

Groups call for changes to transportation administrative rule

The Ohio School Boards Association, Buckeye Association of School Administrators and Ohio Association of School Business Officials have asked the State Board of Education to modify a rule that they say could require districts to provide transportation for more charter and private school students.

Under current law, districts are not required to transport charter and private school students if “direct, one-way travel time ... exceeds 30 minutes.” According to the three groups, the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) rule (which is subject to review by the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review -- JCARR) fails to provide adequate guidance, including a requirement that eligibility timings be conducted during rush hour on school days.



They say without that specification, parents could request that eligibility tests be conducted when traffic is light which would qualify more students resulting in higher costs associated with additional buses and drivers.

ODE's chief legal counsel recommended soliciting additional stakeholder feedback before final consideration by JCARR.