



SPONSOR CONNECTION MARCH 2023

Latest News for St. Aloysius Sponsored Schools

Reminder

- 3/9 | Register for [Federal Programs Monthly Topic Session](#)
- 3/12-18 | [National Child and Adult Care Food Program Week](#)
- 3/31 | [Alt-OELPA](#) administration window closes
- 4/1 | FY23-24 school start end times due to districts who are expected to transport the school's students
- 4/20 | Register for "[All Students Can Read](#)" learning series
- 4/27 | Register for [Federal Programs Monthly Topic Session](#)
- 5/1 | open meetings & public records training due to sponsor
- 5/1 | signed board member COI/disclosures due to sponsor
- 5/24 | May 5 year forecast due to sponsor
- 5/30 | FY23-24 school calendars & schedules due to sponsor

Coming this Spring! CSS Literacy Initiative

Charter School Specialists is happy to announce a new literacy initiative designed to keep your schools informed about upcoming events and provide targeted resources, technical assistance, and professional development to help improve literacy outcomes. The initiative will focus on the science of reading and align with [Ohio's Plan to Raise Literacy Achievement](#). We are kicking off the literacy initiative by asking school leaders about their current practices and where they would like CSS support. If the school leader has not completed the literacy survey, they can reach out to Molly Chase at Mchase@charterschoolspec.com for a link.

Transportation Reminders for 2023-2024 School Year

Community Schools are statutorily required to establish the school's start and end times no later than April 1 prior to the next school year and provide the information to the school district(s) that the school expects will be responsible for providing transportation services to eligible students enrolled in the school ORC 3327.016.

Community schools that provide their schools' start and end times by April 1 prior to the school year must receive a transportation plan from the district responsible for transportation no later than 60 days from the date of the notice. If a school provides notice after April 1 but before July 1, the district must provide a transportation plan no later than August 1.

New and existing schools whose governing authority chooses to offer transportation for all students from one or more districts are eligible for funding if they have notified the district(s) and ODE of their intent to transport in writing. The governing authority must submit the written notice to the district(s), ODE, and the sponsor by April 15 if they are a new school. Existing schools need to submit the notification by August 1.

2023-2024 School Calendar and Schedules

As schools start to plan their calendars and schedules for the upcoming school year we want to remind our schools that Sponsors are required to ensure that schools are educating students for a minimum of 920 hours and have to approve the SOES calendars in the ODDEX system. In order for us to calculate the hours correctly we require the school calendar and simplified daily schedule that accurately reflect student instruction time.

It is important that EMIS coordinators and the sponsor have the same approved calendar and schedule for verification of the SOES hours. If not, this leads to the sponsor rejecting the calendar in SOES and the EMIS coordinator will have to find the discrepancy and make the adjustments. Sometimes it is necessary to change the school calendar or daily schedule after the school year has begun. Please remember that **anytime there is a change to the calendar or daily schedule that the sponsor and EMIS coordinator are to be promptly notified with the changes.**

Calendars should clearly show first & last day, student non-attendance days, late start, and early dismissal days. If there are staggered start dates for grade levels, this needs to be clearly marked on the calendar.

The daily school schedule that our office requests is to reflect what is actually occurring at the school. The schedule needs to include breakfast end time, time students are tardy, time instruction begins, how much time is allotted for lunch and for recess, dismissal time. **Breakfast, lunch, and recess cannot be included in instructional hours.**

Calendars and daily schedules are due to our office by May 30. Please send them via email to Carla Isaac at cisaac@charterschoolspec.com

Sources of Strength: Upcoming Trainings and Informational Session

[Sources of Strength](#) is an evidence-based mental health promotion program that helps reduce the risk of suicide. This upstream prevention model uses a growth mindset to elevate individual strengths and build resiliency while empowering youth to break down the codes of silence. [Sources of Strength Ohio](#) provides Sources of Strength training, curricula and implementation materials at no cost to schools in Ohio.

Sources of Strength will host the upcoming training.

- [Register for Sources of Strength Secondary Training for Trainers \(T4T\), March 14-17 from 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m.](#)

For more information about Sources of Strength Ohio, contact [Julie Cameron](#).

Legal Update

Lottery Admissions

Ohio Revised Code Section 3314.06 requires that admission to the school shall be open to any students that are eligible for the grades and ages that the school serves. ORC 3314.06 further provides that if the number of applicants to a school exceeds the capacity, students shall be admitted by a lottery system.

Some of our schools are at, or very near capacity, and so we decided to spend some time to review lottery procedures so that our schools can be prepared for when they do exceed capacity and must conduct a lottery for admission. The Governing Authority of a school must have a policy in place prior to conducting a lottery. Admission by lottery can be a very stressful and upsetting time for parents, so it is a good idea

to have a policy in place well before the issue of the lottery even comes up. This will allow staff to answer questions ahead of time and resolve some of this stress to parents.

If your school does not yet have a policy in place, we would encourage the Governing Authority and their legal counsel to begin discussing and planning so that a policy on a lottery could be adopted. If you have questions about where to begin, please reach out to the Legal Department at Charter School Specialists and we can provide you with a questionnaire to facilitate in starting the discussion. There are exceptions and priorities that are given in the state statutes that if your school is interested in using must be in the policy. A well thought out policy can go a long way to making the process smooth for all of those involved.

