



# SPONSOR CONNECTION

## for Schools Sponsored by St. Aloysius

### October 2021

#### Reminders

- 10/8 | Deadline to [review and verify Fiscal Year 2021 report card data](#)
- 10/14 | Register for Federal Programs [New Coordinators Academy](#)
- 10/15 | Deadline to set up district [educator evaluation systems](#)
- 10/17 | Apply for [Innovative Workforce Incentive Program funds](#) for industry credential programs in priority sectors
- 10/22 | School annual budgets due to sponsor
- 10/28 | Register for [Federal Programs Monthly Topics Session](#)
- 10/31 | School annual report due to sponsor and parent
- 11/1 | T-1 Transportation reporting deadline for community schools receiving funding for transportation
- 11/1 | deadline for vision, hearing, speech & communications screenings for KG and 1<sup>st</sup> grade students
- 11/2 | Register for [Career Awareness and Exploration Funds Guidance session](#)
- 11/3 | Application deadline [Dyslexia Support Grant](#)
- 11/9 | Register for Federal Programs [New Coordinators Academy](#)
- 11/18 | Register for [Federal Programs Monthly Topics Session](#)
- 11/23 | Five year forecasts due to sponsor
- 12/28 | School annual signed budget resolution due to sponsor

#### COSI and Buckeye Community School Give away 1,000 Free Learning and Meal Kits to Marion Kids



The Marion County Fair has already come and gone, but the Marion County Fairgrounds' parking lot was still filling up on Wednesday morning.

Parents and grandparents alike were pulling into the fairgrounds and were greeted by members of COSI and the Buckeye Community School. With 1,000 STEAM kit boxes and fresh produce free for families, people were loading up their backseats with boxes full of science experiments and healthy meal options.

These efforts come from COSI's recent innovative program where the Columbus-based institution looks to deliver 50,000 free hands-on science kits, known as learning lunchboxes, throughout the state. Each box comes complete with five activities that promote science and the boxes on Wednesday morning were spaced themed given a recent partnership with NASA plus Ohio's historic connection to outer space.

Andy Aichele, senior director of education engagement at COSI, said COSI wanted to make sure every kid could use these kits, regardless of access to internet. Each kit comes with a QR code where parents can download PDFs and kids can view them offline. Aichele said this means a family could pop into a McDonald's parking lot, quickly download the resources and return home for an experiment.

Through this initiative, Aichele said they look to partner with local organizations for a more widespread reach and to offer more than learning opportunities. This is how the Buckeye Community School and COSI ended up collaborating on Wednesday morning with the school providing fresh corn on the cob, cauliflower, watermelon and Cheryl's Cookies.

Winnie Brewer, nutrition services director with the Buckeye Community School, was buzzing around the Fairgrounds and helping unpack pallets full of produce alongside a team of helpers. With more than 100 cars already parking in the lot, she was eager to get each learning lunchbox and meal kits into the hands of families.

Jackie and Tim Sutton were among the many families in the Fairgrounds' parking lot and the two were picking up kits for their three grandkids. Jackie said she often brings her grandson to the Explore-It-Torium in Marion as she is a volunteer there. She said she loves spending time at the kids museum and trips to COSI only heightened his interest in science.

Written by Mitch Hooper, [Marion Star](#)



Click on the icon above for the current CSS Professional Development Catalog

#### Hearing, Vision, speech and Communication Screening Requirement

According to ORC 3313.673, schools that enroll Kindergarten and 1st grade students must complete vision, hearing, speech and communications screenings for students by Nov 1. Schools notified parents of this screening

requirement before August 1st. Please keep a copy of your notification (dated after July 1 but before August 1) for compliance purposes. It is also important to note that the statute states specifically students "shall be screened for hearing, vision, speech and communications, and health and medical problems and for any developmental disorders".

If you have any questions please contact Brian Dunbar by phone 614-837-8945 ext 15 or email [bdunbar@charterschoolspec.com](mailto:bdunbar@charterschoolspec.com).



