



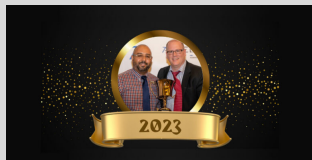
SPONSOR CONNECTION

FEBRUARY 2024

Latest News for St. Aloysius Sponsored Schools

Reminders

- 2/2: Deadline for [Ohio Educational Directory System Updates for Roster Verification](#)
- 2/2: Register to attend [virtual open office hours on IDEA compliance](#) FAQs, monitoring tools and resources
- 2/6: McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Subgrant Bidder's Conference
- 2/6: Register to attend [free human capital training sessions](#) - Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio
- 2/14: Register for [Principal Chat \(Assessment\)](#)
- 2/15: Register to attend statewide [Ohio Materials Matter High Quality Instructional Materials webinar](#) (Engaging Stakeholders with HQIM)
- 2/21: Register to attend [free human capital training sessions](#) - Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio (Virtual)
- 3/1: Submit [College Credit Plus Teacher Credentialing Grant applications](#)
- 3/6: Register to attend [free human capital training sessions](#) - Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio (Hamilton County Educational Service Center)
- 3/13: Register for [Principal Chat \(Handling Toxic Situations\)](#)



Cornerstone Academy Awarded \$30 Million Bond

Newsire

Cornerstone Academy was awarded a \$30 million bond that will allow the school to purchase two buildings and over 14 acres of land for school expansion. The school is one of Ohio's top-performing charter schools with a 4.5 overall star rating by the Department of Education and Workforce.

The school currently serves over 1,000 students in grades K-12 and has two campuses in Westerville and New Albany. Bond funds will go to the purchase of Cornerstone High School's existing building located at West Campus Road in New Albany, alongside the purchase and build-out of an additional building at the same location which will roughly double the current footprint to 100,000 square feet of learning and operational space. The school will also add substantial adjoining acreage for future improvements including a gymnasium.

To read the full article on Newsire click the link below [Cornerstone Academy Charter School Awarded \\$30 Million Bond | Newsire](#)

Cornerstone was also named Accel's School of the Year for 2023. The school was recognized for outstanding leadership, student attendance, and academic performance. The school received the following 2023 ACCELY awards:

- School of the Year
- Outstanding Student Attendance
- Highest Score, English Language Arts
- Highest Score, Math
- Highest Overall Score



Northwest Ohio Classical Academy Expansion

Northwest Ohio Classical Academy celebrated Founders Day with a special Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to commemorate the newly completed Upper School expansion.

The expansion added 15,000sf of additional space. with six classrooms, two science labs, restroom, and a dining area. They also added a courtyard.

Northwest Ohio Classical Academy has steadily grown over the last 5 years since it's inception, now serving over 560 students with anticipated continued growth in enrollment for the 2024-25 school year. The expanded education spaces will quickly be put to use to serve the growing student body and to further train the minds and improve the hearts of the students.



Northwest Ohio Classical Student Accepted To The OMEA Honors Chorus

Congratulations to Declan Tracey for being accepted into the Ohio Music Education Association's District 1 Honors Chorus. Top ranking student musicians throughout Northwest Ohio auditioned to be accepted into the choir, which performed January 14th at the Stranahan Theater.



Erin's Law and ORC 2151.421 for Educators

The Ohio School Safety Center has released a course regarding Erin's Law on its virtual platform The Knowledge District. This course is virtual and can be taken at any time.

This course meets the educator in-service requirements of the Child Sexual Abuse, Dating Violence, and Sexual Violence Prevention requirements for schools as outlined in Erin's Law and ORC 2151.421.

Links to the training are below:

- [Prescribed Curriculum ORC 3313.60 Reporting Requirements ORC 2151.421](#)
- [In-Service Training Requirement ORC 3319.073](#)

Transportation Update



The Department of Education and Workforce wants to make schools aware of the following transportation-related updates.

