



SPONSOR CONNECTION FEBRUARY 2023

Latest News for St. Aloysius Sponsored Schools

Reminder

- 2/3 | Register for [Career-Technical Education Quality Program Review Workshops](#)
- 2/3 | Register for [Support Schools Tool users open office hours](#)
- 2/3 | Bulk registration for state-funded [April SAT administration](#) closes
- 2/3 | Apply for the [Academic Institution Recycle Ohio Grant](#)
- 2/14-16 | Register for [Ohio Educational Technology Conference](#)
- 2/16 | Register for “[All Students Can Read](#)” learning series
- 2/17 | Complete [2023 Federal Quota Registration of Blind Students](#)
- 2/17 | Complete [2021-2022 diabetes survey](#)
- 2/21 | Request [accommodations and support for state-funded April SAT administration](#)
- 2/23 | Register for [Federal Programs Monthly Topic Session](#)
- 2/28 | First [state-funded ACT testing window](#) opens

Register for the February 6th Summer Food Service Program Summit

The Ohio Department of Education is hosting a [Summer Food Service Program Summit](#) Feb. 6. Attend to learn about program best practices, tips for completing the program application, compliance, meal planning and more.

"Teach Like A Pirate"

Gets Results at Akros MS and Edge Academy

The 2022-2023 school year has been a fun and exciting time for The Edge Academy and Akros Middle School located in Akron, Ohio. Each year superintendent, Faith DeCesare, takes on new goals for the schools and this year the focus was on PBIS and a book study of “Teach Like a Pirate”. The schools decided to link their PBIS practices to the book by using a pirate theme. Superintendent DeCesare said the students are working on earning “loot tickets” by showing leadership skills and positive behaviors. The tickets are then turned into a treasure chest and names are pulled weekly to earn prizes for positive behavior. The students work very hard to earn the tickets and at the end of each quarter all of the loot tickets are placed in a giant basket and names are picked to earn larger prizes. The Edge Academy Principal, Josh Rogers, works hard to track the tickets and get the students excited to earn the tickets each day. The school has seen an increase in positive behavior and a decrease in problematic behaviors throughout the school building.

In August the author of “Teach Like a Pirate” came to the school to give a keynote speech to all staff members to get the staff excited about combining the practices in the book with PBIS throughout both school buildings. The staff is eager to see how behavior continues to improve for the remainder of the school year and the upcoming school years.

Performance Academies Celebrates National School Choice Week 2023

National School Choice Week 2023 kicked off on January 22 with thousands of events and activities throughout the country to shine the spotlight on the importance of opportunity and choice in K-12 education. Harvard Avenue Performance Academy and the other 11 Performance Academies celebrated the week in a variety of ways. One of these was participating in the National School Choice Week Dance.

Each year there is an official National School Choice Week dance. All of the students from Performance Academies including Harvard Avenue participated. Andrew Campanella, the founder of National School Choice week, shared the video on his Facebook page. If you have a moment check out the Performance Academies Facebook video [HERE](#) and share in their joy and enthusiasm in celebrating their individual schools.

Dr. Myrrha Satow, founder and president of Performance Academies said, "Ohio's K-12 families benefit from many school choice options including public charter schools, traditional public schools, public magnet schools, private schools, online schools, and homeschooling. We are proud to be part of that fabric of school choice options not only across Ohio, but across the country, empowering parents to find the perfect fit and choose the best school for their child. Every year, thousands of schools engage nationally in fun events to celebrate and bring attention to school choice options in their states and communities.

We are excited that Gov. Mike DeWine declared this week National School Choice Week for Ohio, along with many other governors in other states. School choice and charter schools in particular are especially important for families who might otherwise be trapped by a zip code or other factors that would require them to potentially attend a chronically low performing neighborhood school. Moreover, school choice and charter schools empower parents to select a school that meets the unique educational, socio-emotional, and other needs of their child. We, in fact, sometimes see kids within the same family attend different schools based in the individual needs of each child in that family. We remain proud and energized to provide quality educational choices in the K-8 world to all of the students and families we serve across Ohio."

Legal Update

House Bill 554

In December, HB 554 (the “Christmas Stocking Bill”) was passed by both houses of the Ohio Legislature and signed into law on January 5, 2023, by the Governor. The bill, aimed at helping teacher shortage in Ohio, becomes effective April 6, 2023.

The bill allows individuals with expired educator licenses to receive a two year temporary license from the State Board of Education. Prior to teaching under this temporary educator license, the teacher must complete any training required by the school. The temporary license can be renewed into a 5-year professional educator license if the individual completes either 18 continuing education units (180 contact hours) or 6 semester hours of coursework in the area of licensure, or in an area related to the teaching field, during the period of the two-year temporary license.

Other major provisions of the bill include:

- Removes a “registered behavior technician” and a “certified Ohio behavior analyst” from the list of providers eligible to provide intervention services under the Autism Scholarship.
- Allows a transfer student who took a competency assessment at an out-of-state school to have that competency assessment score applied towards the student’s graduation requirements in Ohio.
- No longer requires community schools with multiple facilities under the same contract to be located in the same county. Facilities may now be located in the same county or in any county adjacent to the county in which the community school's primary facility resides.
- Changes the definition of “child with a disability” to include children ages three through nine who are experiencing a developmental delay. Current law defines developmentally delayed children as ages three through five.
- Requires that children attending preschool who are identified as having a developmental delay and turn six years old on or before June 30, 2023, be permitted to remain in preschool and continue to be identified as having a developmental delay through June 30, 2023.
- Requires any secondary school or college that participates in the College Credit Plus (CCP) program to permit children of military families enrolled in CCP who must withdraw due to their parents stationing orders the option to complete the coursework remotely or withdraw without academic or financial penalty.

