



SPONSOR CONNECTION

November 2022
Latest News for St. Aloysius Sponsored Schools

Reminder

- 11/1 | T-1 Report due to ODE for schools receiving transportation funding
- 11/1 | Special Education Expenditure Report Due
- 11/21 | 5 year forecast due to sponsor
- 12/26 | Annual budget resolution

Youth Culture Power Professional Development Event

The School Improvement Team will be hosting a virtual professional development session on Tuesday, December 13th with educators and hip hop artists Jason Rawls, Ed.D, and John Robinson based on their book, *Youth Culture Power: A #HipHopEd Guide to Building Teacher-Student Relationships and Increasing Student*. Mr. Rawls and Mr. Robinson will discuss student engagement through the Youth Culture Pedagogy approach, which is defined as an approach where learning scenarios can be developed using students' cultural experiences to assist learning. You can find more information on their website at <https://itsjayare.com/>.

Additional information on this session, along with the link to attend, will be sent out at a later date by the School Improvement Team. We look forward to seeing you there!

Oakmont Education Named a Semifinalists for the YASS Prize!

We are happy to announce that Oakmont Education is a semifinalist for the \$1 Million Yass Prize.

The Yass Prize for Sustainable, Transformational, Outstanding and Permissionless Education (STOP) is a \$1 Million prize to transform education. This award highlights education providers that strive to offer education that is Sustainable, Transformational, Outstanding, and Permissionless (STOP). Not only will there be a \$1 million Yass Prize, but the STOP Awards initiative will also distribute over \$10 million to honor the remaining education innovators, providers, and entrepreneurs through the course of the competition. Each semifinalist will receive \$200,000 for their incredible education innovation.

Cris Gulacy-Worrel, VP of Advocacy and Development, and Dr. Jerry Farley, VP of Career Technical Education, attended the YASS Prize STOP Award Semifinalists announcement event at Forbes on Fifth on October 13th, 2022 in New York City. Oakmont Education will join 32 other Semifinalists in Miami for the next round! Meet all 32 Semifinalists [HERE](#).

[Learn more about the YASS foundation here.](#)

Legislative Update

The Legal Department at Charter School Specialists continues to monitor legislative updates and changes or updates to the Ohio Administrative Code. The Legal Policy Presentation training video will be released later this month and that training video will provide a more in depth look at all of the recent legislation since the 2021 Legal Policy Presentation. The changes listed below are a snapshot of the most recent updates since August 1, 2022. For more information on any of these topics, please contact the Charter School Specialists Legal Department at jkee@charterschoolspec.com.

Ohio Revised Code New Legislation since May 1, 2022

ORC 3313.5317 (from SB 181 effective 5/30/2022) – a school may not prohibit the wearing of religious apparel while competing or participating in interscholastic athletics or extracurricular activities. This code also prohibits a school from requiring a waiver to wear religious apparel in athletics or extracurricular activities. There is an exception to the rule, if the school, athletic organization, or official of the event or activity identifies a legitimate danger to participants. If a legitimate danger is identified, the administrator or event official must offer all reasonable accommodations.

HB 583 (effective 09/23/2022) – is a hodgepodge of rule changes including the establishment of a tutor program; elimination of certain reporting in EMIS; expansion of qualifications for Ed Choice scholarships; changes to funding formulas for English learners, funding bases, catastrophic costs and internet or computer based schools; a delay of the implementation of the dyslexia screening requirements; extends for 2 years the ability for Governing Authority members to hire individuals without bachelor degrees as substitute teachers; creates a Substitute Teacher Shortage Committee with a report due in December 2022; and permits community schools to enter into a contract with a new sponsor without prior approval from the Department of Education.

Ohio Revised Code Proposed Legislation since August 1, 2022

- **HB 719** – Introduced into the House on 09/06/2022 – The proposed bill states that ESCs will provide services to community schools for reading and literacy for English learners.
- **HB 772** – Introduced into the House on 09/15/2022 – Parents Bill of Rights for student health and instruction - The proposed bill will require schools to adopt a policy to notify parents of sexually explicit instructional materials; healthcare services offered; and establish a complaint process for parents.
- **SB 361** – Introduced into the Senate on 10/03/2022 - The proposed bill seeks to expand the eligibility of veterans of the U.S. armed forces to become teachers by eliminating the need for a bachelor's degree provided that the veteran meets the qualifications listed. The proposed bill does not restrict the hiring of veterans to only substitute teaching positions so a veteran hired under the proposed bill could be hired as a full-time educator.