New Van Driver Training Materials and Website Updates

Recently, Ohio House Bill 33 of the 135th General Assembly changed some aspects of the requirements for vehicles originally designed for not more than nine passengers (previously referred to as vans) and their drivers, effective October 3, 2023. With these changes, the Department, in collaboration with the Ohio Pre-Service team, has released a new [student transportation manual](#) covering all materials required by law for transporting students in vehicles other than school buses. The manual and all related documents are available on the [van driver training page](#) on our [website](#). Please be sure to share this information with your OBI trainers. The review questions and answer sheet can be found at the end of the manual. **It is important to use the updated materials, as the previous version of the review questions and answer sheet will not align for grading purposes, thus delaying the certification.**

As a reminder, vehicles must be authorized to transport students. The vehicle must be originally designed and constructed at the factory for nine or fewer passengers, not including the driver; it must have a rooftop sign marked "school transportation". The name of the school district, or the name of the contractor, if applicable, must be clearly marked on the side of the vehicle. The vehicle must be inspected by a qualified mechanic twice a year.

Transportation Enforcement Webinar

Ohio House Bill 33 of the 135th General Assembly created new compliance requirements under [Ohio Revised Code 3327.021](#) for pupil transportation services, effective October 3, 2023. The Department will be hosting a webinar to review the changes on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

Please mark your calendars and join us via Teams. [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Legal Department

Board Members – We Want to Hear From You!

We recognize the important role charter school boards play. Beyond fulfilling a legal responsibility, boards serve as guardians of the public trust. Boards serve to hold stakeholders accountable, providing financial oversight and policies that guide almost every aspect of school operations.

Our board members are driven by a sincere desire to contribute to their communities. They believe in and support parent choice in public education in Ohio.

We want to hear from you!

- How can we better help you do the important work you do as a community school board member?
- Knowing that each board member brings an important perspective in providing oversight to the schools they serve, what issues or concerns do you have that we can help address in your role as a board member?

CSS Governing Authority Relationship Coordinator Frank Stoy has begun reaching out to board presidents to have a conversation on how to best support our board members and address the areas mentioned above.

Board Presidents and board members are encouraged to contact Frank as well. He can be reached at cell (419) 386-6511 or email fstoy@charterschoolspec.com. We look forward to speaking with you. And most importantly, thank you for the important work you do!

Legal Seminars

Charter School Specialists is committed to providing technical assistance for our schools and also for all of the professionals that support our schools. We will continue to offer Continuing Legal Education seminars for CLE credits. The CLE seminars each explore a different subject area that is specific to Ohio community schools and can provide legal guidance regarding mandatory policies and procedures. We invite all who are interested to attend the seminars. There is no cost to participants. The schedule and topics for 2024 is outlined below.

[Click here](#) to register for any of the seminars below.

Friday February 23, 2024, 11:30 am - 1:30 pm – School Funding

Friday May 24, 2024, 11:30 am - 1:30 pm – Ohio Revised Code 3314.03 Part 1

Friday August 16, 2024, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm – Ohio Revised Code 3314.03 Part 2

Friday November 22, 2024, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm – Ethics for Education Law Attorneys



It is truly amazing how fast this year is going! These next few months will be some of the busiest of the entire school year. There are several reports that must be completed in Federal Programs. Here are some upcoming due dates:

- Support Schools Tool-This is for all Cohort 2 schools with a label of CSI, ATSI and TSI. The Support Schools Tool is due on March 1st. The school's sponsor is required to review and input comments into the Tool. DEW will also input comments after the Sponsor's comments. The Support Schools Tool can be found on your OHID platform under the Monitoring Application. You can print out the questions prior to entering in the responses.
- ESSER & ARP ESSER Mandated Federal Reporting-All schools that received ESSER, ESSER II, ARP ESSER, GEER I, GEER II and all related state activity funds must complete the survey. Schools should have received a secure link from: donotreply@ohio-k12.help. This report is due April 5. If you want to review the presentation from DEW, click this link: <https://ccip.ode.state.oh.us/DocumentLibrary/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentKey=92277>. More resources for the Federal Reporting Tool and be found [HERE](#).
- Federal Program Self-Reviews-all schools receiving federal funds must complete the Self-Survey by June 30th. The self-survey is required for all schools even those who have also received Desk and Onsite Reviews from DEW. The Self-Survey can also be found in the Monitoring Application.

