



SPONSOR CONNECTION OCTOBER 2023

Latest News for St. Aloysius Sponsored Schools

Reminders

- 10/3 | Districts must [create an individualized seizure action plan](#) for each student enrolled with an active seizure disorder diagnosis
- 10/6 | [Update superintendent and superintendent roles](#) in the Ohio Educational Directory System (OEDS)
- 10/11 | Attend [Zearn Math informational webinar](#)
- 10/11 | Register for [Principal Chat Series](#)
- 10/12 | Register to attend the [Aim Hire conference](#)
- 10/17 | Attend [Zearn Math informational webinar](#)
- 10/25 | Sped Ed Annual Report on Service and Expenditures due to Sponsor
- 10/24 | Annual Budget due to sponsor
- 11/1 | Districts must [adopt or amend their calamity day plans](#)
- 11/8 | Register for [Principal Chat Series](#)

After-School Preparedness Training: An All-Hazards Approach

A school's Emergency Management Plan/Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) details the comprehensive approach to dealing with the various hazards and threats that could occur during the school day. But, does it account for situations that take place outside of normal school hours? This training is designed to help participants identify the challenges associated with after-school events and programs, and to help prepare them for the risks, vulnerabilities and threats they entail.

This course will train participants to:

- Identify risks, threats, and vulnerabilities related to after-school events.
- Determine appropriate assessment methodologies and procedures to help staff prepare for after-school incidents.
- Discuss types and categories of unplanned emergencies that may occur during after-school events.
- Participate in scenario-based activities to demonstrate planning and mitigation strategies discussed.
- Utilize a checklist of after-school preparedness considerations to ensure the school's EOP addresses after-school events.

This is a FREE three-hour Zoom training with a live instructor. A certificate of completion will be issued to each participant who successfully completes the course.

Who should attend: School Administrators, Event Planners/Coordinators, School Resource Officers/Law Enforcement, Athletic Directors, Fire/EMS, and Emergency Management personnel. Register [HERE](#).



Patriot Prep Hosts Successful Literacy Event

In an effort to increase engagement with families and to help foster a love for reading, Patriot Preparatory Academy hosted a Family Literacy Night on September 19, 2023, for over 450 attendees. The event was a resounding success as families from all over the community united under

the banner of literacy and the shared joy of reading. Over 180 enthusiastic students from kindergarten to fifth grade, accompanied by their parents and guardians, engaged in a myriad of activities designed to nurture their love for books and reading.

Some of the highlights of the ten activity stations included literacy-based crafts and activities, a guest reader room that surprised students every fifteen minutes with a member of the staff sharing a favorite book, a room where families could gather and read a story illuminated by only a flashlight, and a Story Trail outside that visitors could walk through and read an inspirational book focused on inclusion and the celebration of diversity.

Students and families received a wealth of information and resources on how to foster literacy at home. The Columbus Public Library was also there and shared information on the multitude of services they provide. Families were able to register for a library card right at the event! Most excitingly, Patriot Preparatory Academy distributed hundreds of grade-level appropriate books for the students to take home, ensuring every student had several new books in their hands. In addition to the wealth of knowledge and resources shared, attendees were also treated to a complimentary pancake dinner, allowing families to bond over a fun meal and great stories.

Family Literacy Night is not just about books. It is about the community coming together, sharing experiences, and nurturing a culture where the joy of reading is celebrated. The event is intended to support the crucial role that families play in nurturing their children's literacy skills, fostering a love for reading, and setting them up for academic success.

Reporting student results for Ohio's State Tests to families by June 30

Districts and schools should begin making arrangements to ensure Ohio's State Tests results are [communicated to parents by the statutory deadline of June 30, 2024](#)

LEGAL UPDATE

Renewal Applications

There are several schools this year that are in the last year of their sponsorship contract with St. Aloysius. For those that are in the last year of their sponsorship contract, an email has been sent to you with the timeline. Per the timeline, schools will receive applications by October 5, 2023. The application, renewal rubric and data should be discussed at your October or November Board meeting. Please approve and sign the application no later than November 15, 2023. This year the Renewal Application evaluates the Contract Performance Measures outlined in Chapter 11 of the sponsorship contract. If you have questions regarding the renewal application, please contact Tammie Osler at tosler@charterschoolspec.com.

There are also schools that will be in the last year of their sponsorship contract in 2024 – 2025. For these schools, the renewal application process will occur in 2024 – 2025. The Annual Report of the Academic, Financial, and Organizational/Operational Performance that you will receive this month, is an analysis of your school's performance over the course of the sponsorship contract and is a strong indicator of your school's renewal outcome. Please discuss this Annual Report at your October/November board meeting. If the school's performance is low, you should consider discussing what changes

your school may want to make to improve performance. If your school's performance meets the criteria for being renewed, please review the areas that had a lower score and see if there is a potential for improvement in that area.

