DEW PUBLIC MEETING

Thursday, March 6, 2025

9 a.m.

25 South Front Street

Columbus, Ohio 43215

Ohio Department of Education & Workforce

DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

Stephen D. Dackin

Director

MEETING OVERVIEW

Dr. Chris Woolard

Chief Integration Officer

MEETING AGENDA

Budget Updates

Technology Standards Updates

Literacy Updates

Administrative Rules

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 collected for additional follow-up from the Department.

BUDGET UPDATES

Aaron Rausch

Deputy Chief of Staff and Chief of Budget and School Funding

Jennie Stump

Chief of Policy and Legislative Affairs

Department of Education & Workforce

CONTINUED INVESTMENT IN K-12 EDUCATION

State Source Spending			
FY26	$13.68 billion	$306 million increase	2.3% ↑
FY27	$13.85 billion	$166 million increase	1.2% ↑

Total New State Source Spending for Primary and Secondary Education
$785 million in new spending over the biennium

Note: State source spending is comprised of GRF (including property tax reimb.), Lottery, Sports Gaming and ongoing Dedicated Purpose Funds with GRF cash transfers.

ALL FUNDS BUDGET (FY25-FY27)

Fund Source	FY25 Approp.	FY26 Exec.	% Change	FY27 Exec.	% Change
GRF	$9.8	$10.0	1.9%	$10.1	1.8%
Federal	$3.0	$2.4	(19.3%)	$2.5	3.1%
Lottery	$1.6	$1.7	6.5%	$1.6	(1.8%)
Revenue Dist.	$1.2	$1.3	4.4%	$1.3	1.6%
Other	$1.0	$0.8	(18.2%)	$0.8	0.1%
Total	**$16.6**	**$16.2**	**(2.6%)**	**$16.4**	**1.5%**

*Dollars (in billions)

LITERACY

- Requires public schools to administer a reading and math diagnostic assessment adopted by DEW in grades K-3.

- Requires completion of a competency-based refresher course in the Science of Reading every 5 years.

- Requires all public schools to spend at least 25% of DPIA on reading initiatives.
  - ➢ Schools on reading achievement plans must spend at least 50%.

- Continued funding for literacy coaches ($12 million/year)

LEARNING ACCELERATION

Prohibits students' use of cell phones during the instructional day, except for student learning or to monitor a health concern.

Requires automatic advanced placement of students who score at the highest level on a state math test.

Incorporates recommendations from the Ohio Attendance Taskforce to focus on absence prevention strategies instead of restrictive timelines of HB 410.

WORKFORCE READINESS

- Adds career planning to graduation plans for public and chartered nonpublic high school students.

- Expands CTE access to middle school students.

- In the graduation requirements, makes completing 250 hours of a work-based learning experience with positive evaluations a foundational option for demonstration of competency rather than a supporting option.

- Updates the industry-recognized credential list to focus on credentials of value.

WORKFORCE READINESS

Provides that CTE associated services funds may be used for career-focused activities for all students and collaboration with education and workforce stakeholders.

Allows career awareness and exploration funds to be used for mentoring opportunities to teach students about careers and workforce skills.

Replaces the existing Adult Diploma Program and 22+ Program with a new program that reflects the strengths of each.

STUDENT WELLNESS AND SAFETY

Revises law on prevention education to include universal prevention programs that promote improved health and wellness outcomes across a range of unhealthy behaviors.

Requires plans for Student Wellness and Success Funds to include goals and performance metrics.

Allows auxiliary services funding provided for chartered nonpublic schools to be used for mental health services for students.

Requires districts and schools that have an identified student percentage of at least 25% under the Community Eligibility Provision to provide free breakfasts and lunches to all students, unless it creates a financial hardship.

STUDENT WELLNESS AND SAFETY

Funds three recommendations of the Governor's School Bus Safety Working Group

- ➢ $30 million in grants for school bus safety upgrades
- ➢ $4 million for more robust bus driver training
- ➢ Increased access to advanced driver training

TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS

- Provides $10 million over the biennium for a principal apprenticeship program combining coursework and on-the-job training under a high-quality principal.

