



# SPONSOR CONNECTION

## for Schools Sponsored by St. Aloysius

April 2020

**CSS Upcoming Events**  
see the latest current events and cancellations [HERE](#)

Alternative Education Conference scheduled for April 20th has been canceled.

Application deadline for Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant extended Based on the governor's recently announced executive order following confirmation of the coronavirus (COVID-19) in Ohio, the Ohio Department of Education is providing a [Request for Application \(RFA\) extension for the Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant.](#)

For a list of the Ohio Department of Education Meeting and Event Cancellations and Updates click [HERE](#)

### CSS Updated Contact List

Click the ICON above for the current CSS contact list.

### New training opportunity: Ohio Attorney General Threat Assessment Training

Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost's staff worked with staff of the Ohio departments of Education, Public Safety and Higher Education to develop a [guided online training program for Ohio's local law enforcement officers and school threat assessment teams](#)

### ExcelinEd Launches COVID-19 State Education Action Map and Database

[ExcelinEd](#), an organization that supports state leaders in transforming



### A Message from Charter School Specialists

The past few weeks have brought about uncertainty for many students and families amid the Coronavirus pandemic. Schools, restaurants and community centers have closed. Church services have migrated online and people all over the country find themselves displaced. Rest assured that Charter School Specialists is here to support you during this time and will continue to monitor the situation and will update our [Website](#) frequently as more information becomes available.



### Employee Spotlight

CSS is pleased to welcome its newest employee, Ben Danals, who joined the Compliance Department on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Ben has worked with individuals with exceptionalities for 20 years. His educational experience ranges from being a Behavior Specialist working with students with significant mental health needs in a day treatment setting to co-teaching as a math specialist in an inclusive setting. Most recently, he provided program management to school-based teams providing special education evaluations and related services to community schools. Ben's skills have been leveraged to provide professional development in the areas of special education best practices and Multi-Tiered Systems of Support, teacher mentoring, department coordination and compliance guidance. Ben holds a graduate degree from Antioch University Midwest and an undergraduate degree from Kent State University.

education to unlock opportunity and lifelong success for all children, has launched an online [map and database](#) with state-by-state updates on actions taken by education systems in response to COVID-19. Content will be updated regularly.

As states and districts address many challenges, they hope this timely information will help education leaders stay abreast of activities and state-level decisions across the nation.

[ExcelinEd](#) also hosts one the nation's best education conferences. This year the conference will be held in Washington, DC on November 17-18, 2020. For more information or to register please click [HERE](#).



The [ASCD](#) published some professional tips for Transitioning to Online Learning that can be found [HERE](#)

When not working, Ben enjoys spending time with his family, especially his granddaughter Harper. Having spent a dozen years working with his community's 4-H horse program, he also enjoys catching a horse show during the summer.

## Update from State Superintendent of Public Instruction



State Superintendent of Public Instruction Paolo DeMaria has provided a [video update](#) on the ordered school-building closure and new information that is available on the [Ohio Department of Education](#) website for schools and districts. Specifically, new information about efforts to provide [Whole-Child Nutrition](#) has been added including a map of sites where students may obtain meals. A document containing information about [Considerations for Students with Disabilities](#) also has been added to the website. Finally, the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document is updated regularly as new information becomes available.

## Ohio Awarded \$3.25 Million Federal Grant for Data Systems and Analysis

The Ohio Department of Education announced today that it will receive a \$3.25 million federal grant aimed at helping states design, develop, implement and expand educational data systems. The Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS) Grant Program awarded the funds based on Ohio's plan to accelerate and expand use of its existing data system to better support educators so they can challenge, prepare and empower each student to meet his or her post-high school goals and dreams.

"Ohio has one of the nation's leading educational data infrastructures," said Ohio Governor Mike DeWine. "That means we are poised to make the best use of the federal award announced today. This grant funding will make it possible for us to leverage our data systems in ways that have a positive, real-world impact on the day-to-day learning that happens in classrooms across the state." "The grant announced today provides an amazing boost to our ongoing work aimed at using data to inform and transform education in Ohio," said State Superintendent of Public Instruction Paolo DeMaria. "Specifically, we will take advantage of this funding to pursue one of the core principles stated in our strategic plan, Each Child, Our Future, which is equity. Effective use of data is the surest way to identify and address the root causes of inequities in education and promote practices that systemically dismantle existing, and guard against future, inequities."

