



SPONSOR CONNECTION

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January 2020



2019 School Performance Awards Announced!

The State Board of Education and State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Paolo DeMaria, recognized 63 districts, 436 schools and 12 Career-Technical Planning Districts for achieving high performance, outstanding progress and momentum for students across Ohio. These schools received one or more awards for "Schools of Promise", "Schools of Honor", "All A" Award, "Overall A" Award and the "Momentum Award".

Two new awards debuted this year for Career-Technical Planning Districts and Dropout Prevention and Recovery Community Schools. Twelve career-technical districts received the CTPD "Overall A" Award and a total of nine dropout prevention schools earned the "Exceeds Standards" Award.

Towpath Trail High School was one of the nine dropout prevention and recovery schools to receive this award for having an overall rating of "Exceeds Standards" on their 2019 report card. The school received an overall "Exceeds Standards" and "Exceeds Standards" in High School Test Passage Rate and Progress components on the 2019 Report Card and on their 2018 Report Card.

Klepinger Community School received two awards. They received the "Momentum Award" for exceeding expectations in student growth for the year. Schools must earn straight A's on all Value-Added measures on the report card. The school or district must have at least two Value-Added subgroups of students, which includes gifted, lowest 20% in achievement, and students with disabilities. The school also received the "Schools of Honor" Award for high progress. The Schools of Honor program recognizes schools that have sustained high achievement and substantial progress while serving a significant number of economically disadvantaged students.

Complete lists of districts and schools across Ohio that have received an award are available on the Ohio Department of Education website. [HERE](#)

We would like to congratulate Towpath Trail High School and Klepinger Community School for being recognized by the Ohio Department of Education for their outstanding efforts this year.



Patriot Preparatory Academy Implements Co-teaching

Implementing a new program can be a daunting task for schools, but Patriot Preparatory Academy is more than willing to accept new challenges. The leadership team at Patriot Preparatory Academy held a school improvement planning meeting last spring. Led by Sean Smith, Superintendent, the team was tasked with reviewing their special education data and determining a next step that would help raise the achievement of students with disabilities. Martha Dwyer, Special Education Coordinator for the school, explained, "In reviewing data we determined that the deficits of the early literacy program were instruction in phonics and sight word identification. This impacted all students not just students with disabilities." The team believed that the co-teaching model would benefit all students since it allows for two teachers to instruct small groups and provide intervention in language arts.

The school had been using a co-teaching model in 3rd and 5th grade language arts last year. Diving into the data, the team noticed that the co-teaching classes demonstrated improvements in both the Ohio State Tests and MAPS. The school met with staff to discuss the reasoning behind implementing a co-teaching model and discuss implementation. The participating staff were given the book, *How to Co-Teach*, written by Potts and Howard. In July, the staff were brought together to discuss concerns and work together in teams to plan for the year. The staff was receptive to making the changes and worked closely together to select a co-teaching strategy that best met their teaching styles. Co-teaching has several different strategies, and it is imperative that the teachers select one that works for both teachers.

Ms. Dwyer went on to explain that input from intervention staff and general education teachers was used to determine teaching styles and form the co-teaching pairs. One of the initial challenges was determining how to adjust schedules so there was enough staff during a time frame to co-teach and still meet the required time and goals for students on Individualized Education Plans (IEP). To help with this challenge the school hired an additional Intervention Specialist. When asked about teacher feedback, Ms. Dwyer stated, "I have been encouraged by the dialogue during TBT meetings about co-teaching. At our staff retreat in the fall, we had a breakout session and discussed the positives and negatives of the (co-teaching) implementation." She reports that the staff openly discussed the positives and received encouragement and ideas to assist with implementation. The experience was truly collegiality at its best.

Although the school does not assess MAPS and DRA data formally until the end of the semester, the teachers have reported that their preliminary formative data shows improvement for individual students. The school is hopeful that at the end of the year, the data will support implementing co-teaching in math for the 2020-2021 school year. When asked what recommendations she would give a school leader interested in starting a co-teaching model, Ms. Dwyer stated, "My observations show that the co-teaching model supports both teachers and students as they instruct and intervene to meet the standards at all grade levels." Ms. Dwyer also reported that co-teaching has assisted the intervention specialists in seeing the bigger instructional picture for their students with disabilities. IEPs are now written to narrow the gap between IEP goals and grade level standards. "Over time, it is a win-win for all" said Ms. Dwyer.



K-12 Prevention Education Initiative

The Ohio Department of Education and Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services are [partnering to help Ohio districts, schools and community partners conduct self-assessments](#).

The aim is for districts to identify needs, so they can implement prevention programs that reduce risky student behaviors.

Could Your School Benefit From a Preschool?