- Requires DEW to collect demand-side employment and vacancy data from school districts.

EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS

- Limits dropout prevention and recovery schools to students ages 14-21.

  ➢ Requires existing dropout prevention schools to divest themselves of younger students by creating new schools for those students by July 1, 2027.

- Codifies the Quality Community and Independent STEM School Support Program, facilities funding for community and STEM schools, and the equity supplement, which have all been funded in temporary law.

- Strengthens the community school right-of-first-refusal to unused district buildings.

EDUCATIONAL REGIONAL SERVICE SYSTEM

- Clarifies the mission of ERSS to better reflect the Department's focus on workforce development.

- Includes career-technical planning districts, tech prep centers, community colleges, county boards of developmental disabilities, and other regional service providers determined by DEW in ERSS.

- Allows DEW flexibility to restructure regions and their boundaries as the current system has not been revisited in 20 years.

- Lowers the maximum fees allowable for administering a performance contract and for personnel and program costs.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

- Directs DEW to develop a model policy on the use of artificial intelligence in schools.

- Requires public schools to adopt their own artificial intelligence policies or the model policy by July 1, 2026.

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS, SCHOOLS, AND DISTRICTS

- Final phase-in of school funding formula (FY26 – 83.3% and FY27 – 100%)

- Increased funding for transportation (minimum state share increase to 45.83% in FY26 and 50% in FY27).

- Funding guaranteed at 95% of existing guarantee levels in FY26 and 90% of existing guarantee levels in FY27.

- Community School/STEM School Facility funding increase ($1,000 to $1,500 per pupil) and inclusion of STEM schools in Equity Supplement calculation.

- Continued access to state scholarships across five programs.

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS, SCHOOLS, AND DISTRICTS

- Funding for public schools will have grown by more than $2 billion over the six-year formula implementation period.

  - Total state support for traditional six-year districts is forecasted to grow by $1.2 billion over the six-year implementation period, to $8.38 billion by FY 2027.

  - Total state support for JVSDs is forecasted to grow by $235 million over the six-year implementation period, to $570 million by FY 2027.

  - Total support for community and STEM schools is forecasted to grow by $576 million over the six-year implementation period, to $1.55 billion by FY 2027.

COMMENTS

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Ohio Department of Education & Workforce

TECHNOLOGY STANDARDS UPDATES

Sherry Birchem
Administrator, Office of Academic Success

Janelle Horton
Education Program Specialist, Office of Academic Success

OHIO LEARNING STANDARDS FOR TECHNOLOGY 2025

STANDARDS REVISION TIMELINE

Timeline	Revision Components
May 2024	Public Comment Period
June – Sept. 2024	Review of Public Comment Recruitment of Stakeholder Group
Oct. – Nov. 2024	Stakeholder Group Meetings
Jan. 2025	Review by Senior Leadership Team, Legal, and Communications Feedback Addressed
Feb. 2025	Public Comment Period and Preparation for Public Meeting
March 2025	Public Meeting

TECHNOLOGY FEEDBACK

- Technology Standards last adopted in 2017.

- Two rounds of public comment (May 2024 / Feb. 2025).

  - Updating standards to include key skills for digital literacy, artificial intelligence, and student safety.

  - Clarity of content by making standards for explicit.

  - Consider aligning Ohio's technology standards to the current International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) Standards for Students.

  - 79% approval rate for Ohio's adoption of the ISTE Standards for Students.

2025 TECHNOLOGY STANDARDS UPDATES

- Ohio has adopted the ISTE Standards for Students as the updated 2025 Ohio Learning Standards for Technology.

- Standards are divided into seven strands. Standards are broad and adaptable to ensure relevance over time.

- Address Artificial Intelligence skills, Digital Citizenship, and Media Literacy.

