



SPONSOR CONNECTION

April 2025

Latest News for St. Aloysius Sponsored Schools

Reminders

- 4/18: Spring Survey Due to sponsor
- 4/30: Sunshine Law & COIs due to sponsor
- 4/30: Transportation items due to sponsor
- 5/2: Submit [Alternate Assessment justification information](#) (districts and community school superintendents)
- 5/16: Register to attend “[Engaging School Communities – Inspiring Attendance](#)” conference
- 5/22: [Value-added roster verification](#) (principals)
- 5/23: Spring 5 yr forecast due to sponsor
- 5/30: Upload verification of local school board approval of special education policies and procedures

24-25 Governing Authority and School Leader Timeline

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



Governing Authority Trivia Corner!

Welcome to our April 2025 Governing Authority Trivia Corner. Thanks to all of you that participated in the February contest. Our winner for February was Miccau McClelland who serves on the board of Groveport Community School. Miccau received a \$25.00 Amazon Gift Card

Our March winner will be announced in the May Sponsor Connection. If you’d like to see the questions and answers for February click on the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/r/ywCwTHpW8S>.

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

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

1. True or False - The Ed Choice Expansion Program is one of a number of education options available to students in Ohio.
2. True or False - Post audit conferences are optional and are not a requirement in the charter contract.
3. True or False – The Richard Allen cheerleaders won 1st place at the Black American Cheer and Dance Association Showcase.

You can enter the contest by clicking on this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/82jChCtze9> or you can email your answers to fstoy@charterschoolspec.com. Be sure and submit your responses by April 30, 2025. The winner will be announced in the June Sponsor Connection.

CSS 2024-2025 Professional Development

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

Ohio Law to Require Certain Schools to Share Lifeline information With Students

Beginning April 9, Ohio law requires city, local, and exempted village school district, chartered nonpublic school, community school, STEM school, and college-preparatory boarding schools serving students in grades 9-12 to include the [988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline](#) telephone number on student identification cards, planners, and electronic portals, if provided or used by the school. The Lifeline is available 24/7 for all Ohioans to call or text “988” to reach a trained specialist for help and support during a mental health crisis.

The [Ohio Department of Education and Workforce's webpage](#) includes more information about this requirement. The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services also provides resources that may help schools meet this requirement, including the [988 Toolkit](#) and [Materials Generator](#).

Contact 988ohio@mha.ohio.gov for questions about the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline or for questions about the new requirement contact prevention@education.ohio.gov.



Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Informational Webinar

Two new Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) form options will be available for the fall 2025 administration. The forms contain refreshed items.

The new short form (KRA-R2) is 27 items, and the full form (KRA 2.0) is 50 items. Each school district and community school must determine which form they will implement for fall 2025.

Join an [administrator webinar](#) on April 3 at 2 p.m. to provide additional information about the transition to new KRA forms and answer questions.

Please contact KRAhelp@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov with any questions.



Department of Education & Workforce

Hearing And Vision Screening Surveys Due June 1

As required by [Ohio law](#), schools and districts should submit their annual [Hearing Screening Survey](#) and [Vision Screening Survey](#) for the 2024-2025 school year by June 1. Schools and districts can find reporting information on the Ohio Department of Health’s [Annual Reporting Survey webpage](#).

Direct questions regarding hearing screening guidelines to Melissa Herrick at Melissa.Herrick@odh.ohio.gov or (614) 466-1995.

Direct questions regarding vision screening guidelines to Molly Nelson at Molly.Nelson@odh.ohio.gov or (614) 466-4183.

Legal Department

Post Audit Conference Reminder

As the audits for many of our schools are being completed, we wanted to remind you that the Ohio Revised Code 3314.019 requires that all Sponsors must participate in a post-audit conference with the auditor for each school it sponsors. In your Charter Agreement, you do have a requirement that the Sponsor be involved in a post-audit conference call with the auditor. This is a reminder that when the audit for your school is complete, a post audit conference is required to be scheduled prior to the public release of the audit. Some of you may know from experience, the post-audit conference calls are usually very brief and can be conducted virtually with representatives from St. Aloysius and Charter School Specialists on the call. Your treasurer, governing authority members, school leaders and operator staff are welcome to attend. Thank you in advance for reminding the auditors and for helping ensure this requirement is fulfilled.

If you have questions, please reach out to Frank Stoy, fstoy@charterschoolspec.com or cell (419) 386-6511.

