

Catholic Conference of Ohio  
Larry Keough/associate for education

It is our position that the proposed language in (f) (iv) under 3301-103-06 would set a very poor precedent and slippery slope if funds from Administrative Cost Reimbursement (RC 3317.063) were used to offset monetary amounts that the ODE deem are owed stemming from a school's participation in the Autism Scholarship Program.

We are not objecting to the Department's ability to collect a debt. A surety bond, letter of credit or a copy of a commercial liability policy which would include the ODE as an additional insured party or co-insured party could provide the Department with the means to recover a debt.

These options are standard practice for providers in school-choice programs to demonstrate fiscal soundness.

What is not standard practice is to use the Administrative Cost Reimbursement as collateral. **The Ohio Attorney General's Office has the authority by law to collect debt owed to the state.**

To date, we are not aware of a single instance in which ACR has been utilized in this manner. ACR has been implemented since the 1981-'82 school year.

ACR is a program in which the state reimburses chartered nonpublic schools for complying with local, state and federal mandates. If this language were to be adopted, the state, through ODE, would have administrative rule authority through an agreement to take reimbursement dollars from schools that proactively paid for mandated administrative and clerical costs.

And, this language sets a precedent for potential claims against chartered nonpublic schools by targeting ACR funds for which schools are entitled to reimbursement for their prior costs.

To take reimbursement dollars from a school to pay for a debt in another program is potentially solving one problem by creating another one.

In addition, this language creates an un-level playing field. Using ACR as collateral would apply to school providers, not non-school providers.

## **Collections Enforcement**

**The Ohio Attorney General's Office has the authority by law to collect**

**debt owed to the state.** The Collections Enforcement Section is responsible for collecting outstanding debt owed to the State of Ohio for state agencies, institutions, boards, commissions, public university and hospitals and local government entities.

Collections Enforcement interprets and enforces the state's debt collection laws and is committed to provide quality collection services for the State of Ohio and to assist individuals and businesses seeking to resolve their financial obligations to the State by working matters internally or by working with private collection entities. It operates the "[Offer in Compromise](#)" program which allows debtors to settle with the state. Collections Enforcement offers taxpayers, who have had their income tax refund taken to pay off a state debt, the ability to make a written "[Request For Administrative Review of Income Tax Refund Offset](#)".

The section has regional offices located in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Toledo and Youngstown to assist taxpayers daily with account resolution, payments and lien releases. Additionally, you can access an on-line payment system 24/7 or contact Collections Enforcement Monday through Friday **8:00 am to 5:00 pm** at (888) 301-8885.

*If visiting the Attorney General Collections Enforcement section in Columbus, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Toledo or Youngstown, valid photo identification is required to be able to access the floor. It must be presented to building security for registration and issuance of a visitor pass.*

### **Collections**

The Attorney General's office has created a quick, safe and reliable service that allows citizens to pay outstanding debts to the State of Ohio online. Under Ohio law, state agencies turn over their outstanding accounts to the Attorney General's office for collection. You can use this site to safely and confidentially pay outstanding obligations that have been certified to the Attorney General's office. It is our aim to make payment as convenient as possible.

To make a payment, please Click [HERE](#), or contact us at (888) 301-8885. There is a \$1.00 transaction fee for Internet Checks or a 2.5% fee (Minimum \$1.00) for Credit Cards. Please be advised that we are in the process of updating our new payment processing system to further provide more secure and safe payment processing.