



SPONSOR CONNECTION GRADUATION EDITION

OCTOBER 2024

Latest News for St. Aloysius Sponsored Schools

Reminders

- 10/23: Register to attend KRA-R Data Manager - Closedown webinar
- 10/25: Spec Ed Expenditure report due to sponsor
- 10/30: Mgmt Co. evaluations due to sponsor
- 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
- 11/30: 5 year forecast deadline

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>



Governing Authority Trivia Corner!

Let's Have Some FUN and WIN a prize! Each month we will provide three questions based on what you should know as a governing authority member. Submit your answers using this link <https://forms.office.com/r/Zp10tqU77v> or email your answers to fstoy@charterschoolspec.com no later than October 31, 2024. Those individuals that correctly answer all three (3) questions will have their names entered in a drawing for a \$25.00 Amazon gift card. Correct answers and winner's name will be included in next month's Sponsor Connection.

Here are October's three (3) questions:

1. True or False – The Governing Authority is able to have a board meeting anywhere in the United States.
2. Based on the 24-25 Governing Authority and School Leader Timeline provided in the Sponsor Connection, when is the management company /operator evaluation due back to CSS?
3. Is the Sponsor required to attend every board meeting? Yes or No.

Thanks for participating and good luck! Remember to submit your responses no later than October 31.



CSS 2024-2025 Professional Development

Click the link below to access the CSS PD Catalog:

[Professional Development Catalog 2024-2025](#)



Governor DeWine Reminds School Superintendents of Ohio School Safety Center Supports and Services

In the wake of the devastating school shooting in Georgia, Ohio Governor, Mike DeWine sent out a memo September 6, reminding schools of the school safety services that the Ohio School Safety Center (OSSC) can provide to schools at no cost.

To utilize these or other resources or to discuss any specific safety and security needs that you may have at your school, please contact the School Safety Center Executive Director, Emily Torok by phone: 614-357-5134 or email: enmtorok@dps.ohio.gov. To read the memo click this link: [Safety Services for Ohio Schools \(govdelivery.com\)](#)



Attorney General Dave Yost Files Lawsuit Against Columbus School District for Change in Student Transportation

Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost filed a lawsuit against Columbus City Schools. The district is legally obligated to provide transportation for nonpublic school students who live within district boundaries and no more than 30 minutes from the public school to which they would be assigned if they attended. But the district stopped complying with the law just before the 2024-25 academic year started and provided little notice to the parents of the affected schoolchildren.

AG Yost also filed an emergency motion with the Supreme Court on Wednesday, September 25th, claiming that state law requires a district to provide busing after a student challenges a transportation decision and while the challenge is ongoing.

Sources

<https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Media/News-Releases/September-2024/AG-Yost-Sues-Columbus-School-District-for-Not-Foll>

<https://www.10tv.com/article/news/local/yost-emergency-motion-columbus-city-schools-busing/530-9dc90ce0-9791-451d-b7e3-a9f1bfe7bac7>

2024- 2025 Compliance Process Update

Now that the school year is in full swing, the CSS Compliance Team has turned its attention to the Fall/Winter Review. Each school leader has received their initial email with the details of the process for the year. As you likely are aware, the compliance process started before school with the collection of required documents for the beginning of the year (Opening Assurances), we are now on to the bulk of the evidence and document collection (Fall/Winter Review and On-Site Review), and in the Spring we will collect information regarding requirements that need to wait until closer to the end of the year (Spring Survey).

Please note that there are few changes this year that we have made in hopes of making the compliance process better and less surprising. The most significant change is that we will send updates to each governing authority of any outstanding items that are needed as a part of the compliance process in February, April, and June. The February and April updates are simply to make sure everyone has the same understanding of the items that are still needed. The June communication will be a Corrective Action Plan request that indicates what is still outstanding and will allow for submission of the remaining items to rescind the CAP request. Any items not submitted by the end of June

will need to be addressed in a CAP response approved by the Governing Authority. The goal with this change is to ensure there are no surprises at the end of the year.

In some significant changes to the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce's compliance worksheet, please be aware of the following:

- Schools that use door blocking devices during emergencies will need to ensure their certificate of occupancy reflects the use of such devices. Schools should contact their municipality office that issues these permits to update the certificates if necessary.
- All site-based schools need to have at least one AED in the building and train staff in the use of the device.
- All staff members need to watch the Ohio Auditor of State (AOS) Fraud Reporting Training video. This can be completed as a group, provided a group sign-in sheet is completed.

There are other changes, including the requirement that each school is required to have an Asbestos Management Plan. To review the compliance worksheet and process changes please see the recording, [24-25 Compliance Process Training.mp4](#).

The CSS Compliance Team is looking forward to working with each of you to ensure that all schools are fully compliant with rule and law this year. Please don't hesitate to reach out to your compliance coordinator or Brian Dunbar (bdunbar@charterschoolspec.com) should you have any questions.

LEGAL DEPARTMENT

Management Company Evaluations Due October 30

Governing Authorities are reminded to submit their Management Company Evaluations no later than October 30, 2024. 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 30, 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 2023-2024 school year, are due to the Sponsor by Wednesday, October 30, 2024. Please email the evaluations to Angie Mann at: amann@charterschoolspec.com.



Don't Miss the Workshop on the DOPR Report Card with Steve Short!

Mark your calendars for an insightful workshop led by State Support Team 7 Consultant, Steve Short, as he delves into the details of the **DOPR Report Card**. This is a great opportunity for educators and administrators alike to deepen their understanding of this essential tool.

Event Details:

- **Date:** Friday, October 25th, 2024
- **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
- **Location:** ESCCO Northgate Office, 7207 Northgate Way, Westerville, OH 43082

Why Attend?

