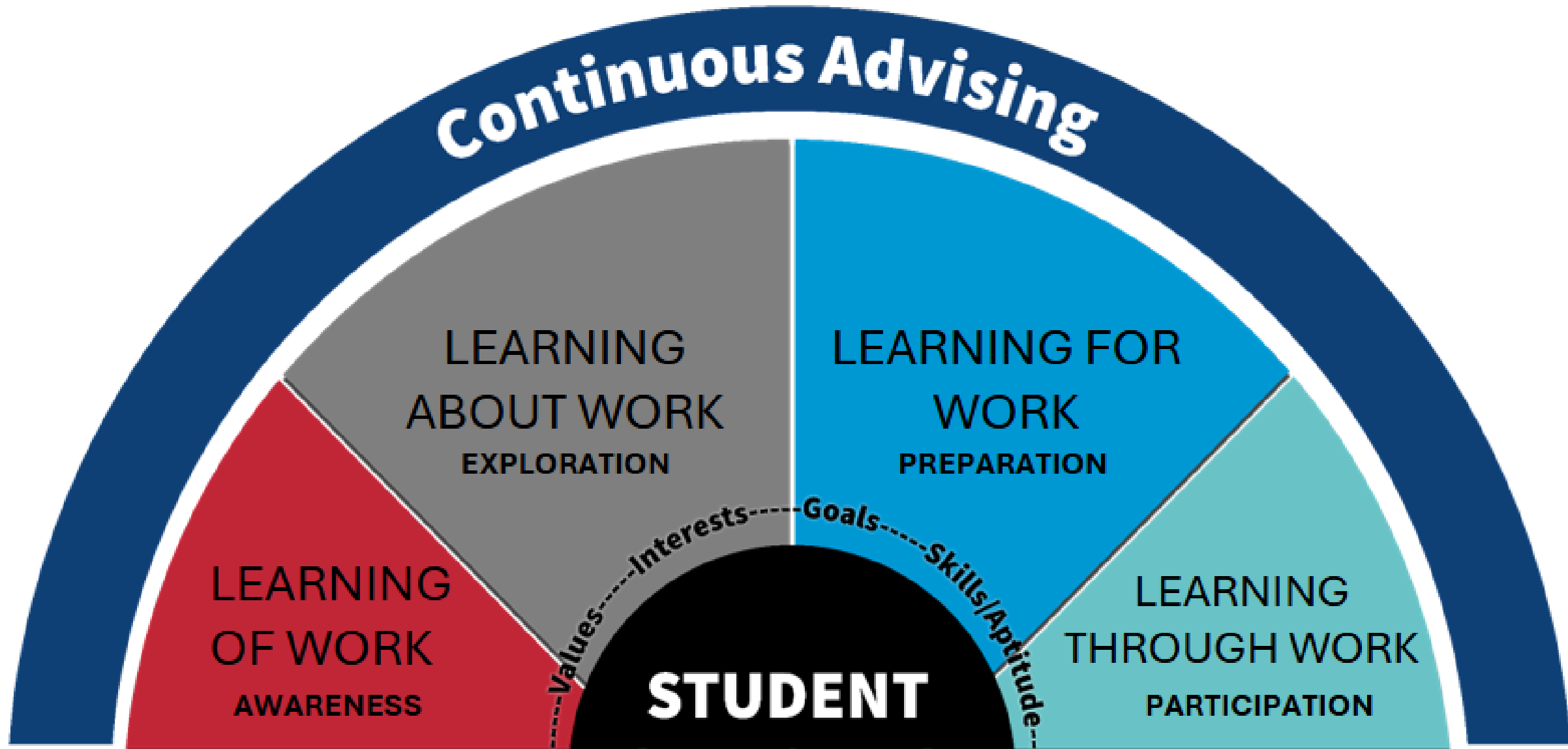


Career Connections Framework

Ohio's Career Connections Framework is a statewide, student-centered system designed to support all learners in developing a clear vision and actionable plan for their futures. The framework establishes consistent standards and guidance for career awareness, exploration, preparation, and participation. It ensures parity and access by promoting multiple pathways and integrating real-world experiences with classroom learning. Through continuous advising and data-driven practices, the framework guides districts and schools in helping students transition seamlessly from K-12 education to college, career training, military service, or the workforce with a sense of purpose and direction.



