

 OHIO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY EDUCATION • SERVICE • PROTECTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration • Bureau of Motor Vehicles • Emergency Management Agency • Emergency Medical Services • Office of Criminal Justice Services • Ohio Homeland Security • Ohio Investigative Unit • Ohio State Highway Patrol 	 Ohio Emergency Medical Services	Ted Strickland, Governor Cathy Collins-Taylor, Director Richard N. Rucker <i>Executive Director</i>
	Emergency Medical Services		
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State Board of Emergency Medical Services Public Hearing

**February 24, 2010
9:15 AM – 12:00 PM**

**Ohio Department of Transportation Auditorium
1980 West Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43223**

National Accreditation of Paramedic Training Programs

The State Board of Emergency Medical Services (EMS Board) is seeking public comment on the following two options regarding the national accreditation of Ohio accredited Paramedic training programs:

Option 1 – Ohio accredited paramedic training programs must be nationally accredited through CoAEMSP by 2018.* The examination recognized by the EMS Board for Ohio certification will be administered by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT).

Option 2 – Ohio accredited paramedic training programs will not be required to seek national accreditation. The examination recognized by the EMS Board for Ohio certification will be administered by an alternative testing service.

Guidelines for Providing Comments:

- Individuals interested in providing oral comments must also provide written copies of their comments to the EMS Board by February 10, 2010 at 4:00 PM.
- Oral comments to the Board will be limited to 3 minutes.
- Individuals unable to attend the hearing should submit written responses to the EMS Board by February 10, 2010 at 4:00 PM.
- Comments must include the name, title, affiliation and email address of the person making the comments.
- The EMS Board reserves the right to limit oral comments due to time limitations or duplication of issues.
- **Comments should focus on one or more of the following questions:**

How would your accredited institution be affected under Option 1?

- How would CoAEMSP standards impact your paramedic program?
- How would initial and/or ongoing national accreditation costs affect your paramedic program?
- How would teaching by National Education Standards affect your EMS program?
- How would NREMT-P certification impact the quality/quantity of paramedic faculty?
- How would student tuition be affected under Option 1?
- How would eligibility for the national certification exam impact the paramedic student?
- How would your paramedic training program meet Ohio's 2018 national accreditation deadline?
- What would the impact be to Ohio if all paramedic programs become nationally accredited?

How would your accredited institution be affected under Option 2?

- How would the lack of CoAEMSP accreditation impact your paramedic program?
- How would your EMS program be affected if an NREMT card was not accepted in Ohio for a certificate to practice?
- How would teaching by National Education Standards affect your EMS programs?
- How would student tuition be affected under Option 2?
- How would the lack of eligibility for the national certification exam impact the paramedic student?
- What would the impact be to Ohio if national accreditation of paramedic programs remains optional?

Mission Statement

"to save lives, reduce injuries and economic loss, to administer Ohio's motor vehicle laws and to preserve the safety and well being of all citizens with the most cost-effective and service-oriented methods available."

Written comments should be sent to Aleta Dodson (AMDodson@dps.state.oh.us) or by mail to
Ohio Department of Public Safety
Emergency Medical Services Division
Attn: EMS Board Liaison
1970 West Broad Street
P.O. Box 182073
Columbus, Ohio 43218-2073

Contacts: Aleta Dodson AMDodson@dps.state.oh.us or John Sands JESands@dps.state.oh.us

Background

- *EMS Agenda for the Future* released in 1996
 - Proposed EMS integrated with other health care providers
 - EMS the only allied health care profession not requiring accredited education programs
- *EMS Education Agenda for the Future: A Systems Approach* released in 2000
 - Proposed national framework for quality and consistency in EMS education
 - Proposed national EMS education program accreditation and certification
 - Three of five components completed
 - National EMS Core Content
 - National Scope of Practice Model
 - National Education Standards
 - Final components appear to be slated for implementation in January 2013
 - Education Program Accreditation (CoAEMSP)
 - EMS Certification (NREMT)
- National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) announcement in 2007
 - Only candidates graduating from nationally accredited paramedic program eligible for NREMT-P testing beginning January 1, 2013
- EMS Board began study of *Education Agenda* and national accreditation issue 07-09
 - Approved revised accreditation process for EMS training
 - Amended rules (OAC) governing accreditation effective 11/07
 - Revised applications for certificates of accreditation approved 1/08
 - Adopted the National EMS Scope of Practice Model as a minimum guideline in 1/09
 - Directed Education Committee to revise Ohio EMS curriculum based on National Education Standards
- EMS Board communicated with state and national EMS professionals
 - Letters to NREMT, NHTSA, and CoAEMSP requesting detailed information
 - Interviews with two national EMS testing services
 - Conducted two statewide surveys
 - “Importance of National Accreditation for Paramedic Training Programs”
 - “Impact of National Accreditation on Paramedic Programs”
 - Presentations on *Education Agenda’s* accreditation and certification components
 - Mr. Gregg Margolis, Associate Director NREMT
 - Dr. George Hatch, Executive Director CoAEMSP
 - Mr. Drew Dawson, Director, Office of EMS (NHTSA)
 - Mr. Joseph Schmider, EMS Director, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
 - Open forum for Ohio providers, program directors, and administrators in 6/08
 - Seeking comment on benefits and disadvantages to national accreditation of Ohio paramedic programs
 - Attended by 39 individuals from 26 accredited institutions and 2 CE training programs
 - 9 Program Directors provided oral comment
 - Public Hearing scheduled 2/24/2010 on benefits and disadvantages of recommended options for national accreditation of Ohio paramedic programs
- * Director Guzmán, Executive Director Rucker and Dr. Cunningham requested and received a 5-year extension from NREMT, which gives current Ohio accredited paramedic training programs until 2018 to become CoAEMSP Accredited.