



SPONSOR CONNECTION

MARCH 2024

Latest News for St. Aloysius Sponsored Schools

Reminders

- 3/1: Cohort 2 schools (only those on the 2018 carry over list) to complete the Support Schools Tool and submit any Sponsor feedback
- 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)
- 4/1: Start & End times due to districts transporting students
- 4/30: Cohort 1 schools – One Needs Assessment and One Plan due
- 5/24: May Five Year Forecast due to sponsor

Compliance Department Reminder Spring Survey

Spring is here, and so is the Spring Survey!

The Spring Survey is a questionnaire pertaining to compliance items that are answered closer to the end of the year. Look for Spring Survey training/support details to be sent via email to administrators, superintendents, and operators by April 19th. The survey goes live on April 26th and schools will have until May 13th to complete.



Special Education Professional Development and Opportunities

Charter School Specialists will be offering several opportunities to receive support and guidance in Special Education!

On March 11, a Virtual Professional Development will be provided by Susan Scarponi from 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm. The agenda includes:

- **Multiple Tiers of Student Support** – Documenting Interventions/ student refusal and Classroom Observations
- **English Language Learners and Students With Disabilities** – Identification, the Lau Center and information on Interpreters
- **Independent Education Evaluations** – What to do if an IEE is requested, establishing District Criteria, and your role in the ETR process.

In addition, Susan will hold *Special Education Virtual Office Hours* on March 4, April 1, and May 6, from 12:00 pm -1:00 pm. She will host these informal sessions, designed for Directors of Special Education, to discuss the latest news from The Department of Education and Workforce & the Office for Exceptional Children. It provides an excellent opportunity to ask questions, learn from colleagues, and network!

please email Susan at sscarponi@charterschoolspec.com for the link to attend any of these sessions.

Unlock Your Future Graduation Requirements Website

Graduating high school is the goal and the starting line! This is your one-stop shop for learning all about Ohio's graduation requirements, and gaining skills that will help



Department of
Education &
Workforce

High Quality Tutoring Reminder

Due to [budget bill changes to the Third Grade Reading Guarantee](#), schools are required to provide K-4 students who have been provided reading improvement and monitoring plans (RIMPS) high-dosage tutoring that aligns to the science of reading. If the student is not reading at grade level, the high dosage tutoring must continue beyond grade 4. For more information, please visit DEW's [High-Quality Tutoring webpage](#).

The Office of Community Schools will be hosting an "At Risk of Closure" seminar on Tuesday, March 19th from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the Department. This meeting is for anyone who would like to learn more about the "At Risk of Closure" list authorized by Ohio Revised Code 3314.35. This may include Community School Sponsors, School Leaders, Testing Coordinators, Operators, or Governing Authority members.

Our featured speaker, Rachel Wakefield, will be reviewing the "At Risk of Closure" criteria, calculation models and considerations for each grade band, ending with a question-and-answer session.

This meeting will be offered in a hybrid format to allow for more participation. Attendees will need to register to receive additional meeting details. Please indicate in your registration whether you will be attending in person or virtually. In person seating is limited, once the seats are full, only a virtual option is available. Please feel free to forward this email to anyone who would benefit from this information.

[REGISTRATION LINK](#)

Should you have additional questions, please feel free to contact Lori Wood at lori.wood@education.ohio.gov.

Schools Forward - Cohort 1 Root Cause Analysis and Goal Writing Professional Development

On January 19 and February 15, 2024, the Schools Forward implementation team presented to Cohort 1 schools at Quest Conference Center on One Plan requirements in preparation for the completion of their schools' individual One Plans for the April 30th deadline. The presentation, led by Nannette Sherman, helped schools to determine the root causes (foundation) which in turn helped to complete the One Needs Assessment. The schools were then able to write goals and select evidence-based strategies. Schools also developed action steps to address federal requirements (Family/Community, Professional Development and Teacher Equity). Schools were also introduced to Keith McCarroll from Muskingum Valley ESC, who has joined the Schools Forward implementation team as an adolescent literacy coach. School representatives who were unable to attend will have access to a recording of the training on the CSS website at a later date in March. For more information on this



Charter School Specialists was pleased to host Colleen Grady, Lori Wood, Stacey Callahan, Deneice Cooper, Aly DeAngelo, Lindsay Popa, Amber Coffey, and Stacy Cherry from the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) on January 30, 2024. It was our pleasure to highlight much of the great work being done at the schools sponsored by St. Aloysius. We shared our all-staff meeting in the morning and presented many of the details of our work to the department in an afternoon discussion of our processes. Thanks go out to our distinguished leadership guests from DEW and their willingness to visit with us and engage in thoughtful discussions regarding exemplary sponsorship practices.

Transportation Reminder



Transportation Reminder for 2024-2025 School Year

Community Schools who rely on district transportation 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 school's start and end times by April 1, prior to the school year, will receive transportation plans/schedules 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), sponsor, and DEW of their intent in writing. The governing authority must submit the written notice to the district(s), DEW, and the sponsor by April 15, if they are a new school. Existing schools need to submit the notification by August 1.