Goals for the funding in Ohio include:

- Linking PreK-12 and workforce data to improve our understanding of students' post-high school outcomes;
- Enhancing Ohio's Equitable Access Analysis Tool, improving access to information about equity gaps within Ohio;
- Creating new reports that improve educators' insight into students' progress toward graduation; and
- Providing additional training and resources for Ohio's Regional Data Lead network, further supporting their efforts to build capacity for local data use.

Ultimately, the funding will allow Ohio to operationalize the vision established by Each Child, Our Future, the state's strategic plan for education, which reads: In Ohio, each child is challenged to discover and

learn, prepared to pursue a fulfilling post-high school path and empowered to become a resilient, lifelong learner who contributes to society.

## Child Nutrition Information and Resources for Schools and Families



During the ordered school-building closure period, schools may continue to receive reimbursement for meals served by participating in the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) or the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). Schools may operate as open, restricted open or targeted outreach sites. More information is available [HERE](#)

Below are some resources for families looking for meals for their children:

- **Cincinnati Public Schools** is offering Families with children between the ages of 1-18, drive thru or walk up and pick up meals at school sites. [More information is available HERE](#)
- **Columbus City Schools** is offering FREE breakfast & lunch for ALL children. Also, free transportation to and from meal sites is provided by COTA. [More information is available HERE.](#) *Columbus Humanities, Arts, and Tech Academy is providing breakfast and lunch for ANYONE UNDER THE AGE OF 18, regardless if they attend the school or not. Parents and students may pick up meals between 9:00am – 12:00pm.*
- **Cleveland City Schools** is offering FREE meals for ALL children in the city of Cleveland 18 years and younger. [More information is available HERE](#)
- **Dayton City Schools** is offering Free meals for any children under the age of 18. [More information is available HERE](#)

For a complete list of Ohio School Meal Distribution Sites click [HERE](#).

### Additional food options:

- The [LunchBox](#) will be passing out emergency bags of food throughout the duration of the school closures to families needing them most.
- Find your [local food bank](#)

For technical assistance with identifying food and resources available to your staff and students, please contact [pchisley@charterschoolspec.com](mailto:pchisley@charterschoolspec.com)

## Federal Funds Often Forgotten Requirements

Please remember that there are specific activities that schools accepting federal funds (Title I, II-A, III, IV-A and IDEA Part B) must complete. Here is a list of a few of the “Most forgotten” activities that every school accepting consolidated federal funds must complete:

- Conduct an inventory of all equipment purchased with these funds **every two years**. Equipment in most instances includes technology (computers, iPads, Smart Boards).
- Complete Homeless Awareness Training to all staff (instructional and non-instructional) every year.
- Complete an evaluation of the school’s Title I program, Professional Development Program, Parent Involvement and any programs supported with Title IV (field trips, STEM, Fine Arts Programs). Please note that Parent Surveys & Community other surveys are available on our website.

For a complete listing of all activities that are required please click [HERE](#)

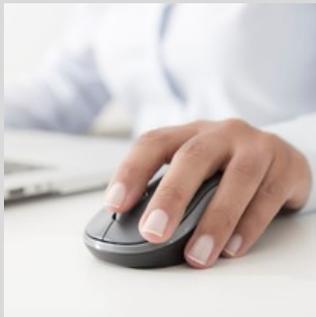
## The Evidence Behind Strategies to Reduce Absenteeism

Phyllis Jordan at FutureEd recently authored [Attendance Playbook: Smart Solutions for Reducing Chronic Absenteeism](#), a report outlining strategies for reducing chronic absenteeism and the evidence behind each suggested strategy. The strategies are presented by Tier I, II, and III intervention levels as follows:

- Tier I
  - Effective Messaging and Engagement (e.g., Nudging Parents and Students)
  - Removing Barriers to Attendance (e.g., School-based Health Services)
  - Improving School Climate (e.g., Relevant-and Culturally Relevant-Curriculum)
- Tier II

- Effective Messaging and Engagement (e.g., Early Warning)
- Removing Barriers to Attendance (e.g., Addressing Asthma)
- Tier III
  - Including Truancy Courts, Interagency Case Management, and Housing

Each strategy described is followed by a list of the evidence supporting it, ranked by ESSA evidence strength (strong, moderate, promising, emerging), with a link to each report. Short descriptions of schools and districts using the strategies are also included.



### **Ohio's Educational Technology Agencies provide resources for using online learning to maintain student education**

The [Ohio Educational Technology Agencies \(Ohio EdTechs\)](#) are responding to districts' needs for resources and support to help them develop and maintain student education through online learning.

**CHARTER SCHOOL  
SPECIALISTS**

*If you would like to submit an article on the accomplishments of your school, students or staff members, please submit [HERE](#)*