



SPONSOR CONNECTION GRADUATION EDITION

SEPTEMBER 2024

Latest News for St. Aloysius Sponsored Schools

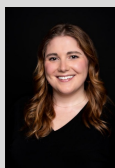
Reminders

- 9/6: Window closes for Fiscal Year 2024 report card data review and verification (Superintendents)
- 9/10-12: Register to attend Ohio Assessment Conference
- 9/16: Fall Dropout Prevention and Recovery community schools extended Ohio's State Tests window opens
- 10/23: Register to attend KRA-R Data Manager - Closedown webinar
- 10/31: Final deadline - Board approved School Annual reports due to parents/students and sponsor
- 10/31: Final deadline - Board approved Annual Budgets due in epicenter by sponsor



24-25 Governing Authority and School Leader Timeline

<https://charterschoolspec.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Governing-Authority-and-School-Leader-Annual-Timeline-24-25.pdf>



Welcome CSS' Newest Compliance Team Member, Katie Frank

Meet our newest member, Katie Frank. We are thankful to have Katie as part of the Compliance team. A native of Northwest Ohio, Katie is a proud alumna of an Ohio charter school, which has inspired her dedication to advancing charter school development. With extensive experience in school-based operations across multiple states, including Ohio, New York, and Pennsylvania, she is excited to be working on the Compliance Team with various schools throughout the Central and NW Ohio regions. Katie has received a BFA from Wright State University and her professional background also spans operations and development in educational non-profits and sales environments. Outside of work, she enjoys outdoor activities, attending movies, and reading.

SPONSOR CONNECTION TRIVIA CORNER TEASER

Beginning in October, the Sponsor Connection Newsletter will have a new section titled, **Governing Authority Member Trivia Corner**. In this section of the newsletter we will pose questions to our readers, and any current Governing Authority Member may submit answers to the questions. Any Governing Authority Member that is able to answer all of the trivia questions correctly for the month will be entered into the monthly drawing for a \$25 Amazon gift card. Stay tuned for next month's Trivia Corner section.



Congratulations to the SY 2023-2024 Graduates!

Graduation is the culmination of many years of work for our students. They have experienced both success and setback and have persevered through it all to achieve their ultimate goal. This achievement wouldn't be possible without the support of their teachers, administrators, board members, management companies and community stakeholders. It is a cliché, but it truly takes a village to raise a child. There are so many dedicated individuals who play a role in this sometime arduous but ever rewarding process. St. Aloysius and Charter School Specialists would like to thank every person who plays a role in helping these students on their way to a healthy and productive future!

Graduation Highlights:

- AchievePoint Career Academy - 61 graduates, 4 with scholarships
- Black River Career Prep HS - 38 graduates, 4 early grads and 547.75 credit earned
- Buckeye Community School - 107 graduates
- Buckeye Community School Fremont - 17 graduates
- Buckeye Community School London - 82 graduates
- Buckeye Community School Marion - 116 graduates
- Capital City Career Prep HS - 30 graduates and 631.5 credits earned
- ChallengeU Ohio Community School - 2 graduates
- Cypress High School - 77 graduates
- Cliff Park High School - 72 graduates
- Fredrick Douglas High School - 102 graduates and 1743 credits earned
- Franklinton Prep High School - 101 graduates and 1316 credits earned
- Gateway Online Academy of Ohio - 290 graduates
- Gem City Career Prep HS - 35 graduates and 525.5 credits earned
- Glass City Academy - 119 graduates
- Greater Ohio Virtual School - 198 graduates
- Innovative Career Academy - 3 graduates
- Liberty High School - 100 graduates and 1415 credits earned
- Marshall High School - 82 graduates
- Mount Auburn Prep Academy - 18 graduates
- Northwoods Career Prep HS - 31 graduates and 445 credits earned
- Patriot Preparatory Academy - 25 graduates
- Queen City Career Prep High School - 1
- Randall Park HS - 56 graduates, 145 credentials earned and Most Improved School Award
- River Gate High School - 54 graduates
- Towpath Trail High School - 194 graduates and 612 credentials earned
- Westwood Preparatory Academy - 14 graduates
- YB Columbus CS - 87 graduates and 1301 credits earned

Legal Department

NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD DECISIONS COLLECTIVE BARGAINING RULES THAT MIGHT IMPACT COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

In August of 2023, The National Labor Relations Board published a revision to the standard that was in place to evaluate employer work rules that were being challenged as unlawful under the National Labor Relations Act. The rules being challenged under this standard are rules that could be implemented by an employer to prevent the unionization of its workers, to limit collective bargaining, or to revise policies regarding safety in the workplace. The new standard under Stericycle is that if the party challenging the rule shows that a rule/policy has a reasonable tendency to chill employees from exercising their rights, then the rule is presumed unlawful. The employer may overcome the presumption by proving that the rule advances a legitimate and substantial business interest, and that the employer is unable to advance these interests with a more narrowly tailored rule.