Has your school board contemplated the benefits or need of a preschool program in the past but didn't meet the criteria to be licensed by the Ohio Department of Education? If so, your school may now be eligible!

For a community school to operate a preschool program licensed by the Ohio Department of Education they must meet either of the following:

1. Be sponsored by an entity that is rated "exemplary" under section [3314.016](#) of the Revised Code OR;
2. Received, on its most recent report card, either of the following:
 - If the school offers any of grade levels four through twelve, a grade of "C" or better for the overall value-added progress dimension under division (C)(1)(e) of section [3302.03](#) of the Revised Code and for the performance index score under division (C)(1)(b) of section [3302.03](#) of the Revised Code;
 - If the school does not offer a grade level higher than three, a grade of "C" or better for making progress in improving literacy in grades kindergarten through three under division (C)(1)(g) of section [3302.03](#) of the Revised Code.

For the first time this year, your sponsor was rated "Exemplary"! This means that schools will now be eligible for a preschool program by meeting the first or second criteria. In the past, schools would need to meet the second criteria since St. Aloysius was rated "Effective" and not "Exemplary".

To be eligible, boards intending to establish a preschool program must demonstrate a need for a preschool program prior to establishing it.

ODE licensed programs that receive Publicly Funded Child Care (PFCC) funds from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) will be required to participate in Step Up To Quality (SUTQ) by July 1, 2020.

If you would like more information on preschool licensing please call 614-502-7535 or email OELSR.licensing@education.ohio.gov.



SUMMER PROGRAMS

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) funds [tuition-free summer programs](#) for K-12 educators and higher education faculty. Participants receive stipends to help cover travel and living expenses. Programs are held throughout the country. These one- to four-week study opportunities focus on important topics, texts, and questions in the humanities; enhance the intellectual vitality and professional development of participants; build a community of inquiry and strong models of scholarship and teaching; and promote connections between teaching and research in the humanities. The deadline for applications is March 1, 2020.



Start Talking!

The amount of worry and stress affecting teens can be overwhelming, and it may lead to unhealthy behaviors and coping skills. Parents, caregivers and educators can teach, support and provide advice to children to help them deal with their problems and pressures.

For more information and to sign up to receive tips about preventing children from drinking, smoking or using other drugs, go to StartTalking.ohio.gov.

Welcome Compliance Season!

The Ohio Department of Education opened the compliance system in mid-December. There continues to be three types of compliance monitoring from the Office of Federal Programs: 1) Self-Survey, 2) Desk/Phone Survey and 3) Onsite Review. Most of the schools in the state receive the Self-Survey. The Self-Survey is due by the end of May. However, we recommend starting the survey early and completing it early. The questions on the Self-Survey identify activities, policies, or guidelines that must be completed prior to the close of the school year. Completing or opening the survey up early will give each school time to ensure all requirements for federal funds are met.



The Desk Survey will require documentation to be uploaded, but it was stated that the number of documents required in the survey has greatly decreased from prior years. Onsite Reviews require a scheduled visit with the Office of Federal Programs. Schools need to ensure all required documentation is available to the onsite team the day of their visit.

Access to Compliance is through the OH/ID Portal. Compliance for federal programs can be found under Consolidated ESEA Grants. If you need clarification about a requirement or assistance in determining what can serve as evidence, please feel free to contact Nannette Sherman at 614-837-8945 ext. 23 or email nsherman@charterschoolspec.com.

FMCSA Clearinghouse Update For All Schools Providing Transportation

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations require employers to obtain information from job applicants, includes the names and addresses of the applicant's employer(s) for the past 3 years, and whether or not the applicant was subject to the FMCSRs and to the drug and alcohol testing requirements under 49 CFR part 40 (49 CFR 391.2(b)).

On Dec. 5, 2016, the U.S. Congress published the drug and alcohol clearinghouse final rule and identified roles and responsibilities of those who are required to use the clearinghouse. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration now will require holders of commercial driver's licenses (CDL) to be registered in the database, which will contain violations of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration drug and alcohol testing program. This ruling was mandated with the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21).

Registration for the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Drug & Alcohol Clearinghouse opened in October of 2019. In November, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration made query plans available to employers for purchase.

Employers (***schools and vendors***) must use the clearinghouse beginning Jan. 6, 2020. Between Jan. 6, 2020, and Jan. 6, 2023, employers must continue to perform both manual inquiries with previous employers and electronic queries in the clearinghouse. Beginning Jan. 6, 2023, employers will need to query only the clearinghouse to satisfy employer requirements.

