



## SPONSOR CONNECTION

March 2025

Latest News for St. Aloysius Sponsored Schools

### Reminders

4/18: Spring Survey Due to sponsor  
4/30: Sunshine Law & COIs due to sponsor

### 24-25 Governing Authority and School Leader Timeline

[Governing Authority & School Leader Timeline 24-25](#)



### Governing Authority Trivia Corner!

Welcome to our March 2025 Governing Authority Trivia Corner. Thanks to all of you that participated in the January contest. Our winner for January was Lisa Gonzalez from Cleveland who serves on the board of East Preparatory Academy. Lisa won a \$25.00 Amazon gift card.

Our February winner will be announced in the April Sponsor Connection. If you'd like to see the questions and answers for January please click on the link below:  
<https://forms.office.com/r/hTepvqeQm0>

The answers to questions below are contained in the March Sponsor Connection so you don't have to look far!

So, let's play. Here are the three (3) questions for March:

1. True or False - Community schools that rely on districts to provide transportation are required to establish the school's start and end times by April 1, 2025.
2. True or False - 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.
3. True or False - Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant due date has been extended to April 8, 2025

You can enter the contest by clicking on the link <https://forms.office.com/r/syflJXRcMRA> or you can email your answers to [fstoy@charterschoolspec.com](mailto:fstoy@charterschoolspec.com). Be sure and submit your responses by March 31, 2025. The winner will be announced in the May Sponsor Connection.

### CSS 2024-2025 Professional Development

Click the link below to access the CSS PD Catalog:  
[Professional Development Catalog 2024-2025](#)

### Schools Forward Cohort 2 Root Cause Analysis and Goal Writing PD

On February 11, 2025, the Schools Forward implementation team presented to Cohort 2 schools at Embassy Suites of Hilton Columbus 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. School representatives who were unable to attend will have access to a recording of the training on the CSS website at a later date. For more information on this session, please reach out to Nannette Sherman at [nsherman@charterschoolspec.com](mailto:nsherman@charterschoolspec.com) or Buddy Harris at [bharris@charterschoolspec.com](mailto:bharris@charterschoolspec.com).

### Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant Extended to April 8, 2025

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce has opened the K-12 Request for Applications to begin subaward of its \$60 million Comprehensive Literacy State Development grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The funding will support Ohio teachers in providing effective literacy instruction to help students maximize their reading and writing skills.

Through the leadership of Governor Mike DeWine, Ohio is implementing the [ReadOhio](#) initiative, an exciting statewide effort to improve literacy skills for all ages that includes the implementation of curriculum, intervention, and professional development aligned with the science of reading in Ohio's schools.

Eligible local education agencies may submit applications to develop [comprehensive literacy implementation sites](#). Selected sites will use these grant funds to strengthen the ways teachers and administrators implement literacy instruction, with a goal of improving student outcomes. This may include coaching and professional learning for teachers and administrators, activities to strengthen multi-tiered systems of supports and family engagement, and collaboration with higher education and community partners.

Subgrants through this request for applications will be awarded in three age groups, including kindergarten to grade 5, grades 6-8, and grades 9-12. The application for district preschools and early childhood education programs will be available later in 2025. Additional details including the request for applications, eligibility requirements, steps to apply, and resources will be available on the [Comprehensive Literacy State Development grant webpage](#).

## Transportation Reminders



### Ohio Law Requires Community Schools to Notify Districts of Start and End Times by April 1

Community Schools who rely on district transportation for all or a portion of students are statutorily required to establish the school's start and end times no later than April 1, 2025, 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). Schools must be able to provide evidence that it was completed for compliance.

Community schools that provide their school's start and end times by April 1, 2025, 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 to transport 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.

## Schools Providing Transportation

Schools that provide transportation must have a comprehensive policy and ensure that all vehicles and drivers meet the requirements in law. This applies to schools who provide transportation for all students, a portion of students, work programs, special education, or extra-curricular activities. Whether the school owns the vehicles and employs the drivers or contracts with a vendor, it is the governing authority's and school's responsibility to make sure they are compliant. Schools must have a designated transportation coordinator, supervisor, or director who will be responsible for maintaining all files and the ODEW Transportation System.