TECHNOLOGY STANDARDS

1. **Empowered Learner** – Students leverage technology to take an active role in choosing, achieving, and demonstrating competency in their learning goals, informed by the learning sciences.

2. **Digital Citizen** – Students recognize the responsibilities and opportunities for contributing to their digital communities, including making safe, legal, and ethical decisions using Artificial Intelligence.

3. **Knowledge Constructor** – Students critically curate a variety of resources using digital tools, such as Artificial Intelligence chatbots, to construct knowledge, produce creative artifacts, and make meaningful learning experiences for themselves and others.

4. **Innovative Designer** – Students use a variety of technologies within a design process to identify and solve problems by creating new, useful, or imaginative solutions.

TECHNOLOGY STANDARDS

5. **Computational Thinker** – Students develop and employ strategies for understanding and solving problems in ways that leverage the power of technological methods to develop and test solutions.

6. **Creative Communicator** – Students communicate clearly and express themselves creatively for a variety of purposes, such as AI prompt engineering, using the platforms, tools, styles, formats, and digital media appropriate to their goals.

7. **Global Collaborator** – Students use digital tools to broaden their perspectives and enrich their learning by collaborating with others and working effectively in teams locally and globally.

TECHNOLOGY GRADE BANDS

- **K-2**: *Grade-band* Content Statements

- **3-5**: *Grade-band* Content Statements

- **6-8**: *Grade-band* Content Statements

- **9-12**: *Grade-band* Content Statements

The division of the standards into grade bands is consistent with the previous version of the technology standards.

ADDRESSING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

- Rather than developing AI-specific indicators, ISTE decided to identify key skills for using AI safely, responsibly, and innovatively, and updated select indicators in the Digital Citizen and others accordingly. This is reflected in Ohio's updated Technology Learning Standards.

- Language has been added to the Digital Citizen, Knowledge Constructor, and Creative Communicator strand descriptions as they are most focused on key AI skills.

ADDRESSING DIGITAL LITERACY

- According to the American Library Association, Digital Literacy is the ability to use technology to find, evaluate, create, and communicate information using cognitive and technical skills. The standards address all these skills throughout the strands.

  - The **Digital Citizen** strand addresses the skills students need to safely navigate technology ecosystems.

  - The **Knowledge Constructor** strand addresses the skills students need to locate content, evaluate sources, and interpret information.

  - The **Creative Communicator** and **Global Collaborator** strands focus on the skills students need to express ideas and safely and responsibly collaborate with others.

ADDRESSING STUDENT SAFETY

- The Digital Citizen strand is a guide for teachers in preparing students to be civic-minded in the digital world, including aspects like developing good judgment and inspiring inventive thinking when using various tools and social media platforms.

- The three components of the standard address:

    - Student's digital self;

    - Student as a digital agent; and

    - Student's digital interactions.