Legislative Update

The staff at Charter School Specialists has been working with your state representatives in the 135th General Assembly to revise Ohio law and rules surrounding charter school operations. The proposed topics and discussed items range over a number of different categories including transportation, career tech education, dropout prevention and recovery, funding and other miscellaneous areas. Inclusion of many of these proposals will help our community schools in several ways and we would like to ask for your continued support as we work with our legislators to enhance our community schools.

Items that have been presented to legislators and are currently being considered are:

1. Creating a state collaborative grant available to charter schools.
2. Create direct funding for transportation.
3. Revise rules to allow the use of smaller vehicles for transportation.
4. Increase the funding for career-tech education.
5. Permit funding in a school's first year of operating and/or offering career tech education;
6. Permit the replacement of certain mathematics courses with career-based mathematics courses;
7. Establish a dropout prevention and recovery council.
8. Remove "clawbacks" and auto closure for dropout recovery prevention schools.
9. Increase in funding for facilities and for targeted assistance grants.
10. Modify the sponsor evaluation system to reduce the workloads on the schools and sponsors and create a more efficient process without unneeded redundancy;
11. Remove the requirement of a monthly residency review for charter schools.
12. Make pilot online drop out recovery funding permanent

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

Charter School Specialists Joins Digital Learning Collaborative

The Digital Learning Collaborative is a membership community that works to illuminate key issues in digital learning, disseminate research and guide best practices to improve educational opportunities and outcomes for all students. Many of our partners offer digital learning opportunities in their classrooms and we feel this will be a valuable resource to help serve our schools.

John Watson, Founder of the Digital Learning Collaborative, recently published a blog titled *Risks and Costs*. Within the post he describes the risks and benefits of educators taking action to create or expand innovative options for students. Click on the link to view the blog: <https://www.digitallearningcollab.com/blog/2023/1/4/risks-and-costs>.

Federal Programs Update

Spring Compliance Preparation

People often associate Spring with cleaning, a time to organize your house and prepare for warmer weather. For Federal Programs, spring is a time to complete all required activities, compliance documents, and audits. Schools should review the spring activities list to ensure all required activities are completed. The Spring Activities list can be found [HERE](#)

There are several reporting documents that are due in the next two months. The ESSER and ARP ESSER expenditure reports must be completed by March 31st. Cohort 3 schools are required to complete the One Needs Assessment and One Plan by April 30th. The One Needs Assessment is now open in ED STEPS. Remember that stakeholders are supposed to be included in the process of writing the One Plan, and parents/community members are stakeholders. For those schools who have been assigned a Self-Review Survey for compliance, these are due by May 30th.

The ESSER II grant ends on August 30th. Normally federal funds must be liquidated by December 30th; however, this has been extended until January 28, 2024. Keep in mind that ARP ESSER funds end in September 2024.

There is still time to register for the OAASFEP Spring Conference. The Conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency from March 20-22. Click on the link to register: <https://oaasfep.org/2023-spring-conference>.

If you have any questions or need assistance with Federal Programs, please contact Nannette Sherman at 740-607-9174 or nsherman@charterschoolspec.com.

The College and Career Corner

Training and Developing Students for the Workforce

Charter School Specialist understands the importance of educating and training students to contribute to a strong workforce.

Strong economies hinge on youth having the skills they need to secure meaningful, well-paid work. Ohio is taking this serious and so are many of our sponsored schools. We, in partnership with many Drop Out Recovery Schools, are helping young people succeed in jobs, entrepreneurship, work-based learning, apprenticeship opportunities and ongoing career learning.

Beyond developing critical partnerships with business and industry, schools first have to help students develop essential Life Skills. Often referred to as soft skills or professional skills, many students leave High School without these essential skills to succeed in an interview, let alone the workforce.

Almost all of our partner schools emphasize professional skills as a means to employment and future success. Career Based Intervention and the Ohio Means Jobs Readiness Seal are both excellent opportunities for students in middle and high school to develop such skills and gain essential work experience. The following critical professional skills are reinforced with the help of these programs: positive attitude, flexibility, reliability, work ethic, leadership, resume writing, interview skills, critical thinking, communication skills, discipline and so many more. For more information click on the links below.

<https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Career-Tech/Career-based-Intervention-CBI/CBI-Resources-and-Tools>

<https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Ohio-s-Graduation-Requirements/Ohio%E2%80%99s-Graduation-Requirements/Graduation-Seals/OhioMeansJobs-Readiness-Seal>

Direct your attention to the College and Career Corner every month for continued articles, credentials, program opportunities, and timelines relevant to our youth workforce development initiatives and readiness in our Ohio schools.

Contact Kerry Jupina kjupina@charterschoolspec.com for more information on college and career readiness.

Register Now: No-cost Threat Assessment Team Training This School Year Only

Educational service centers will offer free training to all schools and districts in the nationally recognized [Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines \(CSTAG\) model](#) for the remainder of this school year only. This training fulfills requirements under Ohio law.

OhioPLD.org Helps School Communities Find High-Quality Professional Learning Resources

The [Ohio Professional Learning Directory](#) provides Ohio educators and school staff with a searchable statewide directory of professional learning courses, recordings, documents and events provided by trusted education partners like the Department, educational service centers and public television stations.