All Van Drivers and Bus Drivers must be entered into CORE for RAPBACK. The school transportation designee is responsible for checking CORE to see if the drivers are registered and enrolled in RAPBACK.

Schools that have an agreement with the district(s) and ODEW to assume transportation and are eligible to receive funding, must file the T1 report and T2 report in a timely manner to receive funding. Failure to do so could result in the school not receiving funding. All documentation related to October Count week must be in the transportation files. The Auditor of State is required to review all school October Count Week Documentation to ensure it is in agreement with the school's T1 and T2 report. If the school does not maintain proper documentation or it does not match the T1 and T2 reports, the school will be cited by the auditor.



## Compliance Department Reminder: Spring Survey

**Spring is almost here, I promise, and so is the Spring Survey!**

The Compliance 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 in March. The survey will go live on April 1st and schools will have until April 18th to complete the survey.

## Legal Department

### Important Updates to Board Training Materials

We are pleased to announce that our comprehensive Board Training video series has been updated as of March 1, 2025, to reflect recent legislative changes. These updates ensure board members remain current with the latest legal requirements and best practices.

The updated video library includes essential topics such as:

- Contract Modifications
- Being a Board Member
- Fiscal Viability
- School Funding
- Guide to Federal Programs
- Compliance
- Sponsor Reports
- Sponsor Obligations
- Know your Charter Agreement and Interventions

As a reminder, all new board members must watch these training videos, or participate in another sponsor approved training, within six months of appointment. Additionally, we strongly encourage existing board members to review the updated content to refresh their knowledge and understand recent legal changes that may impact their roles and responsibilities.

Please note that the Public Records and Open Meeting training modules will be updated after April 30.

Access all training videos through our dedicated portal: <https://charterschoolspec.com/board-trainings/>

## Special Education

### Special Education Virtual Office Hours

Special Education Virtual Office Hours will be held the first Tuesday of each month from 12:00pm-1:00pm. The session dates are: March 4, April 1, and May 6. 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 opportunities to ask questions, learn from colleagues, and network.

A Virtual PD is scheduled for April 24, 2025. Invites will be sent via email.

Please email Susan at [sscarponi@charterschoolspec.com](mailto:sscarponi@charterschoolspec.com) for the link to attend any of these sessions.

## College and Career Readiness Corner

### Enhancing CTE in Ohio's Charter Schools: Leveraging the Career Technical Education Equipment Grant

Ohio's commitment to advancing Career-Technical Education (CTE) is exemplified through the Ohio Career Technical Education Equipment Grant Program. This initiative offers competitive grants aimed at establishing or expanding CTE programs, with a priority for those aligning with Ohio's Top Jobs List and credentialing programs recognized by the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation. For charter schools, this presents a unique opportunity to enhance educational offerings and better prepare students for in-demand careers.

Key Highlights:

- Grant Purpose: To provide funding for schools to develop or expand CTE programs that equip students with the skills necessary for Ohio's high-demand jobs.

- Priority Focus: Programs supporting careers listed on Ohio's Top Jobs List and those offering industry-recognized credentials receive preferential consideration.
- Application Process: Schools interested in applying should consult the [Ohio Department of Education's Program Enhancements page](#) for detailed information on eligibility criteria, application deadlines, and submission guidelines.

#### Action Steps for Charter Schools:

1. Assess Community Needs: Evaluate local workforce demands to identify relevant CTE programs that align with regional economic needs.
2. Develop a Comprehensive Plan: Outline program objectives, required equipment, curriculum integration, and partnerships with local industries.
3. Engage Stakeholders: Collaborate with educators, industry partners, and the community to garner support and ensure program relevance.
4. Prepare the Application: Gather necessary documentation and articulate how the grant will enhance student outcomes and meet workforce demands.

By proactively engaging with the Ohio Career Technical Education Equipment Grant Program, charter schools can significantly enhance their CTE offerings, providing students with valuable skills and pathways to successful careers.

## Federal Programs

This is a reminder that the Support Schools Tool is due on March 30th. Please remember that you must upload documentation of stakeholder engagement. There is still time to register for the Ohio Association of Administrators of State and Federal Education Programs (OAASFEP) Spring Conference takes place April 7-9 at the Hyatt Regency in Columbus. For more information: <https://oaasfep.org/upcoming-conferences>.