Management Company Evaluations Due October 30th

Governing Authorities are reminded to submit their Management Company Evaluations no later than October 30, 2023. Per Section 3.2 of the sponsorship contract, all governing authorities must evaluate the performance of its management company on an annual basis and submit a report of the evaluation to the Sponsor no later than October 30th of each year. This evaluation should be developed by the governing authority and be specific to the school. If assistance is needed with this, please contact your board counsel. The evaluations for the 2022-2023 school year are due to the Sponsor by Monday, October 30, 2023. Please email the evaluations to Angie Mann at: amann@charterschoolspec.com.



Autumn is a time to prepare for cooler weather and more time spent indoors. In Federal Programs, it is time to make sure the school has everything planned and on the calendar. Schools should have had at least one family/community engagement activity. Final Expenditure Reports have been submitted, and plans are in place for carryover funds. Schools should also have a plan for the remaining ARP ESSER funds, as these funds will expire in 2024. As your school finalizes planning expenditures, it is a good time to remember the intent and purpose of each of the Federal Grants. If you have any questions regarding federal programs, contact Nannette Sherman at nsherman@charterschoolspec.com.

Grant - Intent and Purpose

- Title I To provide all children significant opportunity to receive a fair, equitable, and high-quality education, and to close educational achievement gaps.
- Title II - To provide supplemental funding to help support effective instruction.
- Title III - To provide supplemental services to English learners to help ensure these students attain English language proficiency and succeed in the academic content areas.
- Title IV - To improve students' academic achievement by increasing the capacity of states, local education agencies (LEAs), schools, and local communities to (1) provide all students with access to a well-rounded education, (2) improve school conditions for student learning, and (3) improve the use of technology in order to improve the academic achievement and digital literacy of all students.
- IDEA Part B - To provide equality of [educational] opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency for students with disabilities.
- Early Childhood Special Education - To ensure that all children ages 3-5 with disabilities have a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) that is designed to meet their unique needs and enable them to make progress in acquiring knowledge and skills, improving social relationships, and learning to take action to meet their needs. (Funds may be used for Kindergarten classes.)
- ARP ESSER - To provide emergency relief funds to address the impact of COVID-19 on elementary and secondary schools. (20% must be spent on addressing the learning gap caused by COVID.)

TRANSPORTATION REMINDERS AND CHANGES

HB 33 made some changes to the transportation laws. Due to this we would like to remind schools who are transporting all students and receiving funding or transporting a portion of students to update their transportation policies if they will be affected by these changes. We advise schools to consult with their board attorney. Schools who have an agreement with the district(s) to transport all students must have a "payment in lieu of" policy and follow all guidelines on declaring a student impractical to transport. All policies must have a minimum required distance to be eligible for transportation. Currently all students who live less than a mile from school are eligible for funding if the school is being funded for transportation. If schools will be using vans or other nine passenger vehicles to transport students after October 3rd, they will need to have a policy or revise the current policy. Schools contracting with vendors are still responsible for all requirements for student transportation and should make sure that the vendors are compliant.

Please remember to choose your transportation coordinators and transportation supervisor carefully and ensure their information is listed in OEDS. These individuals are responsible for ensuring that all students are transported legally and that policies, documents required for day to day transportation, field trips etc., driver background checks, physicals, training are completed and on file and listed in the transportation system. Also, they are responsible for filing the T1 and T2 report and making sure that all October count week information is documented for audits that will be conducted by the Auditor of State and ODE Transportation Department if the school receives funding. Staff members listed in OEDs with transportation roles are required to have pre-service training.

Authorized Vehicles to Include Nine Passenger Vehicles

Authorized Vehicles for Transportation to Include Vehicles designed for nine or fewer passengers to transport students to a community school or chartered nonpublic school.

Requires school districts, community schools and chartered nonpublic schools that use authorized school vehicles for transporting students to ensure that:

1. the vehicle is inspected by a qualified mechanic at least twice a year,
2. the driver does not stop on the roadway to load or unload passengers,
3. the driver satisfies the requirements for bus drivers, other than having a commercial driver's license, and
4. the driver and all passengers comply with seat belt and child restraint system laws.

Allows community and chartered nonpublic schools to use vehicles designed for nine or fewer passengers to transport a student when:

1. the student's resident district has declared the student's transportation impractical,
2. the student lives more than 30 minutes from the school, or
3. the school has offered to transport the student in lieu of the district providing transportation.