The National Labor Relations Board has also published a revised rule that was effective February 26, 2024, to replace the previous rule regarding Joint-Employer status. If employers are determined to be "joint employers," then both employers will be responsible for ensuring

safe working conditions, both will be liable for unfair labor practices, and also will be required to collectively bargain with a union. This means that if a management organization and a Governing Authority Board are determined to be joint employers, they will both be responsible for the working conditions, labor practices, and collective bargaining with the employees of the school. For more information on either of these changes, please visit the [National Labor Relations Board website](#).



Ohio Assessment Conference

Ohio Department of Education and Workforce's Office of Assessment will be hosting a virtual 2024-2025 Ohio Assessment Conference from Tuesday, September 10th to Thursday September 12th from 8:30am-12:30pm each day. Registration for this conference is free and all are welcome to attend. The conference will cover various topics and updates pertaining to Ohio's assessment programs. Although all are welcome, it is especially encouraged to have your school's test coordinators and other school administrators plan to attend. This conference will be held via Microsoft Teams with no in-person option available. For those who are unable to attend, this conference will be recorded and made available to view on [Ohio's State Test Portal](#) on a later date.

To register for this conference, please click on the link below and complete the registration form:

[2024-2025 Ohio Assessment Conference Registration](#)



Professional Development Opportunity

The Ohio Association of Administrators of State and Federal Education Programs (OAASFEP) will be holding their Fall 2024 Conference on October 28 - 29 at the Hilton Columbus Easton. This conference will also include a new director's workshop focusing on the federal requirements of the entitlement grants: (Title I, Title II-A, Title III, Title IV, IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Act), ECSE (Early Childhood Special Education), Title I Non-Competitive, and EOEC (Expanding Opportunities for Every Child). The cost for the conference is \$550 which includes the Post Conference & Meals. To get more information and to register go to: <https://oaasfep.org/2024-fall-conference/>

Compliance Highlights

Starting this month and each month going forward we will highlight compliance areas for Federal Programs.

Compliance Highlight 1: Title I Annual Parent/Family Engagement Meeting

Title I requires schools to host an annual Title I Meeting for Parents. This meeting informs parents about the Title I program at the school and explains the requirements of this part, and the right of parents to be involved, and; (2) offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide, with funds provided under this part, transportation, child care, or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement. If the meeting is held during the typical family dinner time, Title I funds may be used to provide a light meal and refreshments. Funds may also be used to provide babysitting for children as needed to ensure parents are able to fully attend the meeting. Guidelines for the meeting and an agenda template can be found here: [Annual Title I Meeting & Agenda Template](#)

Compliance Highlight 2: Opportunity for Public Comment-IDEA

34 CFR Section 300.165 requires that the schools give the public an opportunity to comment on the Individuals with Disabilities Act program at the school. Schools must annually provide this opportunity and must advertise the time and location of the meeting. A copy of the advertisement should be kept by the school to serve as evidence of compliance.

- **300.165 Public participation. (a) Prior to the adoption of any policies and procedures needed to comply with Part B of the Act (including any amendments to those policies and procedures), the State must ensure that there are public hearings, adequate notice of the hearings, and an opportunity for comment available to the general public, including individuals with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities.**

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



Oakmont/Forrester Education Prioritizes Literacy for Students

Oakmont Education, is an operator known for managing Drop Out Prevention and Recovery schools throughout Ohio, but did you also know they have a branch devoted to elementary education? Meet Forrester Education. This year, the company has focused intensely on developing and furthering literacy with students. Not only does each school have a specific improvement plan related to literacy, but the company has ensured that most staff have completed the Science of Reading training through the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, well in advance of the July 31, 2025, deadline. In addition to this, Oakmont/Forrester has sent school leaders and English Language Arts teachers to a training with Charter School Specialists and has partnered with us to provide a full day training for most staff members across the company! This increased focus on literacy, specifically science-based development of literacy in all learners, will impact thousands of students across the state. Their commitment to not just graduating students, but graduating literate students is to be commended.



REMINDER: Emergency Management Test (EMT) due by December 31st

Each calendar year between January 1 and December 31st, schools are required to complete an EMT and enter their data into the School Safety Plans portal. To complete:

1. Complete a Tabletop, Functional, or Full-Scale EMT. See our website (<https://ohioschoolsafetycenter.ohio.gov/pre-k-12-schools/emergency-management-test>) for additional helpful information.
2. Log into the School Safety Plans portal at <https://apps.dps.ohio.gov/oss/>.
3. Find the Emergency Management Test (EMT) column and click on Complete by December 31st.
4. Click on the blue Add New EMT button located in the top-right.
5. Fill in the data fields and click save. Additional help documents are available within the portal.

If you have questions, contact the Ohio School Safety Center at OhioSchoolSafetyCenter@dps.ohio.gov or (614) 644-2641.

Virtual Professional Development—all sessions are 12:00-1:00:

- September 24, 2024 Getting Up To Speed, SPED Basics, and How CSS Monitors Special Education
- November 21, 2024 Special Education Profiles and Indicators, Meaningful Parent Participation, and Navigating Difficult IEP Meetings
- February 27, 2025 Discipline, Avoiding Costly Mistakes, and Corrective Action Plans
- April 24, 2025 To Be Determined

Special Education Virtual Office Hours will be held the first Tuesday of each month from 12:00-1:00. These informal sessions provide Directors of Special Education, Intervention Specialists, and Administrators the opportunity to discuss the latest news from The Department of Education and Workforce & the Office for Exceptional Children. They are an excellent opportunities to ask questions, learn from colleagues, and network.