Special Education

Special Education Model Policies and Procedures School board approval verification due to ODEW by May 30

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce updated the special education model policies and procedures to include changes to the Operating Standards for the Education of Children with Disabilities, which are available on the Department's [Operating Standards and Guidance webpage](#). All educational agencies must upload verification of local school board approval of related policies and procedures for the education of children with disabilities for the 2024-2025 school year through the [Monitoring System](#) by May 30. Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, the annual due date will be November 30. **It is the school's responsibility to upload the documents in the Monitoring System.**

Reminder: A copy of the policies and procedures, along with the signed resolution or board minutes, must also be submitted to your assigned sponsor compliance coordinator by April 30, as this is a part of the compliance review.

Direct questions about the model policies and procedures to the Office for Exceptional Children at exceptionalchildren@education.ohio.gov.

Review the [Special Education Policies and Procedures Submission Guide](#) and [access frequently asked questions](#) to learn more about the Monitoring System.

Direct questions about the Monitoring System to Phil Steffanni at philip.steffanni@education.ohio.gov.

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: 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 for the link to attend any of these sessions.

College and Career Readiness Corner

Ohio Sharpens Focus on College and Career Readiness through Policy and Program Updates

Ohio continues to strengthen its commitment to college and career readiness through a combination of bold policy reforms and practical program updates. Governor DeWine's 2025 education agenda includes a renewed emphasis on literacy, expanded access to career-technical education aligned with in-demand jobs, and strategies to remove non-academic barriers to student success. At the same time, the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce has released key updates to the CTE-26 application process for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, including a new application window (July 1-August 15, 2025) for Industry Credential Only programs. These initiatives reflect the state's unified approach to improving outcomes for students while meeting Ohio's evolving workforce needs. Charter schools are encouraged to stay engaged with these efforts to ensure students are equipped with the tools and opportunities needed for post-secondary success.



Federal Programs

It seems like everything in our world is changing but be assured that Title I and all the other educational entitlement funds are not going away. The entitlement funds are an amendment to the constitution and will not be eliminated without an act of Congress. The federal government fiscal year begins October 1 and ends on September 30. Therefore, the funds for FY25 have already been allocated to the states. There are two constants, Federal Education Entitlement Funding will remain in place and Charter School Specialists will still be here, ready to help schools navigate federal programs.

Soft Launch of One Funding Application

ODEW has announced that for the FY26 fiscal year, the consolidated application will be located within the ED STEPS application on your OHID platform. CCIP will no longer house the entitlement budgets. ODEW states "A soft launch is the release of a system or product to a targeted audience in advance of a full launch. DEW is using this approach to allow stakeholders to familiarize themselves with the OFA prior to the official launch in June. Starting on March 26, 2025, the OFA will be accessible through the ED STEPS tile for those schools that have sent in an intent to apply for the Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant (CLSD). For more information please visit the [One Funding Application](#) webpage by clicking on it or copy and paste this link in your browser: <https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Federal-Programs/EDSTEPS/One-Funding-Application>."

Cohort 2 Schools

If your school is in Cohort 2, you have until the end of the month, April 30, to complete your school's One Plan. If you need assistance with the ED STEPS system, the One Needs Assessment or the One Plan please contact Nannette Sherman at: nsherman@charterschoolspec.com.



Ohio is a Leader in School Choice Options

Students in Ohio are accessing their education in more diverse ways than ever before. The school choice movement in Ohio is all about community schools and so much more, thanks to supporters like you!

We thought it would be helpful to share a few of the optional programs that are available in Ohio, in addition to community schools.

- Ohio Tax-Credit Scholarship Program: Ohio offers tax credits to individuals supporting Scholarship-Granting (SGO's), nonprofits that provide school scholarships to students in need.
- EdChoice Expansion Scholarship Program: Ohio's Educational Choice Expansion Scholarship (EdChoice) Program provides state-funded scholarships to K-12 students based on household income level to attend chartered nonpublic schools.

- Autism Scholarship Program - Ohio students with autism may receive scholarships for education services from a private provider, including tuition at a private school.
- Cleveland Scholarship Program - Parents in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District can receive vouchers to send their children to private schools or public schools bordering the school district.
- K-12 Home Education Tax Credit - Ohio provides a tax credit of up to \$250 for qualifying home education expenses, including books, supplementary materials, supplies, computer software, applications, or subscriptions.

For questions or additional information, please contact Frank Stoy at fstoy@charterschoolspec.com or telephone (419) 386-6511.

School Highlights

Let's give a big RA shout-out to the Richard Allen Prep 3-8 cheerleaders! The squad won 1st place at the Black American Cheer & Dance Association showcase this weekend. Coaches Ms. Miree, Ms. Reed, and Ms. Delaney, led the young ladies to success. WAY TO GO, WILDCATS!

