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## OHIO ALLIANCE FOR ARTS EDUCATION

Arts Online Newsletter Week of September 2, 2024



### **State Board of Education receives \$4.66 million from the Controlling Board**

The Controlling Board, Jill Schuler president, met on August 19, 2024, and **approved \$4.66 million in emergency purpose funds for the State Board of Education.**

Superintendent of Public Instruction Paul Craft, explained to the board that the \$1.85 million emergency request was recommended by the Office of Budget and Management (OBM) and was based on SBE expenditures and revenue balancing perfectly. However, this year's revenue from teacher license fees might not provide an average income level to the State Board, because license renewals have been delayed by COVID, and a smaller number of teachers are graduating from teacher preparation programs.

**Since splitting from the Ohio Department of Education in October 2023, the State Board is now funded through the 4L20 Licensure Fund with revenue raised from issuing licenses to educators.** But the amount raised through **licensing fees is not enough to support all of the SBE's responsibilities** and duties in law, and the estimated budget deficit in FY25 is \$4.66 million. Many of the State Board's duties are unfunded mandates in law, including territory transfers, the Educator Standards Board, and OTES, etc. The State Board also oversees the RAPBACK criminal background check program for educators and school employees, including teachers, bus drivers, school lunch personnel, custodians, and others. The State Board only receives partial funding to support this program which costs \$2 million a year, because many school employees are not required to have a license and pay the fee.

In addition, **the Office of Budget and Management transferred \$10 million from the Teacher Licensure Fund to the General Revenue Fund during COVID to help balance the state's budget in FY22-23 budget.**

The State Board has been working with the OBM, Department of Administrative Services, the Attorney General's Office, and the Department of Education and Workforce to share more services to reduce its staff, which has decreased from 70 employees before the split with the ODE to 58.

**The State Board has also reduced the number of meetings and eliminated travel and overnight stays for employees and State Board of Education members.**

During the Controlling Board meeting, Superintendent Craft answered questions from Senators Wilkin, Ingram, Piccolantonio and Hackett about the State Board's expenses and how the SBE is reducing expenditures. Both Senators Wilkin and Hackett recommended that the State Board accept the \$1.85 million now, and return to the Controlling Board if more funds are needed.

Representative Jay Edwards disagreed, and proposed an amendment to raise the emergency request to \$4.66 million. He said that while the Attorney General and other agencies recognize the State Board of

Education's deficits, they are content to "figure out" later how to address the \$3 million or so that the State Board of Education needs to continue background checks and professional conduct investigations.

Representative Edwards said that he would sleep better after approving the needed funds now and knowing that teacher license fees are not going to increase, and children are going to be safe in school.

The Controlling Board approved the \$4.66 million with no objections.

Source: **Controlling Board, Ohio Channel**, August 19, 2024, [HERE](#).