September 3, October 1, November 5, December 3, January 7, February 4, March 4, April 1, and May 6.

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



YB Columbus Community School Standout Students

In a year marked by remarkable determination and resilience, Heaven Moore has proven that perseverance truly pays off. Recently graduating high school, Moore has not only secured her place at Wilberforce University to pursue a major in healthcare administration but has also embarked on a promising career path as a phlebotomist at Biolife Plasma. Her impressive achievements include earning phlebotomy and Patient Care Technician (PCT) certifications through Youthbuild Columbus.

Despite facing initial challenges and uncertainties about graduation, Moore's unwavering dedication, coupled with the support of her AMP coach and dedicated staff, empowered her to overcome obstacles and thrive. As she steps into this new chapter of her life, her success story is a shining example of how resilience and hard work can lead to extraordinary accomplishments. We eagerly anticipate the continued impact she will make in the future and celebrate her exceptional journey thus far.

Patience Richards, a student in the healthcare program and working at our healthcare site, consistently exhibited a positive attitude and remained resolute in her pursuit of her goals, undeterred by any challenges. Over the summer, she secured a position with APPS, a recreational summer role aimed at giving back to the youth of Franklin County. Through numerous discussions, Patience revealed her passion for working with children and her desire to enter the childcare field. Youthbuild staff collaborated extensively on updating and refining her resume, conducted mock interviews, and focused on building her confidence. Her efforts resulted in securing two interviews in the childcare sector, including one with her top choice, Jeffrey Mansion Preschool. While Patience may consider pursuing a degree in early education in the future, she is thrilled to have the opportunity to start her career with one of Bexley, Ohio's preschool programs.



Congratulations to AchievePoint Career Academy - Cincinnati!

The school had 61 total graduates and 40 of the graduates earned a FEMA, CPR, and OSHA credential. Also, four graduates each received a \$1250 Graduation Alliance scholarship!

The school celebrated 61 graduates at its sixth commencement ceremony on June 20 at the historic Music Hall Ballroom in downtown Cincinnati. The school was honored to have Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer and School Board Member Harold Brown, as the commencement address speaker. Multiple students were awarded post-secondary scholarships, including one student who received a full ride to a local private college. The celebration was beautiful, joyous, and certainly a special evening for graduates, family, friends, and staff.



Cypress Community School proudly concluded the 2023/2024 academic year with significant achievements, including the graduation of 77 students and the awarding of 400 Career Tech Certifications. This success is a testament to the district's dedication to enhancing its educational processes and bringing more structure to its programs. This year, we introduced two new initiatives to better prepare our students for life beyond school.

The first, "Adulting Day," provided students with 17 practical life skills, some of which included: basic cooking, tire changing, self-defense, sewing on a button, voting, opening a bank account, and more. This hands-on event was designed to equip students with essential knowledge for everyday situations, ensuring they are well-prepared for various life challenges.

Another highlight of the year was "Signing Day," an event dedicated to celebrating students who secured verbal offers from colleges, the military, partner companies, or community businesses. This special day marked a commitment to excellence, as students and representatives signed agreements recognizing the students' dedication to their chosen paths. Whether securing a job in their field, enrolling in post-secondary institutions, or committing to further education at trade schools, our students took significant steps toward their futures.

These initiatives, along with the diverse range of Career Tech Certifications in Business, Manufacturing, Healthcare, Construction, and Nail Technology, underscore Cypress's dedication to providing comprehensive education. Our focus on enhancing processes and introducing new programs reflects our commitment to student success and real-world readiness. As we look forward to another year, Cypress remains steadfast in upholding high educational standards and supporting our students' growth and achievements.



Capital City Career Prep HS completed 631.5 credits throughout the 2023-2024 school year. They had 30 graduates and their valedictorian was the only one in the entire network who enlisted in the military!



Black River Career Prep students earned a total of 547.75 credits throughout the 23-24 school year.

The School had 38 graduates in the 23-24 year, with 9 students graduating early. 33 out of the 38 students earned more than the minimum 20 credits required to graduate. We also had 3 22+ graduates participate in the ceremony!



North Woods Career Prep had a total of 445 credits earned throughout the 2023-2024 school year.

North Woods had 31 graduates in 2024. Nearly half of them were international students. Four of them should have graduated 3 or 4 years ago. Life slowed them down, but they never gave up.



Gem City Career Prep had 35 graduates and 525.5 credits completed in the 2023-2024 school year.

Graduation is a significant milestone regardless of the path taken to reach it. Our students and staff share a moment of pride and celebration that marks the transition to a new chapter lives of our students, whether it be further education, entering the workforce, or pursuing other goals. Each student's journey to graduation is unique and valuable, and the sense of accomplishment that comes with it is indeed priceless.