



## SPONSOR CONNECTION

June 2025

*Latest News for St. Aloysius Sponsored Schools*

### Reminders

- 6/3: Attend Secure Data Center [virtual training session \(The Basics\)](#)
- 6/13: Attend Secure Data Center [virtual training session \(Deeper Dive\)](#)
- 6/27: Drop-out designation apps due to sponsor
- 6/30: Complete science of reading [professional development](#) (educators)
- 6/30: Use expended [2020-2024 Student Wellness and Success Funds](#)
- 7/1: Submit [Blended learning declarations](#)
- 7/1: Complete [opt-in form for Gifted Performance Indicator](#)

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

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

### CSS 2024-2025 Professional Development

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

### ODEW Reminder: Science of Reading Professional Development Deadline is June 30

ODEW wants to remind schools that the deadline for all eligible educators to complete required professional development in the science of reading is June 30.

ODEW's [Professional Development in the Science of Reading webpage](#) provides information on which educators must take the course, selecting the most appropriate course pathway from the Department's Introduction to the Science of Reading courses, and the stipend process.

To qualify for the stipend, educators must finish all parts of the Introduction to the Science of Reading course, including the post-assessment, by 11:59 p.m. on June 30. No exceptions will be made for late completions or technical issues near the deadline.

Email [Profile.Help@education.ohio.gov](mailto:Profile.Help@education.ohio.gov) for OHID Profile assistance.

Email [LMSSupport@education.ohio.gov](mailto:LMSSupport@education.ohio.gov) for questions about the Learning Management System application.



### Governing Authority Trivia Corner!

Welcome to our June 2025 Governing Authority Trivia Corner. Thanks to all of you that participated in the April and May contests. Our winner for April was Kimberly Sherwood from Fairborn Digital Academy in Fairborn. Kim received a \$25.00 Amazon Gift Card.

Our May winner will be announced in the July Sponsor Connection. If you'd like to see the questions and answers for April please click on this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/82jChCtze9>

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

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

1. True or False - One of the end of the year requirements for Federal Programs is making sure to get signed Semi-Annual Certifications from any individual paid with federal funds.
2. True or False - The "We are Linden" grassroots community group in Columbus worked to recognize the hard-working students at North Columbus Preparatory Academy.
3. True or False - Another important end of year activity for Federal funds is to make sure an inventory of items purchased with federal funds is current (within the last 3 years).

You can enter the contest by clicking here: <https://forms.office.com/r/tW3UFHxv6b> or email your answers to Frank Stoy at [fstoy@charterschoolspec.com](mailto:fstoy@charterschoolspec.com). Be sure and submit your responses by June 30, 2025. The June winner will be announced in the August Sponsor Connection.

## A Message from our President - CSS Personnel Announcements



As you have read in previous Sponsor Connection articles and through some internal communications you may have received from our office, Charter School Specialists has been seeking to fill a couple of our key positions that support our partner schools. We are pleased to announce several new members have joined the CSS Team.

**Erica McMillon** will join the School Improvement team assuming the role previously held by Susan Scarponi, who is retiring in June.

Erica comes to us after spending the last 20 years working in education as a teacher and administrator starting in New York, Kansas, Ohio and most recently the State of Texas. Erica was seeking the opportunity to return to Ohio, and we are looking forward to her joining our team.

Erica has a strong background in Special Education, Federal Programs, Compliance and School Safety. She holds a Doctor of Education degree in Educational Leadership – Superintendent Strand and is working towards a second Doctor of Education degree in School Psychology.

We have also created the following new positions to allow for continued growth and support.

**Danielle Slack** is joining the CSS team as the Project Manager Assistant. This position is designed to be an internal support to each of our departments.

Danielle has a background in operations and most recently served as the Executive Administrative Assistant at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus. She has a bachelor's degree in journalism and mass communication from Kent State University.

We have also created the positions of Governing Authority Representative as part of our continued commitment to support all of our partner boards across the state.

Joining this team is **David Brand** and **Shelby Schutt**. Both have many years of working in public education at various levels including leadership positions. They have extensive knowledge of Charter Schools and the functioning of governing authorities. They will represent CSS in the northern part of the state.

Lastly, I would be remiss if I did not recognize a recent promotion of a long time, dedicated member of our team. **Angie Mann** has taken over the role of Office Manager, stepping in for Carol Dimoff who recently left CSS due to personal health reasons. Angie has been with CSS for almost 15 years working with the legal team on contract compliance. Her organizational and communication skills made her the perfect choice for this critical position within the organization.

## Legal Department

### Supreme Court Blocks the Nation's First Religious Public Charter School

On April 30, the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments regarding an application for the nation's first religious charter school. St. Isidore of Seville had applied for a virtual Catholic school to be opened in Oklahoma. The application was initially approved by the Oklahoma Statewide Charter School Board in 2023, and opponents of the application filed a lawsuit challenging the approval of the application. The case made its way to the Oklahoma Supreme Court, and that court denied the application, ruling that St. Isidore was applying to be a public charter school and therefore under state law was required to be secular. On May 22, the U.S. Supreme Court issued its ruling, a 4-4 decision. The result of the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling leaves the decision by the Oklahoma Supreme Court in place, holding that charter schools are public schools and are required to remain secular. Religious charter schools are not permitted to open and operate. Although a 4-4 vote signals that there may be future challenges to the secular nature of public schools, the finding reiterates that charter schools are in fact public schools.