NEXT STEPS

Communication with the Public

Professional Learning

Model Curriculum

COMMENTS

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LITERACY UPDATES

Dr. Melissa Weber-Mayrer
Chief of Literacy Achievement and Academic Success

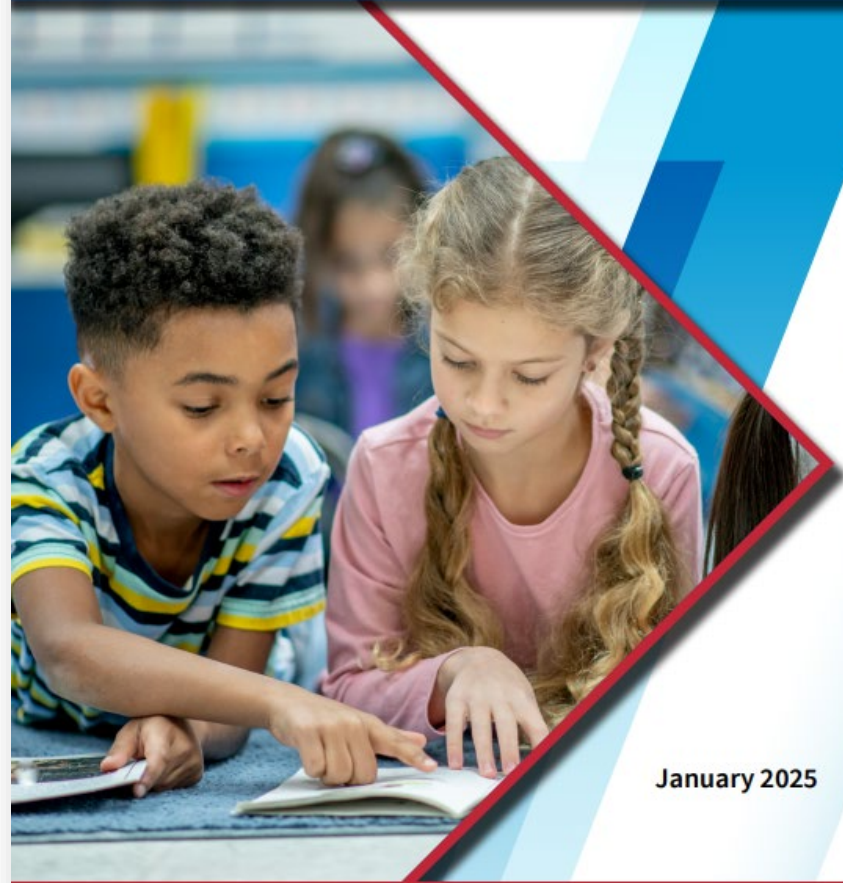**Department of Education & Workforce**

TOPICS

- Ohio's Plan to Raise Literacy Achievement

- K-4 Literacy Report – 2023-2024 School Year

REVISED OHIO'S PLAN TO RAISE LITERACY ACHIEVEMENT

Ohio's Plan to Raise Literacy Achievement

Ohio's Plan to Raise Literacy Achievement

January 2025

Department of Education & Workforce

REVISED STRUCTURE OF OHIO'S PLAN

Why?
- Section 1: Why a State Plan is Needed

What?
- Section 2: Ohio's Language and Literacy Vision

How?
- Section 3: Infrastructure to Support Ohio's Vision

SECTION 1: WHY IS A STATE PLAN NEEDED?

Comprehensive Needs Assessment

- Root Cause Analysis
- Learner Performance Data Birth-Grade 12
- Literacy Instruction Data
- Additional Factors that Impact Literacy Achievement (Chronic Absenteeism, Access to Professional Learning, and Literacy Coaching)

Ohio's Theory of Action for Language and Literacy Development

SECTION 2: OHIO'S LANGUAGE AND LITERACY VISION

Bridge the gap between research and practice

Ensure all learners are represented and supported

Ensure all educators and administrators are supported

Support the integrity of implementation of evidence-based language and literacy practices

Support quality planning and data-driven decision-making

SECTION 3: INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT OHIO'S VISION