### Compliance Insight 1- Engagement

Did you know that schools can use surveys as one method to document student, staff and parent engagement? Schools can either send the surveys out via email or send out hard copies. Once the school gets the results, analyze the responses. Look for concerns and then use this information to drive your next steps. Does the school need to engage more with a particular group? How are students feeling about the school? Is the school using stakeholder input when making program decisions? Are students feeling engaged in their learning process? Here are some sample surveys: [Parent Survey Elementary](#), [Parent Survey Secondary](#), [Staff Survey](#).

### Compliance Insight 2-Adult Implementation

Adult implementation is a key component in the One Plan. What are school leaders looking for in the way of adult implementation? School leaders should be looking for evidence that teachers are implementing the evidence-based strategies in the One Plan. For example, one evidence-based strategy is the slow-release model of instruction. If slow release was a strategy identified in the One Plan, school leaders would look for the routine of "I do, we do, you do" at the start of a lesson. This methodology allows the students to work as a group after the teacher has demonstrated the lesson objective, prior to trying the task by themselves.

If you have any questions regarding federal programs, please contact [nsherman@charterschoolspec.com](mailto:nsherman@charterschoolspec.com)



### Online Day Plan Reminder

Any school or district that has adopted an [online day plan](#) may use up to three online days per school year. It is required that schools and districts adopt an online day plan each year by Aug. 1, although the plan's use is not required. A school that implements a blended learning model or operates as an online school is not eligible to adopt an online day plan.

## Yost Offers Nearly \$11 Million in Grant Funds to Enhance School Safety

Ohio schools can apply for a share of nearly \$11 million in safety grants being awarded for the current academic year, Attorney General Dave Yost announced today.

The funding, approved as part of House Bill 33 by the 135<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, can be used for a broad range of purposes, including training and education on threat detection and prevention as well as tools, technologies and equipment designed to save lives and improve crisis response.

"A secure learning environment is paramount," Yost said. "These grants give schools resources they need to protect our children." The grant funding is intended to provide school leaders with flexibility in determining how best to improve student safety. Eligible uses of the funding include:

- Certification training for school resource officers.
- Active-shooter response training or equipment.
- Educational resources for all grade levels.
- Training to identify and assist students with mental-health issues.
- School supplies or equipment related to safety or implementation of a school-safety plan.
- Systems allowing immediate camera access to responding law enforcement officers.
- Silent panic alarms.
- Gunshot-detection technology.
- License-plate reader alerts for vehicles belonging to registered sex offenders.
- Alert systems warning of wanted dangerous individuals.
- Other training related to school safety.

School leaders may apply for both a traditional per-pupil-funded grant and a larger project-based grant. Until the funds are exhausted, every district is eligible to seek:

- A [formula-based grant](#) of \$2,500 or \$4.50 per student, whichever amount is greater.

- A [project-based grant](#) of up to \$40,000 per district, regardless of the number of students.

The grants will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, making prompt submission of applications a key consideration. No applications will be considered after May 30, 2025.

Questions about the school-safety grants? Email [SchoolSafetyGrants@OhioAGO.gov](mailto:SchoolSafetyGrants@OhioAGO.gov).



**Department of  
Education &  
Workforce**

**The updated approved lists of core curriculum and instructional materials in English language arts and evidence-based reading intervention programs are now available on the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce's website.**

The Department's updated [list of approved core curriculum and instructional materials](#) includes all submitted materials that met the required criteria for prekindergarten and kindergarten-grade 5. The updated [list of approved reading intervention programs](#) includes all submitted programs that met the required criteria for prekindergarten-grade 12.

The Department's review process is ongoing. A list of core curriculum and instructional materials and reading intervention programs still under review can be found on [the Department's website](#). The Department will update both lists once all reviews are complete in March 2025. [Additional information](#), including an updated timeline and resources for districts and schools in selecting materials are also available.

Questions regarding district requirements for high-quality instructional materials in English language arts and reading intervention programs may be sent to [ReadOhio@education.ohio.gov](mailto:ReadOhio@education.ohio.gov).