Ohio Administrative Code Rule Updates since August 1, 2022

- **3301-44 (effective 08/26)** – establishes criteria and definitions for an adult diploma pilot program

- 3301-35-01 (effective date 10/28) – online learning and blended learning defined as more than 50% of the time over the course of a school year; competency-based learning model is defined; computer as instructor is defined
- 3301-35-03 (effective date 10/28) – requires blended learning students have annual instructional calendar of at least 910 hours.
- 3301-35-16 (effective date 10/28) – establishes criteria, guidelines, and requirements for online learning schools. There is also the requirement that the school track the time students participate in learning activities and it must be at least 910 hours.
- 301-51-11 (effective date 10/28) – modifies the public school preschool general education class definition and gives an additional option for placement when considering the least restrictive alternative.
- 3301-83-10 (effective date 10/28) – permits new and re-certifying school bus drivers to do online classroom in place of in person classroom learning.

The last legal update that was provided was in the April 2022 Sponsor Connection. In that issue there were a number of bills on that list. Of that list the only bill that appears likely to be passed is HB 606. HB 606 is a bill to enact Sarah's Law for Seizure Safe Schools. The bill passed the house on May 25, 2022, and was introduced into the Senate on May 27, 2022. The Senate referred this bill to committee on May 31, 2022, and there have been no updates since then. It is currently still in committee but may be passed with some amendments.

Afterschool Childhood Enrichment Program (ACE)

The [Ohio Afterschool Child Enrichment \(ACE\) Educational Savings Account](#) program provides funds to low-income families for various enrichment and educational activities. The program is offered through a contract between Merit International, Inc. and the Ohio Department of Education. ACE is available to any Ohio child ages 6 - 18 years old whose family income is at or below 300% of the Federal Poverty Level. Eligible children include those who attend an Ohio public or nonpublic school and participate in home education.

Once a family qualifies for the ACE Educational Savings account program, Merit has provided a portal called the Education Marketplace where families can use the funds to pay for educational value activities. Allowable activities under the ACE program include before- and after-school educational programs, day camps (including camps for academics, music, and arts), tuition for learning extension centers, the purchase of curriculum and material for home-school families, educational learning or study skills services, field trips to historical landmarks/museums/ science centers/ theater, language classes, musical instrument lessons, and tutoring

Free Threat Assessment Trainings for Schools

Threat Assessment Training is available to all schools including community schools. We encourage all of our schools to register for this free training. Trainings are available through April 2023 at the ESCCO, Fairfield, Licking and Madison-Champaign ESCs.

Each district will receive a CSTAG Manual & certificate fulfilling the threat assessment requirement in HB123.

[Register HERE for the training.](#) For additional information or questions, please contact Barbara.Harden@escoco.org.

Federal Programs Reminder for November

The Ohio Department of Education, Office of Federal Programs (OFP) should be notifying schools regarding the type of audit they will be receiving for this fiscal year. There are three types of audits performed by OFP: Self-Evaluation Review, Desk Review, and on-site Reviews. The pandemic prevented OFP from conducting on-site reviews. Since the pandemic restrictions are easing, the OFP may be conducting on-site reviews this year. This means schools should prepare for audits by gathering supporting documentation for federal requirements. You can review the list of documents that may be required for an audit [HERE](#). If you want to see the basis for determining the type of audit, please click [HERE](#) for the Risk Factors.

Most schools should have received carryover funds once their Final Expenditure Report (FER) was approved. These funds should be budgeted as soon as possible to establish the earliest possible substantially approved date. Schools should concentrate on expending their ARP ESSER III funds. Schools may also receive notice regarding the Maintenance of Effort requirement (MOE). As a reminder, schools must spend the same amount or 90% of their general fund expenditures as in the prior fiscal year to receive the school's full federal allocation. Schools failing to meet MOE may have their FY23 allocation reduced by the percentage that MOE was missed. For example, if a school misses MOE by 5%, then the school will have its federal funds reduced by 5%. Please be aware that there are two types of MOE. One for general education and one for special education. Schools must meet the exact expenditures of general funds in the previous year in special education. There are some factors that may permit a school to reduce their special education MOE. Please contact ODE Office for Exceptional Children with any question on special education MOE.

If you have any questions regarding federal funds, please contact nsherman@charterschoolspec.com.

ALLOhio Literacy Resources

ALLOhio (Advancing Literacy Learning in Ohio) is an open-access online resource, created through the University of Cincinnati's Systems Development and Improvement Center and in partnership with the Ohio Department of Education's Office of Exceptional Children, that houses

School Climate and Culture Workshops

The School Improvement Team at Charter School Specialists is offering School Climate and Culture Workshops that can be tailored to the individual needs of schools. Prior to the workshops, a needs assessment is completed to allow for the workshop to be customized to

various learning modules geared towards helping improve literacy learning for all students. The purpose of these modules is to expand on the science of reading and evidence-based skill building in literacy and language practices. For more information, or to access these modules, please visit <https://allohioliteracy.org>.

the school's needs. Coaching sessions are also available at the School Leader/Dean level of support. For more information, or to set up a time to meet in person or virtually, please contact Molly Chase at mchase@charterschoolspec.com.