## Transportation Reporting Reminder for Schools Receiving Funding

This is a reminder for community schools who provide transportation for all students from one or more districts and are funded by ODE that the T-1 pupil transportation service report week will be Oct. 4-8, 2021. Per [ORC 3317.0212](#), districts are required to submit their T-1 reports to the Ohio Department of Education by Nov. 1, 2021.

### Completing and submitting the report

Note the following changes with the T-1 and submission:

- Updated T-1 instructions and a training video can be found [here](#).
- The report is due by Nov. 1.
- Districts may use the greater of morning or afternoon ridership when reporting pupils.
- Districts must update bus inventory with current mileage (at time of T-1 report submission) and vehicle condition (criteria for rating is found in the revised instructions).
- All eligible resident riders will be calculated in the payment formula (previously only riders that lived more than mile from the school).
- All eligible resident preschool riders will be calculated in the payment formula (previously only the preschool students that held an IEP were calculated)
- The treasurer and/or superintendent must view the audit reports on the completion page of the report.
- If a *caution* exists in the audit report(s), a short comment must be entered in the comment box. The comment box is limited to 255 characters per comment.

Following these steps, the *sign and submit* button will be available to finish submitting the document.

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Pupil Transportation at (614) 466-4230 or by email at [schoolbus@education.ohio.gov](mailto:schoolbus@education.ohio.gov).



There have been several new entitlement grants created in response to the pandemic. This article will go over requirements and clarify the expenditure of funds from the American Rescue Plan (ARP ESSER III).

### Plans required by American Rescue Plan

There are three plans required for the expenditure of ARP funds:

#### 1. Continuity of Service and Return to In-Person Learning

This plan required the school create and post a plan on the school's website that described the steps it was taking to ensure continuity of services and reduce the spread of the virus while returning to in-person learning. This plan had to be posted on June 24<sup>th</sup> on the school's website and a copy of the link sent to [continuityplan@education.ohio.gov](mailto:continuityplan@education.ohio.gov). This plan is required to be reviewed at least every 6 months.

#### 2. American Rescue Plan

This plan includes budget information on how the school will expend the funds and should also include a description of how the mandated 20% set aside will be used to address student learning gaps. It is a different plan than the Continuity of Services. It too, must be posted to the school's website and include a statement requesting parent comments. This plan must be sent to [continuityplan@education.ohio.gov](mailto:continuityplan@education.ohio.gov).

### 3. American Rescue Plan IDEA Part B and Early Childhood Special Education

This plan can be posted beneath the American Rescue Plan and should detail how these funds will be spent to address the needs of students with disabilities. An opportunity for parent comment must also be in the plan and sent to [continuityplan@ohio.gov](mailto:continuityplan@ohio.gov).

To ensure that each of your plans has been submitted, ODE has an alphabetical listing of all schools who have sent in their school's link to the plans. Check for your school's plan at: <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Back-to-School/Continuity-of-Services-Plans>

**\*\*\*Note regarding spending of ESSER I, ESSER II, ARP ESSER III. Do we need to spend all our ESSER I and ESSER II funds prior to spending ARP ESSER?**

**No.** The Department encourages LEAs to spend ESSER I and ESSER II funds prior to ESSER III. However, there is not a requirement in the ARP ESSER for LEAs to spend their ESSER I and II funds prior to ARP ESSER. It is important to note that the US Department of Education (USED) indicated that LEAs should plan to use all remaining ESSER I funds before making use of the ESSER II funds. There may be instances in which it is not practical for the LEA to expend all funds out of ESSER I prior to utilizing ESSER II funds. For instance, there could be funds that have been obligated in ESSER I, but not fully liquidated. In the unique circumstances where ESSER I funds are not used prior to ESSER II, **an LEA should make a History Log note in the FY22 ESSER II History Log** explaining why it will use ESSER II funds prior to all ESSER I funds being expended. **There is no such requirement for ARP ESSER.**