Career Connections Continuum



COMMENTS

EDUCATION.OHIO.GOV



**Department of
Education &
Workforce**



Student Group Accountability Updates

Colleen Grady

Chief, Educational Options and Improvement



**Department of
Education &
Workforce**



Student Group Accountability

- Ohio Revised Code [3317.40](#)
 - Requires schools to use funds to ensure that all students are provided an opportunity to graduate prepared for a career or post-secondary education.
 - Statute focuses on the expectation that categorical funding for identified student groups - English learners, students with disabilities, economically disadvantaged students, and identified gifted students - will address the needs of these students.
 - Also known as “watch” status.



Student Group Accountability

- Identifies both individual schools and districts that receive categorical funding for these student groups and fail to demonstrate satisfactory achievement and progress in English language arts and or mathematics.
- Identified schools and districts are required to submit and implement an improvement plan designed to improve outcomes for identified student groups.

Student Group Accountability

- Identification criteria was updated to align with measures included in the Gap Closing component on the school report card:
 - Districts and schools are identified as needing an improvement plan for economically disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, and English learners, if they have not met Satisfactory Achievement (the Gap Closing ESSA student subgroup goal) AND Satisfactory Progress (one-year growth index of 2 or greater).
 - Districts and schools are identified as needing an improvement plan for gifted students if the gifted performance index was not met on the report card AND had a growth index is less than -2.

Student Group Accountability

- Schools and districts will receive notification in February.
- To be approved, improvement plans must include a goal and strategy to address improved outcomes for all identified student groups.
- Schools identified as CSI/ATSI/TSI under federal accountability criteria will not receive the additional “watch” designation.
- Webinar will be available in March to assist identified schools and districts.



COMMENTS

EDUCATION.OHIO.GOV



**Department of
Education &
Workforce**



Model Policy on the use of Artificial Intelligence in Schools

Chris Woolard, Ph.D.

Chief Integration Officer



**Department of
Education &
Workforce**



AI Policy

DEW AI Model Policy released in December.

Under [House Bill 96](#), all Ohio districts are required to adopt a formal AI policy by July 1, 2026.



Scan QR code to review model policy.

AI Resources

- Students with Disabilities
- Federal Funding Grants
- Content Integration
- Intel AI for Youth Program
- Intel Skills for Innovation Initiative



Scan QR code to access AI resources.

COMMENTS

EDUCATION.OHIO.GOV



**Department of
Education &
Workforce**



Administrative Rules Proposed for Review

John VanNorman

Chief Legal Counsel



**Department of
Education &
Workforce**



OAC 3301-8-01

Amendment of OAC 3301-8-01

Payment of debt charges under the state credit enhancement program.

OAC 3301-8-01

Summary of existing rule

The rule governs requirements for participation in the Ohio Credit Enhancement Program and conditions for the interception of state education aid for the payment of debt charges on school district-issued securities if a participating district is unable to make such payments.



OAC 3301-8-01

Reasons for / Overview of the amendments

House Bill 96 of the 136th General Assembly replaced the former requirement for boards of education to submit five-year projections of operational revenues and expenditures with a new requirement to submit current budget information and three-year projections of expenditures, revenues, and fund balances.

School districts requesting to participate in the Credit Enhancement Program are required under this rule to submit a copy of their latest forecast submission with their applications.



OAC 3301-8-01

Reasons for / Overview of the amendments

Updates to the application requirements pertaining to budget and financial forecast documentation.

Adds a definition of “financial forecast” for clarity and consistency with Chapter 3301-92 of the Ohio Administrative Code.



OAC 3301-8-01

Public Comment Period

The public comment period on the **current rule** opened Aug. 4, 2025, and closed Aug. 18, 2025.

The public comment period on the **draft rule** opened Jan. 20, 2026, and will close Feb. 19, 2026.