School District and/or School Bus Transportation Service provider:

1. Register with Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration drug and alcohol clearinghouse before Jan. 6, 2020.
2. Log in to purchase a query plan (each driver query costs \$1.25).
3. You must run queries for all "new" driver candidates (pre-employment) (Only CDL and CDL Permit holders).
4. You must run queries for all drivers at least once annually (more frequently if employer desires).
5. Designate your consortia or third-party administrator (C/TPA) (if your consortia or third-party administrator is not listed, please contact to confirm it has completed the clearinghouse registration)
6. Employers, medical review officers, substance abuse professionals, consortia or third-party administrators and other service agents must report to the clearinghouse any information related to violations of the drug and alcohol regulations in Code 49 of Federal Regulations, Parts 40 and 382.

Employees (only CDL holders and those who have commercial learners permit) should take the following steps:

1. Review the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's Drug & Alcohol Clearinghouse brochure for drivers.
2. Register with Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Drug & Alcohol Clearinghouse (this is electronic consent for employers to complete full queries on employees). For step-by-step instructions, review the registration information sheet.
3. Review their own clearinghouse records to initiate the process to revise or remove incorrect information, if needed.
4. Identify a substance abuse professional to report on return to duty activities, if the employee has any unresolved drug and alcohol program violations in the clearinghouse.

Drivers will be notified when an employer has requested their electronic consent for a full query by the method the employee selected during clearing house registration.

If you have any questions, please contact Jason Heilman, Director, ODE, Office of Transportation by email at Jason.Heilman@education.ohio.gov or by phone at 614-466-4230.



10 Top New Year's Resolution for School Leaders

1. Make sure all teachers know school improvement goals.
2. Complete all required compliance activities early.
3. Sign semi-annual certificates for staff paid with federal funds in January and June.
4. Send out parent/community/stakeholder surveys regarding federal programs and parent involvement policy.
5. Edit/Revise CCIP Planning Tool and copy FY20 Plan over to FY21.
6. Review assessment data frequently and adjust multi-tiered systems of interventions.
7. Read and implement one of John Hattie's Top Ten Evidence-Based strategies.
8. Spend down Title I funds to avoid potential loss of funds due to either expiring funds or Title I carry over limits.
9. Make sure all students return from all school sponsored activity!
10. Register to attend the OAASFEP (Ohio Association of Administrators of State and Federal Programs) March 30-April 1st in Columbus.

State Provision Offers Computer Science Licensure Reimbursement

To increase the number of educators qualified to teach computer science in the state, Ohio law includes a [provision for reimbursing teachers](#) for the costs of obtaining licenses to teach computer science.

The Ohio Department of Education reimburses educators directly for the cost of content examinations and pedagogy courses required by Ohio Revised Code completed by summer term 2021.

The Department will give priority for reimbursement to educators who agree to teach at least one remote computer science course at a school that lacks access to computer science educators. It will grant second priority to educators assigned to schools that have more than 50 percent economically disadvantaged students and few or no teachers licensed to teach computer science.

For more information, contact [John Wiseman](#) at (614) 728-7589 or visit the Department's [Computer Science Licensure Application webpage](#).



Ohio Department of Education and Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation announce Innovative Workforce Incentive Program

The Ohio Department of Education and Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation have announced a list of industry-recognized credentials that provides \$34 million in funding opportunities to districts under the new [Innovative Workforce Incentive Program](#). Governor Mike DeWine and the Ohio General Assembly developed the program to create more opportunities for students to earn in-demand, industry-recognized credentials.

Increased Accessibility to the Learning Management System

The Ohio Department of Education announced it has increased accessibility to the Learning Management System (LMS). Effective December 16, 2019, the LMS is available to any licensure candidate within 24 hours of submitting an online application. This benefit will make it more convenient for licensure applicants to complete training requirements, such as the Sudden Cardiac Arrest training required for pupil activity permits.

Once LMS access has been granted, candidates will find the Learning Management System (LMS) app tile when they log in to their OHID account. Clicking the LMS app tile will launch the LMS application. Once they are in the LMS, they can find the course they need by clicking the Course Catalog link.

Please send questions regarding LMS to LMSsupport@education.ohio.gov. You may direct any licensure questions to educator.licensure@education.ohio.gov.

Sale or Lease of Unused School Facilities to Community or STEM Schools

[Ohio Law](#) now requires every school district board of education to offer unused school facilities it owns for lease or sale to the governing authorities of community schools or STEM schools located in the district's boundaries. This applies to any facility that has not been used for school operation for the past year. The previous requirement stipulated that a school district must make the offer after a facility has been unused for two years. House Bill 166 changed that period to one year.



Complete the 2018-2019 diabetes survey by January 31

The Ohio Department of Education reminds districts and schools to [complete the 2018-2019 diabetes survey](#), located on the Department's website, by Jan. 31.

3/1 - Deadline for [tuition-free summer programs](#)

If you would like to submit an article on the accomplishments of your school, students or staff members, please send to cskaggs@charterschoolspec.com

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