Foundation for Ohio's Literacy Improvement Efforts

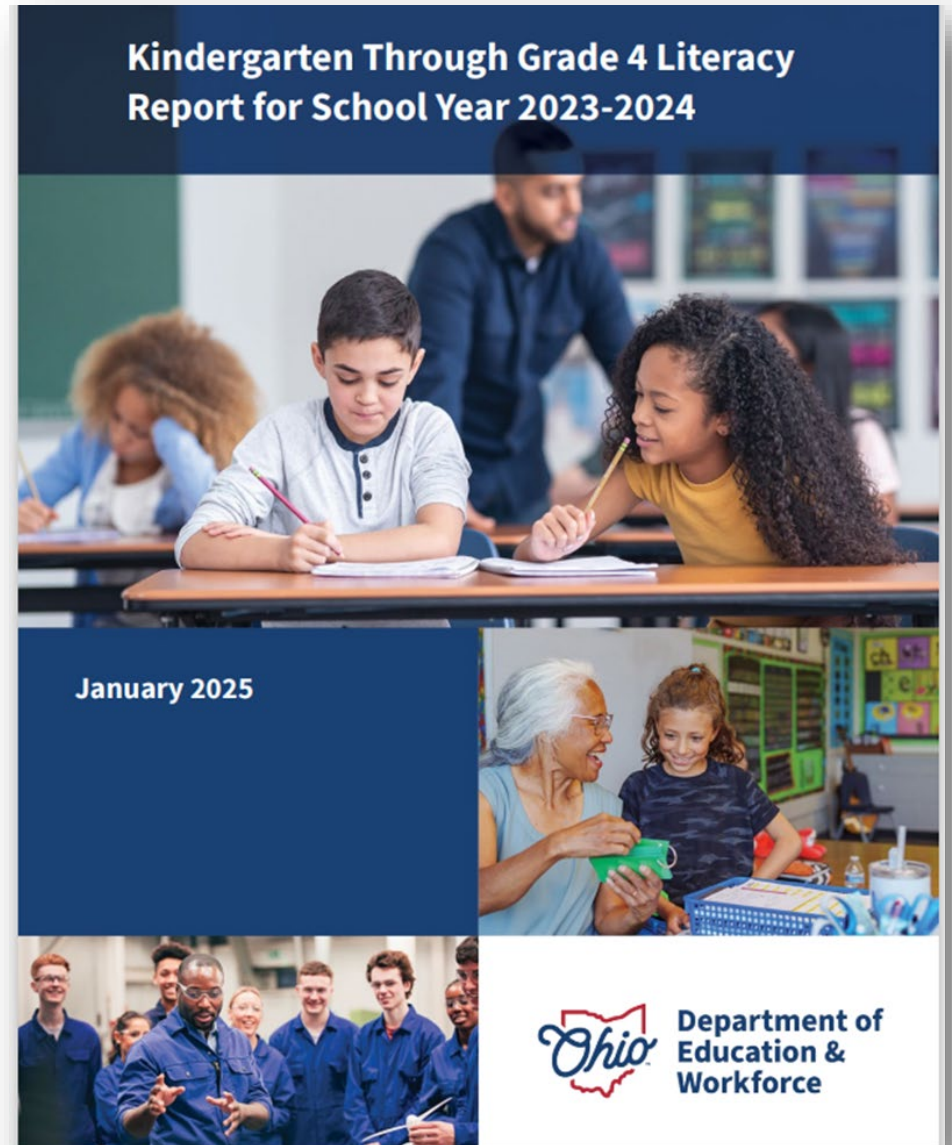**Ohio's Language and Literacy Drivers**

- Comprehensive Policies for Literacy Improvement
- Alignment of Implementation Drivers
- Funding Sources

Supporting Implementation at the State, Regional, and Local Levels

Measuring Success and Monitoring Progress of Ohio's Goals

K-4 LITERACY REPORT – 2023-2024

Kindergarten Through Grade 4 Literacy Report for School Year 2023-2024

ANNUAL K-4 LITERACY REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- **Combined** data report required annually by Jan. 31st.

- Required to include the following:

  - K-3 On-Track/Not On-Track Percentages

  - Grade 3 and 4 Proficiency Percentages

- Newly reported this year:

  - Names of the reading diagnostic assessments used

  - Grade 4 Reading and Improvement Monitoring Plan data

READING PERFORMANCE OF KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 4 STUDENTS FROM THE LAST TWO YEARS

2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

Grade	On Track	Not on Track	Proficient	Not Proficient
K	59.8%	40.2%		
1	64.1%	35.9%		
2	58.2%	41.8%		
3	58.7%	41.3%	62.3%	37.7%
4			58.9%	41.1%