This workshop is hosted in collaboration with the ESC of Central Ohio, North Central Ohio ESC, Mid-Ohio ESC, and SST 11. It promises to be a valuable session for all who work with the DOPR Report Card, offering practical insights and the chance to connect with peers across the region. Whether you're looking to stay informed or have specific questions about the report card, this event will help you navigate the complexities of data and reporting with expert guidance from Steve Short. Plus, there's no need to worry about lunch! **Complimentary boxed lunches** will be provided to all attendees, and coffee will be ready to kick off your morning at 9:30 am.

Please make sure to RSVP by Tuesday, October 1st to reserve your spot. Register at this link: [RSVP Here](#).



Professional Development Opportunity

There is still time to register for the Fall Ohio Association of Administrators of State and Federal Education Programs (OAASFEP) Conference on October 28th-29th at the Hilton Columbus Easton. To get more information and to register go to: <https://oaasfep.org/2024-fall-conference/>

Compliance Highlight 1: Title III

Title III funds must be allocated in three required areas: Parent Engagement, Professional Development and Instruction. You may budget in other areas, but these three areas are required by ESSER. Grant applications that do not have funds allocated in these three areas are returned as not approved. This requirement exists to ensure that students are receiving instruction designed to assist them with acquiring English language proficiency, give general education teachers strategies to assist in instructing students with limited English proficiency, and to engage the parents of these students in the education process.

Compliance Highlight 2: One Plans and Evidence-based Strategies

ESSER requires that all schools receiving federal funds have an improvement plan that includes several components, including evidence-based strategies. The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce created a platform, ED STEPS, to host schools' improvement plans, now called the One Plan. Schools are required to have an agency approved One Plan to receive federal funding. The One Plan must contain evidence-based strategies documented in educational or other professional clearinghouses. Schools must have an evidence-based strategy for each federal grant they accept. Schools should complete the Evidence-based Worksheet to align with their One Plans. The Evidence-based Worksheet can be found [HERE](#).

The One Plan is a three-year plan for the school. The goals, action steps, adult implementation and student progress should be monitored several times during a school year. Schools may revise or change their One Plan at any time through the editing process. Revised One Plans will go through the approval process at DEW. The approval process for revised One Plans is usually expedited since only the departments that are impacted by the change will need to review the changes. The goals and activities at the school should align with the One Plan.

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

Considering Online Learning Opportunities for Students

According to Classgap, an online learning platform, to successfully prepare our students for their future college and career pathways we should consider exposing students to online learning opportunities. Over 30% of students in higher education have taken at least one course online. More and more students are earning degrees without ever stepping foot on campus. In addition, many workplaces are shifting to remote work which requires time management and electronic communication capabilities that online coursework can help our students develop. Exposing our students to the proper skills of becoming an online learner can help better prepare them for future success. Click on the link below to read the full article.

<https://www.educations.com/articles-and-advice/5-reasons-online-learning-is-future-of-education-17146>



Emergency Management Test Date Change

To better assist schools with their emergency management tests, collection dates have changed. Previously the dates were Jan. 1 through Dec. 31 of each year. To better align with a school year, the dates have been changed to September 1 through August 31 of each year. Not only does this align with your regular school year, but this also gives you extra time on this year's cycle as your next test will be due by the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

The annual emergency management test will now be due each year by August 31; this change goes into effect immediately. The how to guide to enter the EMT data into the safety plan portal can be downloaded by clicking [here](#). If you have any questions, please reach out to the Ohio School Safety Center.

Ohio School Safety Center Main Line 614-644-2641.

SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS



Randall Park Exceeds Standards On All Components On The 2023-2024 Report Card!

Congratulations goes out to Randall Park High School for exceeding standards in all four components of the Ohio School Report Cards. This is truly a great accomplishment since it makes Randall Park only the 7th Dropout Prevention and Recovery school in Ohio to receive this designation since DPRs began being rated in 2014-15. The Director, Tara Colón, attributes this success to the amazing staff and their commitment and passion to focusing on the individual needs of students and providing them with a safe environment that they can call their home away from home. The staff at Randall Park High School will continue to strive to provide all students with a quality education, as well as skills that will contribute to student success post-graduation. They are looking forward to continued success and are excited to see what achievements the 2024-2025 school year will bring.



Kids Care Elementary Shines, Leading the PLA Network with Remarkable Gains!

Kids Care Elementary's Operator, Phalen Academies, is thrilled at the school's outstanding progress on this year's state accountability assessments. The school has seen remarkable improvements in both English Language Arts and Math, marking the highest gains across all of our schools. This accomplishment is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our scholars, teachers, and staff.



Gem City Career Prep High School principal Lanicka Shepherd-Masey was recently nominated as a Dayton Daily News Community Gem. An article about her and the school, with a video interview, were published in the September 5, 2024 Dayton Daily News.

You can access the article and watch the video by clicking on this link: [COMMUNITY GEM: Prep school principal provides 'tough love' to students \(daytondailynews.com\)](https://www.daytondailynews.com/community-gem-prep-school-principal-provides-tough-love-to-students/daytondailynews.com)

Congratulations to Principal Shepherd-Masey for all of her hard work and commitment to the students, staff, and families at Gem City Career Prep High School!



South Columbus Preparatory at Southfield Receives Auditor Award

The Auditor of State Award was presented to South Columbus Preparatory at Southfield at its September 10, governing authority meeting. Representatives from the board, school and Accel Management were given the award which is presented to local governments and school districts upon completion of a financial audit that meet selected criteria as "clean". Auditor of State representative Scott Brown noted "This award represents the hard work of all of the school's administrative staff, board and employees who make every effort each day to attain accounting excellence. Specifically, we recognize Jarod Hawke and Dave Massa for their leadership, professionalism and exceptional commitment to fiscal integrity".