#### MOEquity

Although all schools are subject to Maintenance of Effort (MOE), a new stipulation in ARP requires MOEquity. These provisions are central to ensuring that essential resources are meeting the needs of students who have been subject to longstanding opportunity gaps in our education system. These student groups have also experienced the greatest impact from the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. **The good news here is that all community schools that have one IRN are exempt from MOEquity.**

#### Use of Funds for Existing Staff

In general, the school/LEA could use ESSER funds on staff, including staff that were paid with state/local resources previously. The school/LEA would need to budget and plan accordingly, as part of the applications that are approved. As with all federal resources, ESSER uses of funds need to be reasonable and necessary, and the LEA should be able to explain that upon request. Please be aware that funding of existing staff under "other activities necessary to maintain the operations and continuity of services in the LEA and continuing to employ existing staff of the LEA" must be in response to coronavirus. **The LEA should have supporting documentation** to show that this use is to prevent, prepare for and respond to coronavirus, and that without charging these staff to ESSER, the LEA would not have been able to maintain operations, continue services, or continue employing existing staff of the LEA. Some examples of supporting documentation are LEA's forecast, a listing of staff that would have otherwise not been employed in the absence of ESSER funds, and any other relevant fiscal documentation.

If you have questions on Federal Programs, please contact: [nsherman@charterschoolspec.com](mailto:nsherman@charterschoolspec.com) or at 740-607-9174.

#### Post Audit Conferences

A reminder that Charter School Specialists and St. Aloysius require a post audit conference with all of our sponsored schools. The Auditor of State offers this upon completion of all community school audits. We view this as an opportunity to clarify or seek additional information prior to public release of the report on the Auditor of State website. The conferences are conducted via conference call. In addition to a representative from St. Aloysius and Charter School Specialists, treasurers, legal counsel, governing authority members, school leaders and operator/management company staff are welcome to attend.

#### Best Practices - Returning to In-Person Instruction

The US Department of Education recently conducted a webinar on Best Practices for Returning to in-person instruction. The webinar had a panel of experts who shared information from multiple sources discussing strategies for safely reconnecting with PreK-12 students as they return to school.

You can watch the webinar by clicking on the link below and then going to "Recording". There is also a transcript of the session by clicking on "Transcript".

[Lessons from the Field - Returning to School: Strategies for Reengaging PreK-12 Students | National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments \(NCSSLE\).\(ed.gov\).](#)



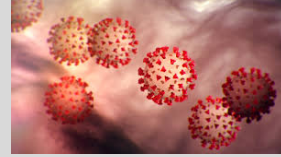
#### Free Safety Assessment and Intervention Trainings Available

[The Department is offering free, evidence-based school violence prevention trainings to districts in the 2021-2022 school year.](#) The sessions teach

multidisciplinary, school-based teams how to identify and respond to threats of violence or at-risk behavior before a tragedy takes place.

## IMPORTANT REMINDER: Covid-19 Reporting for FY2021-2022

Believe it or not, we are still collecting COVID-19 cases for our schools. Currently, we are actively lobbying for a temporary remote learning option for the 2021-2022 school year. The cases you report will help us in pushing for this option!



Please continue with the steps below:

1. Within twenty-four (24) hours of becoming aware of a student, teacher, staff member or coach who has tested positive or been diagnosed with COVID-19, notify parents/guardians of the COVID-19 case.
2. Within twenty-four (24) hours of becoming aware of a student, teacher, staff member or coach who has tested positive or been diagnosed with COVID-19, report the case to the local health department.
3. Report all student or staff member cases to your sponsor at [coronavirus@charterschoolspec.com](mailto:coronavirus@charterschoolspec.com).

Forms for notification and reporting can be found [HERE](#). If you have any questions, feel free to contact us.

### CHARTER SCHOOL SPECIALISTS

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