If you have any questions, please contact Jason Kee at jkee@charterschoolspec.com.

Compliance Year Wrap Up

It is only February, but we are quickly approaching the end of the compliance year! Over the next four months (Feb-May) we will be finalizing the current compliance collection process, visiting all schools for student file reviews, posting the Spring Compliance Survey, and **finalizing all the remaining compliance requirements prior to May 31**. This is a change from previous years. In the past, the compliance year ended June 30, but has been moved up to accommodate end-of the year reporting and to turn our attention to the next compliance year over the summer.

Relatedly, please note that we will be active over the summer reviewing and collecting documents for Opening Assurances for the 2023-2024 school year before school begins in the Fall. This is to ensure full compliance with BCI/FBI checks, licenses, inspections testing plans, insurance, etc. As always, we will work to accommodate vacations/breaks as we complete this requirement.

Please contact Brian Dunbar by email at bdunbar@charterschoolspec.com if you have any questions or concerns.

Reading Improvement Plan

As with many things in the world of education in Ohio, there has been some confusion about a school’s obligation to complete a Reading Improvement Plan (RIP) this year (ORC 3301.0715(G)). If you work closely with the school’s compliance, you will know this as item no. 121 on the compliance roster. The requirement is, if a school did not have at least 80% of students score proficient on the 3rd Grade ELA assessment last year (reflected on the most recent LRC), the school must complete and have a board approved Reading Improvement Plan.

There have been instances where the Reading Improvement Plan (RIP) has been confused with a Reading Improvement and Monitoring Plan (RIMP) which is for individual students, and the Reading Achievement Plan (RAP) (ORC 3302.13) which calls for a plan to be created and submitted to ODE after 2 years of poor performance on the reading components of LRC. Schools are exempt from the RAP requirement this year.

We would like to thank all the schools and boards that have already approved their RIP or have the plan on the board agenda to approve in the near future.

Federal Programs for February

Several schools are finding it difficult to spend the ARP Homeless funds. If you received these funds, then your school has submitted student data indicating that there are homeless students enrolled at the school. Your EMIS coordinator can run a query to identify the specific students. Keep in mind that these funds can be used for not only the homeless children but also their caregivers. The school may also purchase a washer and dryer to support homeless children by washing their clothes.

If you are struggling with how to expend these funds, you are also allowed to donate items to local shelters and food banks. On the budget details page, the school would need to indicate that they are going to spend these funds by donating items to the local shelter. The shelters and food banks working with the homeless in Columbus, Cleveland, Akron, Toledo and Cincinnati can be found [HERE](#).

REMINDERS

Ohio Association of Administrators of State and Federal Programs Conference

The Spring Ohio Association of Administrators of State and Federal Programs (OAASFEP) is being held March 20-22 at the Hyatt Regency in Columbus. The cost for the conference is \$475. Information about the conference and registration can be found at <https://oaasfep.org/upcoming-conferences>. This conference presents information regarding US Department of Education changes to Federal Fund regulations; changes to the State of Ohio ED STEPS program; innovations in instructional strategies and other information for both Title I teachers, Professional Development coaches, school administrators and school leadership teams. Please consider sending staff to this conference. You can use federal funds to pay for the cost of the conference!

Support Schools – Requirement to Complete the Support School Tool

All Cohort 1 schools and schools that are Priority, Focus and Warning schools must complete the Support Schools Tool by March 1st. Click [HERE](#) for a list of Cohort 1 schools. Other schools must complete sections of the Support Tool. Click [HERE](#) for the list of required schools. You can access the School Support Tool guidance [HERE](#).

Open Office Hours-Office of Federal Programs

The Office of Federal Programs will begin having Open Office Hours virtually starting February 3rd from 1-2 pm. These office hours will continue every Thursday until late May. This is a time to ask questions and keep updated on changing requirements for Federal Programs.

If you have any questions regarding federal or ARP Homeless funds, please contact Nannette Sherman at nsherman@charterschoolspec.com or 740-607-9174.

Complete 2023 Federal Quota Registration of Blind Students by February 17

On December 14th, the [Assistive Technology and Accessible Educational Materials \(AT&AEM\) Center](#) at OCALI, on behalf of the Department, emailed the annual Federal Quota Registration of Blind Students to all Ohio districts and community schools. This email requests that school personnel electronically register every legally blind student attending their districts, including all eligible preschool, homebound, home-school or adult students.

As a district or community school that serves students with visual impairments, providing students with accessible educational materials (audio, braille, digital and large-print textbooks and educational aids) is important. The Federal Quota generates supplemental funds for registered students that the AT&AEM Center uses to purchase accessible educational materials at the district's request from the American Printing House for the Blind.

Each registered student must meet eligibility guidelines. The student's school district of attendance must keep a signed parent permission form on file. Visit the [AT&AEM Center's website](#) to learn more about Federal Quota eligibility requirements.

Community schools and districts must complete the 2023 Federal Quota Registration of Blind Students online through the AT&AEM Center's [web portal](#). The district or community school superintendent must electronically sign it by Feb. 17. Students are not registered if the district or community school superintendent does not log in to the web portal to submit the electronic signature.

Direct questions regarding the registration eligibility or process to the Federal Quota support team at fgaemsupport@ataem.org.
