

## Pre-Service School Bus/Van Driver Training Costs Increase State-Wide

Ohio's pre-service transportation training program is one of the best in the nation, supporting the safe transport of more than 1 million students to and from school and school-sanctioned events every day across the state of Ohio.

To maintain this high level of quality, the state-contracted pre-service training providers will be increasing fees beginning this calendar year.



Effective February 1, 2016, the new driver training class fees will be \$85, recertification class fees will be \$60, and the van driver fees will be \$60. The advanced driver course fee will remain \$75.

The state funding appropriation for this program has not increased over the lifetime of the program. At the same time, costs have risen, and now additional hours of training will be required to meet new federal training requirements.

As a result, the increases are necessary to keep the program operational and to maintain the high quality of training that has made Ohio a national leader in school transportation safety.

If you have any questions, please contact your regional pre-service transportation provider, superintendents, or the office of Transportation within the Center for School Finance at the Ohio Department of Education.

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### *Inspirational Quote:*

*Arriving at one goal is the starting point of another.*

John Dewey

## Nursing Services—Classes and Expanding Services

On Friday, December 18, Nursing Services Director, Lori Hogue (an ODJFS instructor), provided Communicable Disease/First Aid training for Buckeye Local School District preschool department staff. The ODJFS course fulfilled the staff in-service requirement of prevention, recognition, and management of Communicable Disease and First Aid for childcare.



In addition, students from area schools attended a Safe Sitter® babysitting class held at the Medina District Library on Saturday, December 5. Participating youth, aged 11-15, were educated on the following topics: 1) success on the job, 2) babysitting as a business, 3) choking, 4) preventing problem behavior, 5) injury management, and 6) safety for the sitter. Tara Elkins, RN, and Monica Bagley, RN, were the class instructors.

ESCMC School Nursing Services are expanding once again in the Brunswick School District. Michelle Maffia, LPN, was recently hired and assigned to Hickory Ridge Elementary School beginning on January 4.

## 2016 Solo and Ensemble Festival

The Medina County Solo and Ensemble Festival is scheduled to be held on Saturday, **January 23, 2016**, at Buckeye High School beginning at 8 a.m. This festival provides participants with an opportunity to showcase their musical talents. It also serves as preparation for the Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) District VI adjudicated events at the high school and junior high/middle school levels. OMEA-qualified adjudicators give performance ratings and verbal comments to students participating in the event.



A total of 85 events submitted by 13 music directors are scheduled for participation in this year's festival. The breakdown by type of event is as follows: 45 solos, 21 duets, and 19 ensembles.

This event is being coordinated by the ESC of Medina County and participating music directors from the public and nonpublic districts in the county. It is being hosted by the Buckeye Local School District.