Reminder regarding inventory: Any items over the small purchase amount, or items that are easily pilfered, must be included in the school's inventory. Laptops and iPads are examples of items easily pilfered. Federal regulations require that the schools complete a physical inventory every two years. Schools must also include the FAIN (Federal Acquisition Identification Number) as a column in the inventory. The FAIN number can be found in each federal award history log. A sample of an inventory list can be found [HERE](#).

Register for the Spring Ohio Association of Administrators of Schools and Federal Education Programs (OAASFEP). This conference has a wide range of presenters including many from the DEW Office of Federal Programs. There will be a new directors' academy offered for those with less than 3 years of experience in federal programs. This year's Spring Conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency from March 20-22. You can register at <https://oaasfep.org>.

If you have any questions regarding federal programs, please contact Nannette Sherman at nsherman@charterschoolspec.com.

College and Career Readiness Corner

Career Technical Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

What is the difference between career-technical education (CTE) and workforce development (WFD)?

- CTE is the umbrella term for all courses, programs and initiatives that are part of career-tech, including [OhioMeansJobs K12](#), Family and Consumer Sciences ([FCS](#)), Career-Based Intervention (CBI) and High Schools That Work ([HSTW](#)). WFD, which is the largest subset under CTE, are pathways and programs designed to prepare students for careers in pathways and programs within one of fifteen different career fields.

What is the difference between a CTE workforce development program and a CTE workforce development course?

- A WFD program consists of multiple courses, is at least 450 hours in length, and includes exploration and work experience to prepare students for further study and a career in their chosen career field. A WFD course addresses some of the content standards of a WFD program and in general contains content provided in a shorter time period (e.g., 60-280 hours).

What is the first recommended step to start a new program?

- Alignment with business/industry need now and for the future is the first and most important determining factor when starting a new WFD program. Nationally and in Ohio, WFD is provided within sixteen career fields, including the areas of art/communication, agriculture, business, construction, finance, education, engineering, health, hospitality, cosmetology, information technology, public safety, manufacturing, transportation, and marketing. Four parts of alignment with workforce development needs are outlined in a [CTE/Tech Prep expectations document](#).

If you have any CTE questions, please contact Kerry Jupina at kjupina@charterschoolspec.com

Grow Your Own Teacher Scholarship Program

The Grow Your Own Teacher Scholarship Program is designed to help school districts across Ohio recruit their own students and staff to become teachers within the district. Recipients of the Grow Your Own Scholarship agree to teach for a minimum of four years at their home school district in exchange for a scholarship of up to \$7,500/year for four years. For information on qualifying schools and the application process, please visit this website: [Grow Your Own Teacher Scholarship Program | The Ohio Department of Higher Education](#)

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Subgrant Bidder's Conference Feb. 6

Applications open March 4 and the deadline to submit is March 29. The Department will host [Bidder's Conferences for interested applicants Feb. 6](#).

Literacy Assessment Guidance Document Available for Students with Disabilities

Per Ohio's laws about dyslexia supports and the Third Grade Reading Guarantee, students with complex communication needs and low-incidence disabilities require accommodations and supports to obtain accurate data related to students' reading abilities.

A [recently posted guidance document](#) provides resources and recommendations for accommodations districts may use when administering literacy screenings and benchmarks or reading diagnostics.

Learn more about IDEA compliance

The Department is hosting [virtual open office hours Feb. 7](#). Special education directors are invited to attend the session, which will highlight IDEA monitoring tools and resources and frequently asked compliance questions.