Solar Eclipse and Transportation

On April 8, 2024, Ohioans will experience a total solar eclipse. It has been over 200 years since the last total eclipse! For most of us, it will be a once in a lifetime event. The last total eclipse in Ohio was in 1806, and Ohio residents will not witness this event again until 2099. According to National Eclipse, residents can begin to see the moon overtake the sun at 1:53 p.m. The eclipse totality will last from 3:08 to 3:19 p.m. Some of the largest cities in the path of totality are Cleveland, Dayton, Toledo, Bowling Green, and Akron. Cincinnati, Columbus, Canton, and Youngstown will be close at 99%.

Due to this phenomenon, most school districts will not be in session on April 8. Many community schools are also opting to make it a non-attendance day for students while others plan to remain open. If your school plans to be in session and depends on district transportation, DEW highly suggests reaching out to your districts now and letting them know if you will or will not require transportation. If your school has or will be revising the school calendar to make April 8 a non-attendance day, you will need to inform the sponsor and EMIS coordinator. Send notification to sponsor at cisaac@charterschoolspec.com.

Districts are still legally required to provide transportation to community schools who remain open, even if the public schools are closed due to the eclipse. If they fail to provide transportation you may file a complaint for non-compliance with DEW. Schools should use their best judgment in deciding whether to remain open during the eclipse. To help districts and schools prepare, the Department has developed guidance that should be considered when planning for the eclipse. Click on the link below for guidance and questions to consider. <https://education.ohio.gov/Media/Ed-Connection/Oct-30-2023/Guidance-for-solar-eclipse-day?feed=NewsletterRSS>



Initial List of Approved Core Curriculum and Instructional Materials in English Language Arts

In accordance with [ORC 3313.6028](#), the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce must establish a list of high quality instructional materials, and schools must use a core curriculum and instructional materials in English language arts and evidence-based reading intervention programs only from the lists established, beginning in school year 2024-2025. DEW has released the initial list of [Approved High Quality Instructional Materials](#) for grades PK-5.

Items may still be added to this list, and guidance on using supplemental materials will be issued by the Department. Answers to Frequently Asked Questions are available [here](#).

Also, in accordance with ORC 3313.6028, schools may not use any core curriculum, instructional materials or intervention programs in grades pre-kindergarten to five relying on any model of teaching students to read based on meaning, structure and syntax, and visual cues, including a three-cueing approach, unless a waiver has been granted.

More information about the curriculum selection process, timelines, and Ohio's Plan to Raise Literacy Achievement, in accordance with the usage of the implications of the Science of Reading, is available [here](#). Questions may be sent to ReadOhio@education.ohio.gov.

Charter School Specialists is committed to increasing student literacy, providing technical assistance and support as schools shift from traditional literacy practices to those aligned with the Science of Reading, and advocacy for charter schools through this process. To schedule professional development for your staff, governing authority or company, for assistance with strategic planning, or for any other literacy-related support, please contact Jennifer Heyman at jheyman@charterschoolspec.com.

Legal Department

The Auditor of State has reversed its opinion that it will audit compliance for schools that all Governing Authority members must complete annual open meetings and public records training by viewing the certified training through the Auditor of State or Attorney General. Due to this reversal in opinion by the Auditor of State, for the 2023 – 2024 school year, and until further notice, Governing Authority members are now permitted to complete the annual open meetings and public records training by: 1) completing the training with their board attorney, 2) completing the training by viewing the videos on the Charter School Specialists website, 3) completing the 3 hour Auditor of State training; or 4) completing the 3 hour Attorney General training. More information on this topic, with links to necessary documents, was recently released in a *From the Desk of* memo prepared by the CSS Legal Department.



March is a pivotal point for federal programs! There are so many deadlines approaching not to mention state testing! Here are a few of the important dates and activities for federal programs this month:

- The Ohio Association of Administrators of State and Local Federal Education Programs (OAASFEP) will be held on March 20-22 at the Hyatt Regency in Columbus. There is still time to register for this event. This is an opportunity for Cohort 1 schools to work on their One Plans during the live planning session. There are also several important and timely sessions being held. To register click here: [OAASFEP Spring Registration](#). For a list of sessions click here: [Spring OAASFEP Conference Sessions](#).
- The federal mandated reporting for ESSER and ARP ESSER grants is due on April 5th. The reporting surveys are open, and schools only have to complete the surveys for those grants they received.
- The Desk and Onsite Monitoring visits from the Office of Federal Programs at the Department of Education and Workforce should be completed this month. For schools required to complete the self-surveys, the system is open, and these surveys need to be completed by June 30, 2024.
- The One Needs Assessment and One Plan systems in ED STEPS are now open. The One Plan is due on April 30th. Remember that failure to submit the One Plan by the due date will result in the school being assigned risk-analysis points. These risk-analysis points have a threshold of around 30-40 points. Once a school earns over 30 points, it is subject to a desk or on-site monitoring review in the 2024-2025 school year. Submitting the One Plan on time or prior to the due date will result in the school receiving negative points. This system works like the game of golf. The lower the score, the less chance for a monitoring review; the higher the score, the more likely it is that the school will receive a desk or onsite monitoring review. To see the Risk Analysis Sheet, please click [HERE](#).

