

Legal Update

January 2020

National School Choice Week

National School Choice Week takes place every January with the purpose of raising public awareness about the different education options available to families. National School Choice Week celebrates all types of K-12 education including traditional schools, charter schools, online schools, and homeschooling. The focus is the benefit of having choice.

This year, National School Choice Week will be held from January 26, 2020 to February 1, 2020.

National Charter School Statistics

- 45 states and D.C. have charter schools
- 7,000 charters schools exist nationwide
- 3.2 million students attend charter schools
- 219,000 teachers teach at charter schools



This Issue

Recently Introduced Bills

Student Wellness & Success Funds

Introduced Education Related State Bills

HB 367 – School Counselors

Requires the Department of Education to make recommendations for a job description for school counselor and to designate at least one staff member as a school counselor liaison.

HB 360 – Bottle Stations

Requires water bottle filling stations and drinking fountains in certain public school buildings.

HB 333 – Student Records

Permits public schools to enter into agreements with third parties to provide digital student record storage, management, and retrieval.

SB 225 – Child Abuse Sign

Requires public schools to post signs with a child abuse reporting telephone number.

SB 219 - Apprentice Program

Establishes a career pathways apprentice program.

SB 218 - School Start

Prohibits public schools from beginning the school day earlier than 8:30 A.M.

SB 200 - Screening

Professional development for screening and intervention for children with dyslexia.

HB 321 – Sexual Abuse Education

Schools will provide age-appropriate student instruction in child sexual abuse and sexual violence prevention and in-service staff training in child sexual abuse prevention.

HB 310 – School Bullying

Enacts the “Ohio Anti-Bullying and Hazing Act” with regard to school discipline and bullying and hazing policies at public schools and colleges.

HB 123 – School Security

Enacts the “Safety and Violence Education Students (SAVE Students) Act” regarding school security and youth suicide awareness education and training.

SB 226 – School Transportation

Requires school districts to provide transportation for students in grades 9-12, to have pupil transportation formula operate for fiscal years 2020 and 2021, and makes an appropriation.

HB 409 – Internet Based Schools

Revises attendance requirements at computer-based community schools that are not dropout prevention and recovery schools.



Student Wellness and Success Funds

With the passage of House Bill 166 in July 2019, \$675 million dollars is allocated to helping schools achieve academic growth through mental health counseling and other non-academic services.

Schools received a payment of half of their funds in October and the other half will be provided in February. Each community school will receive a minimum of \$25,000 this fiscal year and \$36,000 in fiscal year 2021. The actual amount is based on a per pupil calculation scaled on federal census poverty data.

A key component to receipt of the funds is forming a community partnership to assist in providing schools with resources that may not be readily available otherwise.

Examples of partnerships include the following:

- A board of alcohol, drug, and mental health services
- An educational service center
- County board of development disabilities
- Community-based mental health treatment provider

- County department of job and family services
- A board of health or general health district
- A nonprofit with experience serving children
- A public hospital

Schools are not required to officially contract with the partners, but the school is required to obtain input on development of a plan.

Funds may be spent on mental health services, homeless youth services, community liaison, physical health care services, etc.



Happy Holidays

Our team at Amy Goodson Co., LLC wishes you very happy holidays!

It has been our pleasure to work for and with you this past year. We thank you for the opportunity to have done so. We look forward to our continued work together in 2020.

Our best,
Amy
Carlana
Becky
Rebecca

Q & A

Q: Is it true that charters are now able to open in many more districts than in the past.

A. Yes. Ohio Law has long allowed charters to open in what state law defines as “challenged districts.” A district is considered challenged when the district is in the lowest 5% of districts statewide based on the local report card performance index, earned an overall grade of D or F, or earned an F on value-

added for two of three most recent school years.

Recent local report card rankings have qualified many more districts as challenged. As of November 2019, there were 220 districts listed as challenged. The Challenged School District list is now available on the Ohio Department of Education’s website at: <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Community-Schools/Challenged-School-Districts>

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