

On March 12, Governor Mike DeWine ordered all Ohio's public, community and private K-12 school buildings to be closed to students for a three-week period — beginning at 12:01 a.m. on March 17 and ending at 11:59 p.m. on April 3, 2020 — due to the ongoing coronavirus state of emergency. The governor has since signaled the ordered school-building closure could last longer than three weeks.

The ordered school-building closure and other measures taken in response to the coronavirus health crisis affect the educator licensure process for both current and prospective educators. Impacts include the closure of many background check locations and licensure examination testing sites and challenges to completing professional development requirements. Background checks, professional development and testing are typical requirements for both current educators and prospective educator candidates to receive or renew educator licenses.

The ongoing coronavirus health crisis has not disrupted the ability of the Ohio Department of Education to receive and process applications and renewals for licensure. The Office of Educator Licensure currently is processing applications within five business days and is ready to assist educators, schools and districts with their licensure-related inquiries and needs.

Flexibility for Current Educators Whose Licenses Expire July 1, 2020

The Ohio Department of Education is providing flexibility regarding the licensure renewal deadline. All licenses currently set to expire on July 1, 2020, will have their expiration dates extended to Sept. 1, 2020. This license expiration extension will allow educators additional time to complete their requirements for renewal. It is important that educators complete their legally required professional development by Sept. 1, 2020, or an additional three semester hours of professional development will be required for renewal. Educators may need to adjust their individual professional development plans as needed.

Federal Bureau of Investigation and/or Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Investigation and Identification Background Checks for Current and Prospective Educators

The Ohio Department of Education has been notified by the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) and Identification it is processing background checks at this time. Any applicant who needs to complete a background check should contact BCI at (855) 224-6446 for instructions on how to complete fingerprint collection at home.