Requirements for One Plans: All One Plans must include activities that address: Professional Development, Family/Community Engagement and Teacher Equity. These are federally required activities and can easily be incorporated into the One Plan by adding them as action steps. CSI, TSI, ATSI: Schools must have at least two evidence-based practices/strategies from tier/level 1-3. The reason for the school's identification must be addressed in One Plan, e.g., Bottom 5%, Graduation. Schools that are classified as Independent in School Improvement must have at least 1 evidence-based strategy.

Grants-Please remember that the ARP ESSER funds end this year. There will not be a carryover into FY25 for these funds. The ARP Homeless funds will also end this year. Please ensure that your school will have spent these funds by September 30th. If you are having trouble spending down the ARP Homeless funds, your school has the option of donating items to a local shelter or community program that assists families facing homelessness. Our communities all have students who are homeless. Please use these funds to help the students and their families. If you need assistance on how to spend these funds, please go to: [Homeless Funds Uses](#)

College and Career Readiness Corner

Reminder to Use Your Expanding Opportunities for Each Child (EOEC) Grant Money!

The Expanding Opportunities for Each Child grant program is meant to expand access to and increase enrollment in school improvement activities for low-achieving students and students from low-income families.

The grant includes four focus areas: advanced coursework, career pathways, personalized learning and credit recovery and academic acceleration. These areas have been identified as educational services that provide a unique opportunity for districts and community schools to create and expand programming that would not otherwise be available.

1. **Advanced Coursework:** Opportunities to earn college credit in high school. Advanced coursework can include

Advanced Placement (AP) and College Credit Plus (CCP) courses.

- 2. Career Pathways:** Course options with work-based learning opportunities that lead to the attainment of a secondary school diploma and at least one industry-recognized credential.
- 3. Personalized Learning:** Opportunities to customize the learning experience to each student's unique skills, abilities, preferences, background, and experiences. Personalized learning activities can be offered through blended, digital, or project-based learning activities.
- 4. Credit Recovery and Academic Acceleration:** Courses that lead to a regular high school diploma by allowing students to recover credits they did not successfully obtain or take courses typically offered to a higher-grade band.

EOEC grant funding is designed to improve student outcomes, including participation, performance, and graduation by expanding access to existing programs and/or to introduce programming that is not otherwise available in the LEA's building(s). Grantees might choose to leverage the EOEC program for supporting college and career readiness, engaging diverse learners, focusing on academic recovery and acceleration, or expanding options for student-centered learning.

FISCAL YEAR 2024

For state fiscal year 2024 (FY24), the Expanding Opportunities for Each Child program is a non-competitive grant. All traditional public schools and community schools with at least one federally identified school will receive these funds.

For more information about the non-competitive process, grant focus areas and allowable activities for this grant for FY24, please see the [Grant Funding Information](#) (June 2023) document. If you have questions regarding the EOEC Grant or need more information, please submit an email to eoecgrant@education.ohio.gov.

Ramp Up Graduation Pathway Options!

The annual Ohio Association of Career Technical Education (ACTE) conference is July 15, 2024. This event takes place at the Hilton Easton in Columbus. This conference provides an opportunity for districts to learn ways to expand graduation pathway opportunities for ALL students. Teachers, intervention specialists, school counselors and administrators can benefit from the many sessions that are offered. Take a team and connect with colleagues from across the state!

Ohio ACTE Registration and information is located [at this link](#).

Columbus Educators Human Trafficking Awareness Summit

In honor of National Human Trafficking Awareness Month (January), Gracehaven and Franklinton Prep High School held their first annual Columbus Educators Human Trafficking Awareness Summit for teachers, school administrators, counselors, and social workers on January 31, 2024 at Franklinton Prep High School. CSS's Bekah Dawson and Molly Wheatley were in attendance for the event. The event was geared towards showing educators the various signs of human trafficking and how to respond when seen among students. Keynote speakers included Gracehaven Community Outreach Director Hannah Swift, U.S. Attorney Kenneth Parker, and Assistant Special Agent in Charge for Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Amy Turner. Breakout sessions were offered throughout the day by representatives from Huckleberry House, She Has a Name, and Gracehaven. Here are a few facts specific to Ohio and Human Trafficking that were presented at the event:

Ohio is currently the sixth largest state for human trafficking in the United States.

92% of human trafficking victims are trafficked by someone they know.

The most commonly targeted human trafficking victims are vulnerable youth. Vulnerable youth are considered those who fall under any of the following categories:

Homeless youth

- LGBTQ youth
- Youth in foster care
- Youth with a history of abuse
- Youth who are struggling in school
- Youth who are experiencing neglect
- Youth who are seeking out online relationships

Educators and administrators who feel they are witnessing signs leading to a human trafficking situation are encouraged to contact the local FBI hotline at (614) 224-1183 and HSI line at 877-4-HSI-TIP. For more information on this event and other educational opportunities provided by Gracehaven, please visit www.gracehaven.me.
