



# McLean County Area EMS System

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## MEMORANDUM

**To:** System Agencies

**From:** Dylan Ferguson, Paramedic, B.S., L.I.  
Director

**Date:** 02/02/2016

**Subject:** Continuing Education Update

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I wanted to take a moment to bring you all up to date regarding some clarifications to our educational program as it relates to continuing education and licensure renewal. Over the years there has been confusion and lack of a consistent standard as it related to attendance at mandatory classes, and exactly what mandatory meant.

Acting on recommendations from the EMS advisory council, which is a group of providers and administrators from many different agencies, the system has adopted the following policy as it relates to mandatory classes. For any renewals occurring after 01/01/2018 system providers will be required to show attendance at 75% of EMS System quarterly required courses that were offered after 07/01/2016.

The timing for this policy seems appropriate as quarterly courses are now being offered throughout the system over the entire quarter as opposed to only a single month. The purpose of this requirement is to ensure that providers are being exposed to a consistent rotation of important topics, and that standards are consistent from one provider to another.

There are many EMS systems that require 100% attendance at monthly classes. I do not feel that such a measure is feasible for our largely volunteer system. I also realize the time burdens that are placed on all of our providers so I have focused on making this a realistically attainable standard.

Individuals who do not comply with this standard will be referred to IDPH and will go through the independent renewal process. As of the date of this memo IDPH currently requires 120 hours of continuing education for all levels of EMT independent renewal.

Beginning in 2016, most likely in June a competency exam will be released and will be administered, it will be open book, and likely administered on-line. Individuals who do not successfully complete the exam will have 5 hours of continuing education added to their total required for renewal.

The requirement for the competency exam does not apply to individuals only practicing at the First Responder level within the system. If there are any questions regarding this policy clarification please contact Dylan in the system office.