Individuals may submit comments on the draft rules:

- Website: education.ohio.gov/OAC
- Email: rulecomments@education.ohio.gov



COMMENTS

EDUCATION.OHIO.GOV



**Department of
Education &
Workforce**



OAC Chapter 3301-19

Amendment of OAC Chapter 3301-19

School District Expenditure Flow Reports



OAC Chapter 3301-19

Summary of existing rules

3301-19-01 *Definitions.*

3301-19-02 *Purpose.*

3301-19-03 *Procedures for submitting data and presenting information.*

OAC Chapter 3301-19

Reasons for / Overview of the amendments

Five-year rule review.

Replaces references to the “Ohio Department of Education” with “Ohio Department of Education and Workforce” and the “State Superintendent” with “Director” in response to House Bill 33 of the 135th General Assembly.



OAC Chapter 3301-19

Public Comment Period

The public comment period on the **current rules** opened Nov. 17, 2025, and closed Dec. 8, 2025.

The public comment period on the **draft rules** opened Jan. 16, 2026, and will close Feb. 15, 2026.

Individuals may submit comments on the draft rules:

- Website: education.ohio.gov/OAC
- Email: rulecomments@education.ohio.gov



COMMENTS

EDUCATION.OHIO.GOV



**Department of
Education &
Workforce**



OAC Chapter 3301-44

Rescission of OAC Chapter 3301-44 (9 rules)

Adult Diploma Pilot Program

Introduction of new OAC Chapter 3301-44 (8 rules)

Competency-Based Educational Program for Adult Diplomas



OAC Chapter 3301-44

Reasons for rescission / Introduction of new chapter

House Bill 96 of the 136th General Assembly eliminated the existing Adult Diploma Pilot Program and created a new program, the Competency-Based Educational Program.

This program will combine the Twenty-Two Plus and the Adult Diploma Pilot Programs into this new single program, supported by proposed OAC Chapter 3301-44.



OAC Chapter 3301-44

Summary of new rules

3301-44-01 *Purpose.*

3301-44-02 *Definitions.*

3301-44-03 *Program standards.*

3301-44-04 *Program approval.*

3301-44-05 *Payment.*

3301-44-06 *Provider funding.*

3301-44-07 *Data collection and reporting.*

3301-44-08 *Hardship waivers.*



OAC Chapter 3301-44

Public Comment Period

The public comment period for the **current rules** opened Sept. 15, 2025, and closed Sept. 29, 2025.

The public comment period for the **draft rules** opened Jan. 16, 2026, and will close Feb. 15, 2026.

The **draft Business Impact Analysis**, which examines the cost of compliance to businesses, was posted with the draft rules.

Individuals may submit comments on the draft rules and draft Business Impact Analysis:

- Website: education.ohio.gov/OAC
- Email: rulecomments@education.ohio.gov



COMMENTS

EDUCATION.OHIO.GOV



**Department of
Education &
Workforce**



OAC Chapter 3301-45

Rescission of OAC Chapter 3301-45 (10 rules)

Adult High School Diplomas



OAC Chapter 3301-45

Reason for the rescission

House Bill 96 of the 136th General Assembly eliminated the Twenty-Two Plus Adult Diploma Program, supported by OAC Chapter 3301-45.

The new Adult Diploma Program (the *competency-based educational program*) will combine the Twenty-Two Plus and the Adult Diploma Pilot Programs into a single program, supported by the proposed OAC Chapter 44 rules.



OAC Chapter 3301-45

Public Comment Period

The public comment period for the **current rules** opened Sept. 15, 2025, and closed Sept. 29, 2025.

The public comment period for the **draft rules** opened Jan. 16, 2026, and will close Feb. 15, 2026.

The **draft Business Impact Analysis**, which examines the cost of compliance to businesses, was posted with the draft rules.

Individuals may submit comments on the draft rules and draft Business Impact Analysis:

- Website: education.ohio.gov/OAC
- Email: rulecomments@education.ohio.gov



COMMENTS

EDUCATION.OHIO.GOV



**Department of
Education &
Workforce**



OAC 3301-51-11

Amendment of OAC 3301-51-11

Preschool children eligible for special education.

