



# The Sponsor Connection

BY CHARTER SCHOOL SPECIALISTS  
FOR SCHOOLS SPONSORED BY ST. ALOYSIUS

## April 2019

### MADISON AVENUE SCHOOL OF ARTS NAMED AS A STATE SCHOOL OF CHARACTER

Congratulations to Madison Avenue School of Arts! The school was recently announced as a State School of Character by Character.org, a national advocate and leader for character in communities that includes schools, districts, families, workplaces and sports. Each year [Character.org](http://Character.org) certifies schools and districts at a state level that demonstrate a dedicated focus on character development, which has a positive effect on academic achievement, student behavior and school climate. Criteria for selection is based on the organization's [11 Principles](#).

This year 87 schools and 3 districts in 18 states received this honor. Madison Avenue School of Arts was one of only two schools selected in Ohio. They will now be considered for the organization's highest distinction of National School of Character which will be announced in May.

### GOVERNOR DEWINE'S BUDGET CALLS FOR NO CHANGES IN BASIC K-12 OHIO SCHOOL FUNDING, BUT WILL ADD MILLIONS FOR STUDENT SUPPORT

The governor's two-year state budget calls for no changes in the basic state funding for public schools, but there is a new initiative starting with \$250 million next year for student success through a variety of support services.

One of the highlights from the budget is additional money for high-performing community schools. The governor has proposed an additional \$30 million a year for those designated as schools of quality.

While the Governor's budget doesn't include changes to K-12 Ohio School funding, State Representatives Cupp and Patterson have now released their long awaited school funding plan. Charter School Specialists will review the plan and provide details in the May Sponsor Connection.

### LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

Our office along with Tom Needles from Compass Consulting, has been actively

engaged in legislative advocacy for several months in an attempt to influence any new legislation that could impact the charter school environment. Additionally, Charter School Specialists has a full complement of legislative priorities that we have been sharing with legislators. Our efforts are concentrated in the following areas: Local Report Cards, additional funding, licensure, transportation, facilities, and changing the negative narrative pushed by the local media.

### WE ALL NEED A LITTLE SUNSHINE!

Attorney General, Dave Yost, kicked off Sunshine Week on March 11th by releasing the 2019 edition of the [Sunshine Laws Manual](#), a one-stop resource for information on the Ohio Public Records and Open Meetings Acts.

Members of the governing authority of a community school, the designated fiscal officer of the school, the chief administrative officer and other administrative employees of the school, and all individuals performing supervisory or administrative services for the school under a contract with the operator of the school must annually complete training on the public records and open meetings laws, so they will comply with O.R.C 3314.03 (A)(11)(d).

The Attorney General's office offers this training free of charge online if you still have not completed the training. They have also created a model public records policy for local governments to use as a guide when creating their own policies. These resources and more are available on the [Ohio Attorney General's Website](#).

Verification of training is due to the sponsor by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

### MISSING CHILDREN PROGRAM - IS YOUR SCHOOL MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS?

According to ORC 3313.96, since 1995, all schools in Ohio have been required to have a "Missing Children Program," (not to be confused with the requirement to seek out children that may need special services called Child Find). All schools have a Missing Children policy that typically confirms the school will have a Missing Children Program. The extent to which the "program" is developed, implemented, and documented has been less than consistent. The Ohio Department of Education has required all sponsors to upload a "copy of program materials" for all schools confirming the implementation of their Missing Children Program. As one could imagine, there seems to be questions about what constitutes a "program" and what documentation to provide for sponsors. In an effort to help clarify and document a schools Missing Children Program, as a part of the 2018-2019 Spring Compliance Survey, Charter School Specialists is asking each school to complete a form and upload documents confirming the implementation of the Missing Children Program. We believe the intent of ORC 3313.96 is to ensure that parents receive information about missing children issues including fingerprinting options. Schools have taken different approaches to implement a Missing Children Program including, but not limited to, hosting a parent informational session during a PTA meeting, holding an assembly to inform students and sending information home for parents, providing parents with flyers during enrollment, or having a Missing Children informational table during an open house or other after-school event.

If your school has yet to implement your Missing Children Program and/or if you have questions regarding the necessary documentation, Brian Dunbar will discuss the requirement and answer any questions you may have during the 2018-2019 Spring Survey webinar on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 10:00 am.

### KINDERGARTEN SPRING SURVEY

Ohio law requires the Department to survey all public school districts, including community schools, on an annual basis regarding kindergarten schedules and fees or tuition charged for providing all-day kindergarten services. The 2018-2019 survey is available [here](#) and is to be completed by April 12.

### STATEWIDE SERIES OF TOWN HALL MEETINGS FOR FAMILIES OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES TO MEET MARCH 19 THROUGH APRIL 17

The Department of Education is developing recommendations to improve educational experiences and outcomes for students with disabilities in Ohio. The Department is calling on its most important partners - parents, guardians, grandparents, aunts, uncles, foster parents, family members and advocates - to help the agency create those recommendations. More information and meeting locations can be found [here](#).

### FEDERAL PROGRAMS UPDATE - TITLE IV CONSULTATION

The Office of Federal Programs (OFP) reviewed ESSA Title IV and discovered that local educational agencies **MUST** consult with the following group of individuals and agencies in order to receive Title IV federal funds (ESSA Sec 4106 (c)(1)).

It is probable that this year, OFP will require documentation of consultation with each of these individuals and agencies. Please make sure as you begin your FY2020 CCIP Applications, that you have consulted with each group below and keep documentation of this consultation. Documentation includes emails/correspondence, sign-in sheets (if meetings were held), and agendas.

- Parents
- Teachers
- Students
- Community-based Organizations
- Principals
- Local Government Representative\*
- Operator
- Sponsor
- Specialized Instructional Support Personnel
- Other School Leaders

*\*At least one Local Government Representative must be selected from one of these agencies; Local Law Enforcement Agency, Local Juvenile Court, Local Child Welfare Agency, Local Public Housing Agency*

For more information please contact our Director of Federal Programs, Nannette Sherman by email at [nsherman@charterschoolspec.com](mailto:nsherman@charterschoolspec.com) or by phone at 614-837-8945 ext. 23.

### REMINDER

- **April 3** - Spring Survey Webinar hosted by CSS, Brian Dunbar -10:00 am (refer to the invite sent earlier for login instructions or email Brian at [bdunbar@charterschoolspec.com](mailto:bdunbar@charterschoolspec.com))
- **April 12** - 2018-2019 Kindergarten Survey due
- **April 23** - Career Tech Education/Graduation Pathways for Community Schools- 9 am to 12:00 pm - Linda Thayer, CTE Regional Coordinator for Regions 2, 3, 4, and 8, will have valuable resources and information for those schools dealing with graduation needs (DPR, high schools and middle school). Registration will be on STARs.
- **May 1** - Sunshine Law Training verification and annual Conflict of Interests/Disclosure statements are due to Sponsor.
- **May 25** - Five Year Forecasts are to be board approved and sent to sponsor.



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