



The Ohio Association for Health,  
Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance

## **OAHPERD's Position on Continuing Education and Professional Development**

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Professional development through continuing education ensures educators stay updated on innovative ideas and best practices to maintain professional competence and licensure. Access to accurate and current information is essential in assisting educators in exchanging ideas and acquiring new information and skills or building upon current knowledge and skills.

### **Background**

In the state of Ohio, the State Board of Education identifies licensure pathways to become licensed after meeting the initial requirements. To renew a license, the state of Ohio requires that an application be filed, a background check is valid, and the applicant has either completed additional coursework or equivalent continuing education hours. If an applicant chooses the continuing education option, eighteen (180 contact hours) continuing education credits related to classroom teaching or area of licensure must be completed after the issue date of the expiring license and approved by the Local Professional Development Committee (LPDC) of the school they are employed at or the school district.

### **Rationale for Online and Virtual Professional Development Opportunities**

#### **Convenience and Cost Effectiveness:**

Typically provides an element of convenience and cost savings by not requiring an individual to travel, be absent from work or amass expenses associated with travel out of town or state.

**Promote the Acquisition of Additional Education and Skill Development:** Continuing education opportunities assist individuals in building upon current education and skills, best practices, effective methodologies, and promote new ideas which foster creativity and innovation.

**Training:** The provision of additional or ongoing training can help to ensure that any changes in the profession will assist the individual in being up to date with issues, standards, etc. that have a direct impact on the students they are teaching.

**Quick and Efficient:** An individual who accesses online learning courses to obtain CEUs for licensure can do so twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, with the ability to manage their time while it is self-paced.

**Diverse Learning Style Formats:** A variety of course offerings and delivery can accommodate diverse learning styles and needs, special areas of interest, and can provide structured, accessible instruction.

**Personal and Professional Support:** With no travel expenses, time away from an employer or family member(s), it's likely that the individual will have more support.

**Additional Recognition:** An individual may have the opportunity to access continuing education credits in specific areas of interest such as grade ranges, administration, standard interpretation, advanced mastery of skills, etc. to enhance their work portfolio through micro-credentials.

### **Summary**

OAHPERD supports the flexible learning format that continuing education courses offer to individuals to maintain education licensure. With the present changing educational landscape, providing the ability to access knowledge via continuing education courses online assists in maintaining professional competence, fosters creativity and innovation, ensures high quality delivery of knowledge with the ability to assess understanding and mastery through evaluative tools and it provides convenience and efficiency personally and professionally.

### **Resources**

Ohio State Board of Education: <https://sboe.ohio.gov/educator-licensure/renew-a-license>

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