

# Redbook

## LBO Analysis of Executive Budget Proposal

### State Board of Psychology

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#### TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Quick look</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Agency overview</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Analysis of FY 2024-FY 2025 budget proposal</b> .....	<b>2</b>
Executive recommendations by expense category .....	2
Operating revenues and expenses .....	2
Licensure .....	3
Investigation and enforcement .....	4
Continuing education.....	4
<b>FY 2022-FY 2023 updates</b> .....	<b>4</b>
Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT).....	4
School psychologists and independent school psychologists .....	4

# LBO Redbook

## State Board of Psychology

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### Quick look...

- The Ohio State Board of Psychology currently licenses about 4,600 psychologists and behavior analysts.
- The Board is governed by nine members appointed by the Governor with daily operations overseen by an executive director.
- The Board is entirely supported by fees and receives no GRF funding.
- There are no proposed fee changes for the FY 2024-FY 2025 biennium.

FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Estimate	FY 2024 Introduced	FY 2025 Introduced
<b>Fund 4K90 ALI 882609, Operating Expenses</b>					
\$632,335	\$652,948	\$702,994	\$716,138	\$747,489	\$757,489
% change	3.3%	7.7%	1.9%	4.4%	1.3%

### Agency overview

The Ohio State Board of Psychology was established in 1972. Currently, the Board is responsible for licensing psychologists and school psychologists who engage in private practice outside of school-based settings.<sup>1</sup> The Board also certifies applied behavior analysts. The Board establishes standards of practice, education, pre-professional training, and examination for psychologists, school psychologists, and applied behavior analysts. The Board also investigates complaints, holds administrative hearings, determines appropriate disciplinary actions, and monitors continuing education compliance among licensees and certificate holders. About 4,600 licenses and certificates, not including temporary licenses, issued by the Board were active at the end of FY 2022.

The Board’s current governing authority consists of nine members appointed by the Governor, including six psychologists or school psychologists and three patient advocates who are either parents or relatives of a recipient of mental health services or representatives of organizations that represent recipients of mental health services. H.B. 509 of the 134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly adds a certified Ohio behavior analyst to the Board. Members are appointed for five-year terms. In addition to travel reimbursement, board members also receive a per diem for conducting official board business.

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<sup>1</sup> School psychologists who practice only in school-based settings are currently regulated by the Department of Education. However, H.B. 509 of the 134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly requires the State Board of Education and the Psychology Board to transition this license to the Psychology Board by January 1, 2025.

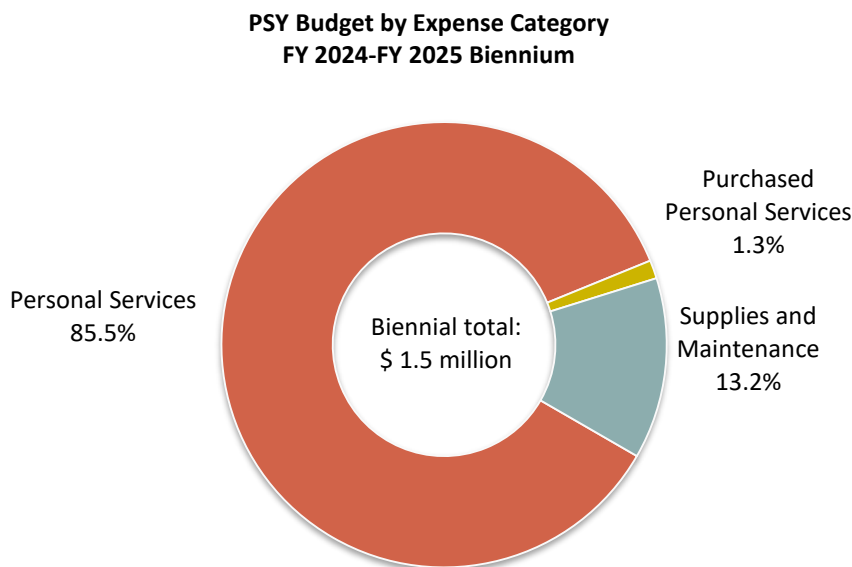
The Board’s daily operations are the responsibility of an executive director appointed by the nine-member governing authority. Including the Executive Director, the Board typically has five full-time staff members. However, one of these positions is currently vacant. The Board receives no General Revenue Fund (GRF) money; it is entirely supported by fees.

## Analysis of FY 2024-FY 2025 budget proposal

The Board’s operations are funded by a single appropriation item within Fund 4K90 – item 882609, Operating Expenses. The executive budget recommends \$747,489 in FY 2024, which is a 4.4% increase from FY 2023 estimated expenditures, and \$757,489 in FY 2025, which is a 1.3% increase over FY 2024. The Board is currently evaluating its funding levels. H.B. 509 of the 134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly requires the Board, beginning by January 1, 2025, to license approximately 3,500 school psychologists currently licensed by the Ohio Department of Education. This transfer will result in additional costs for the Board, which are uncertain at this time.