## School Highlights

### 2024 Drop Out Prevention and Recovery Exceeds Standards Award

Congratulations to our schools that received the 2024 Drop Out Prevention and Recovery Exceeds Standards Award! There were a total of 13 schools who received this honor: Black River Career Prep High School, Buckeye Community School - Marion, Capital City Career Prep High School, Cliff Park High School, Cypress High School, Fairborn Digital Academy, Franklinton Prep High School, Glass City Academy, Greater Ohio Virtual School, Liberty High School, Randall Park High School, Towpath Trail High School, and Frederick Douglass High School

Community schools that serve a majority of their students through Dropout Prevention and Recovery Programs (DOPR) receiving the DOPR designation, are evaluated on graduation rate, achievement, gap closing, and progress in reading and mathematics. Drop Out Prevention and Recovery Program's who exceed standards on their report cards are awarded this honor.

Click on the link to view the full list of awardees: [Drop Out Prevention and Recovery Exceeds Standards Award List](#)

### 2024 Momentum Award

Congratulations to our schools that received the 2024 Momentum Award!

- Green Inspiration Academy
- Kenmore Preparatory Academy dba Toledo Preparatory Academy
- Klepinger Community School
- Mount Auburn Preparatory Academy
- Richard Allen Academy
- STEAM Academy of Warren
- Zenith Academy West

The momentum award is for districts and buildings that have demonstrated outstanding improvement in achievement while also continuing to show growth. The momentum award is for districts and buildings that have improved their performance index by 3 or more points from 2022-2023 report card to the 2023-2024 report card AND received a value-added progress rating of 4 or more stars. Districts and buildings are not eligible for this award if they received an overall rating of 5 stars.

Click on the link to view the full list of awardees: [Momentum Building Award List](#).

### Franklinton Prep Hosts Second Annual Educators' Human Trafficking Awareness Summit

On February 14, 2025, Franklinton Prep High School, in collaboration with Youth for Christ and Gracehaven, hosted its second annual Educators' Human Trafficking Awareness Summit. The event brought together teachers, school administrators, counselors, and social workers to strengthen awareness and response strategies for identifying and addressing human trafficking inside and out of educational settings.

The summit featured keynote speakers Mona Al-Hayani, Vice President of the Toledo Federation of Teachers, and Teresa Fedor, former Ohio State Senator, and State Representative, both of whom have been strong advocates for anti-human trafficking initiatives in the state.

Throughout the day, attendees participated in breakout sessions led by experts from various organizations, including Kaleidoscope Youth Center, She Has A Name, Gracehaven, Do It For James Foundation, and Huckleberry House. These sessions provided actionable insights on recognizing the warning signs of human trafficking and best practices for supporting affected students.

Among the attendees was Charter School Specialists' Molly Wheatley, who joined other education professionals in engaging discussions about strengthening intervention efforts.

The summit underscored the critical role educators play in safeguarding students and adults from exploitation, equipping them with the knowledge and resources necessary to identify risks and take appropriate action.

## **Mount Auburn Students Experience Global Traditions Through Exchange Teachers**

Students at Mount Auburn Preparatory Academy were treated to a vibrant celebration of international cultures last week during a special awareness day organized by lead teacher Vitus Sanna Bawele and fellow J-1 exchange teachers from Ghana and the Philippines. The event offered students a unique opportunity to experience the rich traditions, customs, and daily life of these two diverse nations.

The highlight of the day was an immersive culinary experience where students learned to prepare and taste traditional dishes from both countries.

"Our goal is to expand students' worldview beyond their immediate surroundings," explained Mr. Bawele, who coordinated the day's activities. "Food is a universal language that brings people together and helps us appreciate different cultures."

Meanwhile, Filipino teachers gave an immersive learning experiences about their culture and native dishes. Mount Auburn is privileged to have sisters Miss Viray and Mrs. Vivas on staff, who along with their mother and other family members, made traditional dishes for their classes and the entire staff.

"The students' enthusiasm has been overwhelming," shared Miss Viray, a high school math teacher from the Philippines. "They're not just learning about our cultures – they're experiencing them firsthand and making connections that will last a lifetime."

The event concluded with a collaborative art project where students created a world map mural, highlighting the geographical and cultural connections between their community and the teachers' home countries. Principal Craig Horn noted that the cultural awareness day exemplified the school's commitment to fostering global citizenship and multicultural understanding among its students.

---