SUMMARY OF POLICY UPDATES – January 2026

BYLAWS AND POLICIES

Policy 2431.06 - Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) in Athletics (NEW)

The Ohio High School Athletic Association passed an emergency referendum bylaw in November 2025, allowing high school athletes to be paid for their Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL). This change was triggered by a case that was filed against OHSAA challenging their prior ban on NIL. This new policy is consistent with Bylaw 4.11.

This new policy should be considered for adoption.

Policy 3440/4440 - Job-Related Expenses (Revised)

Policy 6423 - Use of District Credit Card (Revised)

Policy 6424 Procurement Cards (Revised)

Policy 6460 - Vendor Relations (Revised)

Policy 6465 - Affinity, Rewards, or Other Discount Programs (NEW)

These policies have been revised/drafted to address the recent Auditor of State (AOS) Bulletin 2025-012 in response to the Ohio Ethics Commission Advisory Opinion 2025-02 (Frequent Flyer Miles, Other Rewards or Discount Programs). This opinion overruled previously-issued opinions, Advisory Opinion 91-010 and Informal Advisory Opinion 2003-INF -0224-I. The opinion revised restrictions on public officials and employees personally using rewards earned during official business, provided such rewards are earned the same manner as the general public, the rewards do not impose additional costs on the public office, and the airline, hotel, vendor, etc., are not selected in order to earn the reward points for themselves. The opinion calls for the District to adopt a policy regarding personal use of these rewards. The policy can be more restrictive than Ohio Ethics law.

Revisions to these policies and the new policy should be considered for adoption.

Policy 5112 - Entrance Requirements (Revised)

This policy has been revised in response to the provisions of H.B. 114. The bill requires public schools to admit to kindergarten any child who will be five (5) years old by the first day of instruction of the school year of admittance. It is suggested that districts designate the first day of kindergarten instruction as the qualifying date for admittance. The law also declares that a child must be six (6) by September 30th for enrollment in first grade.

This policy revision should be adopted in order to comply with current law.

Policy 5421 - Grading (Revised)

Policy 5430 - Class Rank (Revised)

These policies have been revised to reflect the provisions of the Governor's Merit Scholarship (GMA) and the Ohio Guaranteed Admission (OGA) programs. Additionally, the requirements of H.B. 96 regarding "advanced standing programs", including Career/Tech, College Credit Plus, and Advanced Placement courses, have been addressed.

Careful consideration should be given to policy provisions and implementation of the weighting of grades if the district chooses to do so. Districts have discretion in determining whether and how to weight courses, determine class rank, the status of valedictorian, etc.

Policy 6220 - Budget Preparation (Revised)

This policy has been revised to delete reference to "five (5) year forecast" and to provide more detailed options regarding "cash balance reserve." Cash balance reserves have received a lot of attention in recent years. The legislature attempted to place a limit on reserves through the last biennium budget bill, although efforts ultimately failed. It is recommended that districts consider adoption of a policy to support their current practice.

Revisions to this policy should be considered for adoption.

Policy 6320 - Purchasing and Bidding (Revised)

This policy has been revised to reflect the expansion in O.R.C. 3313.46 to trigger the bidding process when the board "determines to build, repair, enlarge, improve, or demolish any building or other property, the cost of which will exceed" the threshold amount specified in O.R.C. 9.17. The language was changed in HB 96 to expand bidding requirements to real property improvements on school grounds, rather than those that occur to school buildings. The drafting note was revised to reflect the specific threshold amount for 2025.

This revised policy should be adopted to maintain accurate policies.

Policy 6325 - Procurement - Federal Grants/Funds (Revised)

This policy is revised to reflect revised threshold amounts for micro-purchases (not to exceed $15,000), small purchases (not to exceed $350,000), and price analysis requirement threshold ($350,000 effective October 1, 2025).

Revisions to this policy should be adopted in order to be consistent with Federal regulations.

Policy 6425 - Use of District Tax Exempt Certificate (NEW)

This new policy is offered in response to Auditor of State (AOS) Bulletin 2025-013 regarding reimbursement of Sales Tax by the District. This policy, if selected, allows for reimbursement of officials/employees who have made lawful expenditures on behalf of the District using their own personal credit card or funds. The policy imposes appropriate controls and limits access to the District's tax-exempt certificate.

This policy should be considered for adoption if the District chooses to allow for limited reimbursement of sales tax payments.

Policy 7540.09 - Artificial Intelligence (AI) (Replacement)

This replacement policy includes the language from the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce Model Policy, a requirement of H.B. 96. The act requires the Department to develop a model policy on the use of artificial intelligence in schools by December 31, 2025, addressing appropriate use of artificial intelligence by students and staff for educational purposes.

By July 1, 2026, each school district, community school, and STEM school must adopt an artificial intelligence policy. Districts and schools may choose to adopt the model policy created by the Department.

Related policies (Policy 5500 - Student Code of Conduct, Policy 7540.03 Student Acceptable Use, and Policy 7540.04 Staff Acceptable Use) have been reviewed for compliance and consistency and do not appear to need any further revision at this time.

Policy 8500 – Food Services (Revised)

Special Update is a revision to Policy 8500 - Food Services in response to the requirements of H.B. 10. The act requires the Department of Education and Workforce ("DEW") and each school district, community school, STEM school, college-preparatory boarding school, and state institution of higher education to adopt a policy to prevent the purchase of cultivated-protein food products or food misbranded as a meat or egg product.

This template includes the provisions of the Department's model policy and provides optional language for districts to consider.

TRANSPORTATION SUPPLEMENT-January 2026

BYLAWS AND POLICIES

Policy 4162 - Drug and Alcohol Testing of CDL License Holders Who Perform Safety-Sensitive Functions (Revised)

This policy has been revised to reflect the statutory and regulatory changes to the Return-to-Duty ("RTD") process as required by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration ("FMCSA"), including evaluation by a qualified Substance Abuse Professional, education and/or treatment, and follow-up evaluation.

This revision should be adopted to maintain compliance with current requirements.

Policy 4162.01 - Drug and Alcohol Testing of Employees Without CDL Licenses Who Transport Students in Alternative Vehicles (Non-DOT Testing) (NEW)

This policy has been added to reflect regulatory changes to the qualifications of drivers of alternative vehicles, including the need for drug and alcohol testing for non-DOT drivers.

Policy 8600 - Transportation (Revised)

This policy has been revised to reflect new regulations affecting alternative vehicles.

Policy 8600.04 - Bus and Alternative Vehicle Driver Certification (Revised)

Language in this policy has been revised to reflect new terminology in state regulations for alternative vehicles, as well as corrections to references for background check disqualifying offenses.

Policy 8640 - Transportation for Non-Routine Trips (Revised)

These revisions add language reflecting Ohio Revised Code authorizing school districts to provide transportation services for other entities. Revisions also address the use of multifunction school activity buses and the use of alternative vehicles as authorized by House Bill 54.

Policy 8650 - Transportation by Alternative Vehicles (Revised)

House Bill 54 and House Bill 96 were enacted in 2025, along with Pupil Transportation rule changes promulgated by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce ("DEW"). Revisions to these policies and related administrative guidelines reflect those changes.