### Executive recommendations by expense category

As a regulatory agency, personal services is the largest expense category for the Board. As seen in the chart below, 85.5% of the proposed budget recommendations for the FY 2024-FY 2025 biennium are for personal services, 13.2% are for supplies and maintenance, and 1.3% for purchased personal services.



### Operating revenues and expenses

Table 1 shows the Board’s annual revenues and expenditures from FY 2017 through FY 2022 as well as the net revenues less expenditures. The Board collects the vast majority of fee revenue in odd-numbered fiscal years.

	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Revenue	\$1,376,257	\$95,957	\$1,407,101	\$114,479	\$1,456,781	\$168,420
Expenses	\$589,651	\$600,643	\$658,741	\$632,335	\$652,948	\$702,994
Net	\$786,606	-\$504,686	\$748,360	-\$517,856	\$803,833	-\$534,574

\*The data comes from the Ohio Administrative Knowledge System (OAKS).

Fee revenues collected by the Board are deposited into the Occupational Licensing Regulatory Fund (Fund 4K90). Table 2 shows the Board's current license fees.

License Type	Fee
Psychologist – License Application	\$300
Psychologist – License Renewal	\$365
School Psychologist – License Application	\$300
School Psychologist – License Renewal	\$365
Applied Behavior Analyst – Certificate Application	\$125
Applied Behavior Analyst – Certificate Renewal	\$150

## Licensure

To carry out its regulatory responsibility, the Board licenses and establishes standards of practice for psychologists, school psychologists, and certified behavior analysts. As shown in Table 3, from FY 2021 to FY 2022, the total number of active licenses increased by 5.6%.

License Type	FY 2020	FY 2021	Percent Change	FY 2022	Percent Change
Psychologist	3,532	3,420	-3.2%	3,464	1.3%
School Psychologist	213	192	-9.9%	195	1.6%
Certified Ohio Behavior Analyst	643	751	16.8%	950	26.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,388</b>	<b>4,363</b>	<b>-0.6%</b>	<b>4,609</b>	<b>5.6%</b>

\*All figures were reported to LSC by the Board for the Occupational Licensing and Regulatory Board Report. Figures do not include nonresident temporary permits, which totaled 200 in FY 2021 and 177 in FY 2022.

The Board utilizes the online eLicensing system, which is administered by the Department of Administrative Services (DAS). Currently, the boards are assessed a charge for eLicensing operational costs. This charge is deposited into the Professionals Licensing System Fund

(Fund 5JQ0), administered by DAS and expended through line item 100658, Professionals Licensing System. In the proposed budget, funding for eLicensing will instead come from new Fund 4K90 line item 100673, Professionals Licensing System, which will also be under DAS. Thus, eLicensing operational costs will not be reflected directly in the board budgets, but will instead be directly billed out of this new line item. However, a board may still be directly assessed a charge for any unanticipated licensing upgrades or enhancements.

## **Investigation and enforcement**

The Board's regulatory obligations also include investigating complaints about issues of incompetent, unethical, and impaired practitioners. The Board received 121 complaints in FY 2021 and closed approximately 180 total complaints, with 105 complaints closed citing no basis to proceed, 29 complaints investigated and closed with no fault found, 36 complaints closed citing no jurisdiction, and nine complaints closed with formal disciplinary action.

## **Continuing education**

Each licensee must complete at least 23 hours of continuing education with at least four of the hours being in the topics of professional conduct, ethics, or issues relating to cultural competency.

## **FY 2022-FY 2023 updates**

### **Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT)**

S.B. 2 of the 134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly entered Ohio in the multi-jurisdictional psychology compact known as PSYPACT, which regulates the practice of telepsychology and temporary in-person psychology across state boundaries for participating states. Under the compact, in order for a psychologist to practice in other member states, they must meet certain criteria and must also possess an unrestricted license to practice psychology in their home state, as well as a current and active E.Passport or Interjurisdictional Practice Certificate (IPC). Both are issued by the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards. The E.Passport authorizes telepsychology practice while the IPC grants temporary authority to practice in a distant state.

### **School psychologists and independent school psychologists**

H.B. 509 of the 134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly transfers the licensure of school psychologists from the State Board of Education to the State Board of Psychology. The two boards must coordinate this transition by January 1, 2025. The Psychology Board will license two types of school psychologists: those who practice in school settings (school psychologists) and those who practice outside of school settings (independent school psychologists). Currently, school psychologists can be licensed by either or both boards, depending on where the school psychologist practices. The State Board of Education license is for school psychologists practicing within the scope of employment by a school district or by a private school or in certain programs for children with disabilities. Additionally, the bill renames the school psychologist license currently offered by the Psychology Board to "independent school psychologist."

H.B. 509 also adds a certified Ohio behavior analyst to the State Board of Psychology, as well as authorizes the psychologist members of the Board to include independent school psychologists in addition to psychologists and school psychologists.

S.B. 131 of the 134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly maintains membership in the State Teachers Retirement System for licensed school psychologists employed in public schools once regulation of school psychologist licenses is transferred from the Ohio Department of Education to the State Board of Psychology.