

From: "Biederstedt, Josh" <jbiederstedt@phpatriots.org>
To: Angel Henry <angelhenry@lifewise.org>
Date: 7/14/2025 3:07:05 PM
Subject: Re: Budget Bill - Released Time Language

Angel-

I do not think anything that was working needs to change unless that has been mentioned to you by a principal before the passage of HB 96. That is only an assumption on my part because I had not heard of a need to change anything that worked last year.

Moving forward, I think it would be best for all the principals that are impacted by Lifewise to have a conversation around the new requirements to prepare for a larger conversation with you. I will make it a priority to get everyone together early in August and then get back with you so that a meeting can be set for a larger conversation. Due to scheduled meetings, I am able to get my staff all together on the 6th. I will be in touch after that.

Thanks

Josh

On Mon, Jul 14, 2025 at 9:50 AM Angel Henry <angelhenry@lifewise.org> wrote:

Josh,

I am sorry to hear that this bill has passed and is making things so difficult for the district. Our goal is to be a blessing to the families and the school staff as we work in partnership to do what is best for the students.

I have been in prayer over how to move forward with this news knowing 1) the school can no longer deny RTRI to any grade, and 2) We have a program that is successful and wanted in this community and 3) We do not want to force anything on the school or come in as demanding or ungrateful in any way. It is my heart and the heart of my board to bless the school while blessing the students.

With that said, I have some questions.

We completed the year with 5th grade last year during study hall. Are you saying we will not be able to continue in August with that schedule? When I met with Kayleen in May, we discussed sticking with the study hall opt-out for LifeWise classes for 5th and 6th grades. We would take the Tuesday and Wednesday Study Hall blocks, with 6th coming at 1:20 and 5th coming at 2:15. I understand you may need to do a complete schedule overhaul to meet the new requirements but I imagine students will still be having these study halls until that overhaul is completed. Is that still on the table?

If we have to have 33 hours per year, would that mean the elementary schedule would be changing to provide 1 full hour for Lifewise?

We usually start the second week of school and leave off at the end of April. This year, that will be 33 weeks of LifeWise Classes. For Middle School, this may need to look different, with state testing being in April. We can certainly work around that schedule to meet their needs and come back after state testing.

There are a lot of options already working for middle schools all across the state of Ohio and

across America. Those include 9-week classes run like any other special, added as an option to their specials list. Combining Pats+Lunch to make a one-hour class once a week. Opting out of a year-long special once per week for the year. We have gone with opting out of study hall once per week, which I think has worked well.

I look forward to working with you to provide this educational opportunity for our district.



Angel Henry
Director
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On Thu, Jul 10, 2025, 7:32 AM Biederstedt, Josh <jbiederstedt@phpatriots.org> wrote:

Angel-

Yes, the budget bill did contain some language about RTRI. It states districts must prohibit at least 33 hours a year. I have no idea how we, or any district, would be able to do that without major schedule overhauls.

The budget does not become law until mid October.

I have no idea how we will be able to make this work. The program design is a partnership between the provider and the district. We will need some time to even develop options for any grade above 4th grade.

We will be in touch.

Thanks,

Josh Biederstedt
Patrick Henry Local Schools, Superintendent
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#PHStrong

On Wed, Jul 9, 2025 at 1:38 PM Angel Henry <angelhenry@lifewise.org> wrote:

Do you have an update on the language for the release time in the budget bill? Was there any language about minutes per week or per month in that bill?



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