



SPONSOR CONNECTION SEPTEMBER 2023

Latest News for St. Aloysius Sponsored Schools

Reminders

- 8/29 | Register for first session of [“All Students Can Read” instructional series](#)
- 8/29 | Submit comments for proposed [changes to Fiscal Year 2024 EMIS guidelines](#)
- 9/1 | e-school ed plan due to sponsors
- 9/30 | Obligate [American Rescue Plan funds to support students with disabilities](#)
- 10/6 | [Update superintendent and superintendent roles](#) in the Ohio Educational Directory System (OEDS)
- 10/25 | Sped Ed Annual Report on Service and Expenditures due to Sponsor
- 10/24 | Annual Budget due to sponsor

Schools Forward Corner

Charter School Specialists is pleased to announce that St. Aloysius was awarded the Schools Forward contract to help improve literacy in schools receiving the Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) status. This contract gives Charter School Specialists the opportunity to join with Dropout Prevention and Recovery (DOPR) schools and other (CSI) schools to strategically focus on workplace literacy and the science of reading. CSS will be offering professional development on assistance in revising One Plans to focus on literacy, workplace literacy, the science of reading, reading across the curriculum, and how to analyze data. Professional Development sessions will be recorded and available to all schools on the CSS website under School Improvement.

Another part of the contract allows CSS to provide the School Forward schools with individualized coaching on reading instruction and establishing networked learning communities among practitioners. The Ohio Department of Education aims to increase student achievement through improving language and literacy outcomes.

CSS will provide updates to the Schools Forward program as the grant implementation progresses. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Buddy Harris at bharris@charterschoolspec.com.

Assessment Reminders for the 2023-2024 School Year

The Department has several reminders related to assessment, including account updates to reflect personnel changes, district test security notification requirements and required password changes. Also, districts should consider having new personnel complete the Test Administrator Certification Course.

Ohio law requires all schools and districts, by Oct. 1, to communicate in writing and discuss with all personnel who have access to secure test materials, as well as students taking tests, the applicable district test security policies. [Details of test security provisions and procedures are on the Department website.](#)

Graduation Requirements for the Class of 2024

As a reminder, Ohio's graduation requirements changed last year starting with the Class of 2023. High school seniors need to earn their required credits, demonstrate competency and demonstrate readiness by earning two diploma seals. Visit the [Graduation Requirements page for updated information](#) about the requirements.

Send questions to gradrequirements@education.ohio.gov.

Calamity Day Changes- Adopt or Amend Plan by November 1, 2023

The budget bill made [changes to Ohio's calamity day statute](#), including the use of blizzard bags starting this school year. Blizzard Bags are now referred to as Online Day Plans. A online day plan may be used to make up hours in a school year for circumstances necessary to close schools. The circumstances specified in law are:

- Disease epidemic;
- Hazardous weather conditions;
- Law enforcement emergencies;
- Inoperability of school buses or other equipment necessary to the school's operation;
- Damage to a school building; or
- Other temporary circumstances due to utility failure rendering the school building unfit for use.

The Department encourages school districts, community schools, chartered nonpublic schools and STEM schools to adopt or amend their calamity day plans by Nov. 1, 2023.

Blended learning schools and online learning schools are not eligible under the statute to use an online day plan.

Free and Reduced Price School Meals Updates to Direct Certification with Medicaid

Starting in the 2023-2024 school year, the State of Ohio biennial budget includes funding to cover the cost of providing no-cost breakfast and no-cost lunch to students qualifying for reduced-price meals. Visit [the National School Breakfast or Lunch Program webpage](#) for more information.

Also, the Ohio Department of Education is approved for a National School Lunch Program Direct Certification pilot providing [direct certification lists identifying students approved for free or reduced-price meals through Medicaid](#) in addition to those certified through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Ohio Works First (OWF).

Update OEDS Information and Identify Points of Contact

The start of the school year is the perfect time to update contact information and points of contact in the [Ohio Educational Directory System \(OEDS\)](#).

LEGAL UPDATE

Transportation Updates

HB 33 made some significant changes to School Transportation for community schools. One provision included in the bill expands the use of vehicles other than school buses (vehicles originally designed for not more than nine passengers) to transport its students to and from

school if one of the conditions applies:

- The local district responsible for transporting deemed a student eligible but impractical to transport.
- The local district responsible for transporting determined a student does not meet the “30 minute rule” (transportation requires more than thirty minutes of direct travel time as measured by school bus from the district school building a student would’ve attended to the community school the student is attending).
- The school’s governing authority has an agreement or has notified the district that it will assume transportation of its students.