2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

Grade	On Track	Not on Track	Proficient	Not Proficient
K	60.9%	39.1%		
1	64.6%	35.4%		
2	**64.0%**	**36.0%**		
3	**63.7%**	**36.3%**	**64.5%**	**35.5%**
4			**64.1%**	**35.9%**

2023-2024 STATEWIDE READING PROFICIENCY RATES BY DEMOGRAPHIC GROUP

Student Groups	2023-2024 Statewide Reading Proficiency Rates Grades 3-8
All Students	60.9%
Economically Disadvantaged	47%
Students with Disabilities	21.9%
English Learners	42%
White, non-Hispanic	69%
Black, non-Hispanic	36.4%
Hispanic	45.4%
Multiracial	56.5%
Asian of Pacific Islander	73.6%
Alaskan Native or American Indian	52.7%

READING DIAGNOSTIC ASSESSMENTS

Reading Diagnostic Assessment	Number of Community Schools and Districts Using
Kindergarten Readiness Assessment - Language and Literacy	758
i-Ready Assessment	627
MAP Growth	573
Acadience Reading K-6	387
mCLASS DIBELS 8th Edition	356
aimswebPlus	314
Star Reading	314
Star Early Literacy	275
MAP Reading Fluency	188
Acadience Reading K-6 (formerly DIBELS Next)	179
Star CBM	103
Ohio Reading Diagnostic	75
DIBELS Data System (DDS) with DIBELS 8th Edition	73
FastBridge	42
Exact Path	2
Istation's Indicators of Progress Early Reading (ISIP ER)	2

MOST FREQUENTLY REPORTED INTERVENTION SERVICES BY GRADE LEVEL 2023-2024

Grade Level	Intervention in Phonemic Awareness	Intervention in Decoding	Intervention in Sight Word Recognition	Intervention in Fluency	Intervention in Comprehension
Kindergarten	36,309	18,805	6,856	3,618	4,384
Grade 1	25,887	25,847	9,289	7,045	5,660
Grade 2	20,556	29,566	9,226	12,008	9,938
Grade 3	13,178	24,990	6,164	15,059	18,525
Grade 4	4,314	10,408	1,673	6,416	9,200

NOW WHAT?

- Continue to monitor and analyze the data.

    - Student achievement

    - Adult implementation

- Bolster state and regional infrastructure to support effective implementation statewide.

- Promote data-based decision making.

COMMENTS

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ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

Tony Palmer

Chief Legal Counsel

Department of Education & Workforce

OAC CHAPTER 3301-11

Amendments and Recission of OAC Chapter 3301-11 (7 rules)

Educational Choice Scholarship Program

SUMMARY OF EXISTING RULES

- **3301-11-01**   *Definitions.*

- **3301-11-04**   *Eligibility for program participation.*

- **3301-11-05**   *Application for program participation.*

- **3301-11-07**   *Awarding scholarships.*

- **3301-11-09**   *Termination of eligibility.*

- **3301-11-10**   *Payment of scholarship amounts.*

- **3301-11-11**   *Participation by chartered nonpublic schools.*

REASONS FOR AMENDMENTS AND RECISSION

- The amendments align the rules with House Bill 33 of the 135th General Assembly.

- References to the Ohio Department of Education are changed to the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce due to House Bill 33 of the 135th General Assembly.

AUTHORITY FOR THE AMENDMENTS

- **R.C. 3310.41(E):** "The department shall adopt rules under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code prescribing procedures necessary to implement this section, including, but not limited to, procedures and deadlines for parents to apply for scholarships, standards for registered private providers, and procedures for approval of entities as registered private providers."

- **R.C. 3310.64:** "The department of education and workforce shall adopt rules in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code prescribing procedures necessary to implement sections 3310.51 to 3310.63 of the Revised Code including, but not limited to, procedures for parents to apply for scholarships, standards for registered private providers, and procedures for registration of private providers."

OAC 3301-11-01

Amendment of OAC 3301-11-01

Definitions.