Payment in Lieu of Transportation

- Determine whether a student is eligible for transportation Declarations of Impracticality
- Districts should submit impracticality determinations to PILOtransportation@education.ohio.gov
- The factors that must be considered in the impracticality determination can be found in [ORC 3327.02](#)

Transportation Non-Compliance

Requires Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) to resolve disputes over transportation noncompliance arising after December 1, 2023, within 30 days of receiving notice of the dispute or within 45 days if DEW notifies affected parties that its determination will be delayed.

Defines noncompliance as five consecutive days or 10 days in a school year if:

1. a school bus arrives more than 30 minutes late to school,
2. students are picked up more than 30 minutes after school ends,
3. a bus fails to arrive, or
4. the district fails to meet other transportation requirements.

Specifies that noncompliance caused by bad weather does not count. Requires DEW to notify a district that it is out of compliance and requires the district to develop a corrective action plan within 1 week.

Bus Driver Career Flex Path

Requires DEW to develop the bus driver flex career path model to create a pathway for bus drivers to work a morning or afternoon bus route and to work as an educational aide or student monitor for the rest of an 8 10 hour shift.

DEW is to make recommendations on how to implement the model, including who would be responsible for paying wages most efficiently and ensure the model does not adversely impact drivers' pensions.

If you have any questions, please contact your board attorney or carla isaac at cisaac@charterschoolspec.com

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

Auditor of State to Begin Auditing College Credit Plus for Compliance

Effective with audits for the 2022-23 school year, and beyond the Auditor Of State (AOS) is requiring auditors to test schools for compliance with the CCP requirements in Ohio Revised Code (ORC) [3365.04](#).

CCP allows Ohio middle and high school students to enroll at a college, on a full or part-time basis, and complete nonsectarian, nonremedial courses while earning credit for both high school and college. CCP classes at Ohio public universities and colleges, and related books and fees, are free for students who attend public schools. Both public and nonpublic schools can participate in CCP.

According to [AOS Bulletin 2023-001](#), AOS has published the compliance requirements and testing procedures related to ORC 3365.04 in Chapter 4 of the 2023 Ohio Compliance Supplement, which should be available in May. In order to be eligible for an AOS award, a school must be compliant with the requirements.

The bulletin includes a list of items ORC 3365.04 requires of public schools for compliance. Among the items AOS auditors will be testing for are whether schools are:

- Providing information about CCP to all students enrolled in grades 6 through 11 prior to **Feb. 1** of each year.
- Providing counseling services to students in grades 6 through 11, and their parents, before they are fully aware of possible benefits and consequences of participation, including consequences of failing or not completing CCP courses, effect of CCP grades being included in a student's grade point average, and benefits of successfully completing CCP courses. Counseling should also include information on:
 - CCP eligibility.
 - Process for granting academic credits.
 - Necessary financial arrangements for tuition, textbooks, and fees.
 - Criteria for transportation aid.
 - Available support services.
 - Scheduling.
 - Academic and social responsibilities of students and parents.
 - Information about and encouragement to use counseling services of the college or university.
 - Information about the potential for mature subject matter in courses in which the student intends to enroll in the CCP program, including notification that classes will not be modified based on CCP enrollee participation. [ORC 3365.035\(A\)3365.035\(A\)](#) defines "mature subject matter" as "any course subject matter or material of a graphic, explicit, violent, or sexual nature."
 - The permission slip developed by the Ohio Departments of Education and Higher Education regarding the potential for mature subject matter in CCP courses.
 - Providing the standard packet of information developed by the Chancellor of Higher Education pursuant to RC 3365.15.
 - Promoting the CCP program on the school's website, including details about the school's current agreements with partnering colleges or universities.
 - Scheduling at least one informational session each school year to allow participating colleges within thirty miles of the school to meet with interested students and parents.
 - Implementing a policy for awarding grades and calculation of class standing for CCP courses.
 - Developing model course pathways and publishing course pathways among the schools official list of course offerings for the program ([ORC 3365.13](#)).
 - Collecting, reporting and tracking, on an annual basis, data related to CCP ([ORC 3365.15](#)).

AOS Bulletin 2023-001 includes sample audit procedures and encourages schools to use the sample procedures as an opportunity to self-assess compliance with CCP requirements. If issues are identified, the AOS bulletin recommends that schools "take steps to remedy

and self-correct noncompliance issues prior to the beginning of their 2022-2023 school year audit.” The bulletin states that schools that self-correct CCP noncompliance with RC 3365.04(E) prior to the start of the 2022-23 school year audits will remain eligible for an AOS award if award criteria are otherwise met.

Keep in mind that this has always been part of the CSS compliance check every year. If you have further questions, please contact Kerry Jupina at Kjupina@charterschoolspec.com