To view the changes please click on the links: [HB 33 Changes to R.C. 4511.76](#) (effective 10/3/23), [R.C. 3327](#) (effective 12/29/23).

If you have questions or would like more information on the options available to community schools to transport students please contact Jason Kee at jkee@charterschoolspec.com or Carla Isaac at cisaac@charterschoolspec.com.

Multiple Facility Requests

For a community school to be located in multiple locations under the same sponsorship contract, it must meet the requirements outlined in ORC 3314.05 (<https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-3314.05>). If the school is eligible under ORC 3314.05 to have multiple facilities, the school must complete and submit a *Request to Relocate or Add Facility* form to the Sponsor for approval (click here to access the form: [Request to Relocate or Add Facility Form.docx](#)). If the request is approved, the Sponsor will provide the school with the next steps to begin the contract modification process. A school should NOT begin this process without Sponsor approval first. If you have any questions about this process, please contact Angie Mann at amann@charterschoolspec.com



Back to school is an exciting time of the year! Parents are happy to be sending their children to school after the summer months. Teachers are excited to be back at work and school leaders are thrilled to have everyone back in the buildings. As you welcome everyone back, be sure and invite them to the Annual Title I Parent Meeting. This meeting is a requirement of accepting federal funds and must occur at least once a year. Schools can use part of the Title I funds to hire babysitting services for the annual meeting. This allows parents of both school age and younger children to fully participate in the meeting without having to keep track of their little ones. Keep in mind that schools can offer refreshments and food for this event as long as it takes place during the hours that dinner is normally served. Schools can offer light dinners, such as pizzas, spaghetti dinners, sandwiches, and hot dogs, to name a few meal ideas.

Make sure to reserve your spot at the Ohio Association of Administrators of State and Federal Education Programs (OAASFEP) in October. This year the event will run from October 23-24 and will be held at the Columbus Hilton at Easton. You can find more information at [OAASFEP](#). Remember that you can use your federal funds to pay for this event. The Ohio Department of Education always hosts a “live help” session where you can work on your federal grants and One Plans and get immediate support from federal program consultants. They also host a new director’s program to assist all those who are just embarking on the journey into federal programs. There is also a designated time within the program to meet with your federal program’s consultant. This would also be a great opportunity to learn about the transition from the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) to the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW).

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

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

Career Pathway Options

CSS sponsored schools have embraced the idea of students finding their pathway after graduation and have incorporated at least one of the options into their curriculum.

The Governor’s office of workforce transformation has created a video explaining the career pathway options for all Ohio students. Ohio Lt. Governor Jon Husted, Director of the Governor’s Office of Workforce Transformation, recently announced the launch of a new resource that provides information to students, parents, and teachers about the different career pathways available to high school students. The “[Find Your Career Pathway](#)” video aims to guide students in their educational journey to landing a successful career right here in Ohio.

“As I’ve traveled the state, I’ve heard from students, parents, and teachers that they wish a resource like what we are announcing today existed that lays out the options available for kids so they can learn a skill and earn college credits without racking up student loan debt,” said Lt. Governor Husted. “Ohio’s on the rise. We are landing some of the largest economic development deals in history, and we need to have a prepared workforce. This resource presents options available for Ohio’s students so they can make the best decision for their future.” The “Find Your Career Pathway” resource encourages Ohio students, parents, and schools to start conversations earlier about the best pathway to a successful career in Ohio.

The video features five students from around the state sharing their experiences with each pathway. The highlighted pathways include:

1. Career Technical Education - provides students of all ages with the academic and technical skills, knowledge, and training necessary to succeed in future careers and to become lifelong learners.
2. Pre-Apprenticeships - teaches entry level technical and job-readiness skills for an apprentice occupation to prepare students for a formal Registered Apprenticeship training program upon graduation.
3. College Credit Plus - helps students earn college and high school credits simultaneously by taking college courses from local colleges or universities while in high school.
4. Industry-Recognized Credentials - demonstrates the knowledge and skills students gain through hands-on learning in a specific job or industry.

In addition to the video, a toolkit was developed to share additional information on the various pathways and other resources available that can help students and families learn more about each pathway. Help us get the word out by sharing this with your local school, students, businesses, and more!

To learn more about the “Find Your Career Pathway” resource and to help spread the word, visit Workforce.Ohio.gov/CareerPathways. If your school is interested in providing any of the following options and needs more information or technical support please contact Kerry Jupina at kjupina@charterschoolspec.com