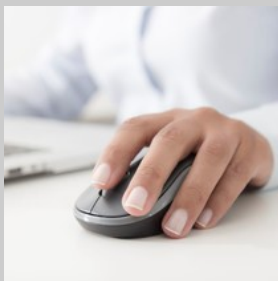
## Federal Programs - June Reminders

As the fiscal year winds down for the 2024-2025 school year, please remember to retain records of all the activities you did this year using federal funds. Below is a short list of activities that should be completed at the close of the school year:

- Make sure to get signed Semi-Annual Certifications from any individual paid with federal funds. It must be dated on or after the last day the individual worked.
- Make sure that the Self-Evaluations for ESEA Grants (Title I, Title II, Title III, Title IV, IDEA, ECSE, School Improvement and EOE) have been completed before June 30.
- Check to make sure the inventory of items purchased with federal funds is current (within the last 2 years). If your inventory has not been updated within the last 2 years, conduct a physical inventory.
- Check with your treasurer to ensure that your school will not exceed the 15% carryover limit in Title I funds. If you have more than 15% of the original, additional, and reallocated funds, check with your federal programs consultant to see if your school qualifies for the Title I Carryover Waiver.

If you have any questions regarding federal funds, please contact at [Nannette Sherman](#) or 740-607-9174.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Nannette Sherman at [nsherman@charterschoolspec.com](mailto:nsherman@charterschoolspec.com) or at 740-607-9174.



### Community School Website Requirements on Special Education Policies, Procedures, and Processes

This month is a great time to review your website to ensure that your school's policies, procedures, and processes (PPP) are listed on the website. The Office for Exceptional Children at ODEW has informed schools that the public must have access to the PPP. Schools who did not have this information posted on their website might have received an Improvement Plan from OEC regarding this requirement. If you need specific information updating your Policies, Procedures, and Processes, please click on the link below:

[Policies, Procedures, Processes](#)

If you have any questions on this or any other IDEA/Special Education requirements, please feel free to contact Susan Scarponi at [Sscarponi@charterschoolspec.com](mailto:Sscarponi@charterschoolspec.com)

## School Highlights



### Moonshot Museum Launches a Three Year Partnership with Green Inspiration Academy

Through the power of immersive learning, Moonshot Museum transported students at Green Inspiration Academy into the future of space exploration during a two-hour, in-school experience on May 14. This hands-on program engages 5th through 8th grade students in a series of interactive stations focused on space science, virtual exploration, and coding — all designed to spark curiosity and

connect classroom learning to real-world careers in the space industry.

Made possible through the museum's NASA TEAM II Award, the experience reflects Moonshot Museum's mission to inspire young people to see themselves in the future of space, no matter their background or zip code. The initiative brings high-quality STEM engagement directly into schools, particularly those serving students who may not otherwise have access to this kind of programming.

Throughout the morning, students were challenged to think like scientists, engineers, and innovators. By stepping into simulations, interacting with technology, and experimenting with problem-solving, they not only learn about space, they practice the skills that could one day take them there.

"We're on a mission to ensure that students can find their place in space," said **Dr. Jimyse L. Brown**, Executive Director of Moonshot Museum. "Our partnership with Green Inspiration Academy reflects our commitment to reaching students where they are and igniting a lifelong interest in space."

"Green Inspiration Academy seeks to "inspire" a sense of wonder about the universe! We are so excited to spark the imagination of our students by creating a stimulating and fun day of space exploration. We hope it ignites a love for science, creativity and wonder!" "Today GIA kicked off a three-year partnership with Moonshot Museum from Pittsburgh, PA. Through NASA Team II Award this amazing immersive STEAM program was brought directly to our 5th - 8th grade students. Today students were challenged to think like engineers, coders and explorers - not just to learn about space but to imagine themselves in it. At GIA we are deeply proud of the opportunity that was provided to our students and we look forward to the future." **Executive Director- April Hart**

This program is part of Moonshot Museum's larger initiative to increase awareness of and access to careers in the 21st-century space industry, especially among students from underrepresented communities. By bringing these experiences directly into classrooms, the museum continues to bridge the gap between inspiration and opportunity.

Moonshot Museum is Pennsylvania's first space museum and the only museum in the world where visitors can watch real lunar spacecraft being built in real time. Located in Pittsburgh and fueled by a mission to make space accessible for all, Moonshot Museum offers immersive exhibits, engaging educational programs, and career-connected learning experiences that position young people for bold futures in the space industry. To learn more about Moonshot Museum's outreach programming or to explore partnership opportunities, visit [www.moonshotmuseum.org](http://www.moonshotmuseum.org) or contact [info@moonshotmuseum.org](mailto:info@moonshotmuseum.org).

(Article from Moonshot Museum Facebook and Green Inspiration - pictures courtesy of Green Inspiration)



### Columbus Community Group Celebrates Achievements of North Columbus Preparatory Students

ABC 6 on Your side highlighted Columbus Preparatory North Academy students who were recognized by the grass roots community Group, "We Are Linden," for making a positive impact on the community. The event was held at the school and the ceremony recognized the hard work of the students on their efforts to break the cycle of youth violence in Columbus. To read the full article click on the link below:

<https://abc6onyourside.com/news/local/north-columbus-prep-academy-community-group-we-are-linden-celebrates-achievements-students-youth-violence>