OAC 3301-51-11

Summary of existing rule

The rule establishes the standards and requirements for providing special education services to preschool-age children (ages 3-5) with disabilities.

The rule establishes how education agencies must identify, evaluate, serve and support preschool children with a disability (i.e., children with IEPs).

OAC 3301-51-11

Reasons for / Overview of the amendments

Five-year rule review.

Updates references to either the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce or the Ohio Department of Children and Youth due to House Bill 33 of the 135th General Assembly.

Updates standards for the provision of special education and related services to preschool children with disabilities (i.e. children with IEPs).



OAC 3301-51-11

Reasons for / Overview of the amendments

Changes rule number references to correspond to rules promulgated by the Ohio Department of Children and Youth.

Clarifies the requirements and standards for the education of preschool children with a disability (i.e. children with IEPs).

Specifies the responsibilities of an educational agency for preschool children with disabilities (i.e. children with IEPs).



OAC 3301-51-11

Reasons for / Overview of the amendments

The draft rule has been revised to update existing practices, offer additional flexibility, and remove language that does not add to, or clarify, the law but merely restates the law, and is thus redundant.

OAC 3301-51-11

Public Comment Period

The public comment period on the **current rule** opened Nov. 17, 2025, and closed Dec. 8, 2025.

The public comment period on the **draft rule** opened Jan. 20, 2026, and will close Feb. 19, 2026.

The **draft Business Impact Analysis**, which examines the cost of compliance to businesses, was posted with the draft rules.

Individuals may submit comments on the draft rules:

- Website: education.ohio.gov/OAC
- Email: rulecomments@education.ohio.gov



COMMENTS

EDUCATION.OHIO.GOV



**Department of
Education &
Workforce**



OAC Chapter 3301-92

Amendment of OAC Chapter 3301-92

Distribution of State Aid



OAC Chapter 3301-92

Summary of existing rules

3301-92-02 *Capital improvement and maintenance fund. [Only technical changes required.]*

3301-92-04 *Reporting five-year projections.*

3301-92-05 *Certification of adequate revenue.*

OAC Chapter 3301-92

Reasons for / Overview of the amendments

Five-year rule review.

Revisions ensure compliance with statutory updates made under House Bill 33 of the 135th General Assembly and House Bill 96 of the 136th General Assembly.



OAC 3301-92-04

Reasons for / Overview of the amendments

The draft rule implements recent changes to ORC section 5705.391 including provisions addressing:

- Submission requirements and required information.
- Advance submission: Filings may be submitted up to 30 days in advance of the applicable due date specified in Ohio Revised Code section 5705.391(A).
- Definitions of “current budget information,” “three-year projections,” “financial forecast,” “appropriations,” and “updated financial forecast.”



OAC 3301-92-05

Reasons for / Overview of the amendments

House Bill 96 of the 136th General Assembly repealed section 5705.192 of the ORC authorizing political subdivisions to levy replacement property tax levies with corresponding amendments in section 5705.412 of the ORC for provisions referencing replacement levies.

The draft rule has been revised to:

- Remove references to replacement levies.
- Replace references to the “Ohio Department of Education” with “Ohio Department of Education and Workforce” and the “Superintendent of Public Instruction” with “Director of Education and Workforce” in response to House Bill 33 of the 135th General Assembly.
- Define “financial forecast” consistent with Ohio Revised Code section 5705.391 and rule 3301-92-04.



OAC Chapter 3301-92

Public Comment Period

The public comment period on the **current rules** opened Aug. 4, 2025, and closed Aug. 18, 2025.

The public comment period on the **draft rules** opened Jan. 20, 2026, and will close Feb. 19, 2026.

Individuals may submit comments on the draft rules:

- Website: education.ohio.gov/OAC
- Email: rulecomments@education.ohio.gov



COMMENTS

EDUCATION.OHIO.GOV



**Department of
Education &
Workforce**



Next DEW Public Meeting

Thursday, March 26, 2026 (*tentative*)

25 South Front Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215



**Department of
Education &
Workforce**



**Department of
Education &
Workforce**

EDUCATION.OHIO.GOV