SUMMARY OF EXISTING RULE

- The rule defines terms used in the Educational Choice Scholarship program that are in addition to terms defined in Section 3310.01 of the Ohio Revised Code.

REASONS FOR THE AMENDMENTS

- The definition of "Family income" is removed because eligibility is addressed in the Ohio Revised Code.

- The definition of "Household" is amended because adjusted gross income includes all individuals claimed for federal tax purposes.

- The definition of "Tuition discounts" is removed because tuition is addressed in the Ohio Revised Code.

OAC 3301-11-04

Recission of OAC 3301-11-04

Eligibility for program participation.

SUMMARY OF EXISTING RULE

- The rule indicates that the traditional EdChoice scholarship is the default scholarship for non-Cleveland students.

REASONS FOR RECISSION

- The Ohio Revised Code no longer requires traditional EdChoice to be the default scholarship for non-Cleveland students.

OAC 3301-11-05

Amendment of OAC Chapter 3301-11-05

Application for program participation.

SUMMARY OF EXISTING RULE

- The rule addresses the application process for a first-time scholarship applicant and provides a list of the types of information the Department may rely on when reviewing an application to determine eligibility.

- The rule indicates that a student's family must apply to verify family income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

REASONS FOR THE AMENDMENTS

- Paragraph (B)(6) is amended to address that a student's family may apply to the Department to establish that household income is at or below 250% of the federal poverty guidelines.

- Paragraph (D) is not needed because the Department uses tax returns or an affidavit to establish income levels.

OAC 3301-11-07

Amendment for OAC 3301-11-07

Awarding scholarships.

SUMMARY OF EXISTING RULE

- The rule addresses that current notification of an award determination is done by mail.

- The rule addresses the time period by which a scholarship recipient will notify the Department if there is a decision not to use the scholarship.

- The rule indicates that an eligible student who is not awarded a scholarship will be placed on a waiting list maintained by the Department.

REASONS FOR THE AMENDMENTS

- The rule is being amended to update the means of communication from regular mail to email.

OAC 3301-11-09

Amendment of OAC 3301-11-09

Termination of eligibility.

SUMMARY OF EXISTING RULE

- The rule establishes circumstances under which a student's eligibility to receive a scholarship can be terminated.

- The rules addresses notification of termination is done by mail.

REASONS FOR THE AMENDMENTS

- The rule is being amended in order to update the means of communication from regular mail to email.

OAC 3301-11-10

Amendment of OAC 3301-11-10

Payment of scholarship amounts.

SUMMARY OF EXISTING RULE

- The rule addresses to whom a warrant is made payable.

- The rule addresses what happens in the case of overpayment.

- The rule addresses what happens if a student withdraws or is expelled from a school.

- The rule addresses prorating of the scholarship from the award date through the end of the school year.

REASON FOR THE AMENDMENTS

- The amendments address that warrants come from the Ohio Office of Budget and Management.

- The amendments address that all refunds will be submitted to the Department within 60 days of notification.

OAC 3301-11-11

Amendment of OAC 3301-11-11

Participation by chartered nonpublic schools.

SUMMARY OF EXISTING RULE

- The rule establishes the list of chartered nonpublic schools that participate in the scholarship programs.

- The rule addresses that the Department must publish a list of participating chartered nonpublic schools on its website by January 1 of each year and the list has to be updated monthly.

REASONS FOR THE AMENDMENTS

- The amendments clarify the department's responsibility to establish and maintain a list of chartered nonpublic schools that have been approved for participation in scholarship programs.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The public comment period on the **current rules** opened Jan. 24, 2025, and closed on Feb. 7, 2025.

The public comment period on the **draft rules** opened Feb. 27, 2025, and will close on March 27, 2025.

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 Business Impact Analysis:

- Website: education.ohio.gov/OAC

- Email: rulecomments@education.ohio.gov

COMMENTS

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Department of Education & Workforce

NEXT DEW PUBLIC MEETING

Tuesday, May 20, 2025 *(tentative)*

25 South Front Street

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