



SPONSOR CONNECTION

July 2025

Latest News for St. Aloysius Sponsored Schools

Reminders

7/18: Submit [Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid, Student Wellness and Success Funds report](#)
8/1: [Adopt online day plan](#) for academic school year
8/3: Complete the [OhioMeansJobs K-12 Survey](#)
8/8: Annual [restraint and seclusion data collection](#) window closes
8/22: Updated 5 year forecast & assets policy due to sponsor

FY25-26 Governing Authority and School Leader Timeline

Click the link below to access the the timeline.

[Governing Authority & School Leader Timeline 25-26](#)



Governing Authority Trivia Corner!

Congratulations to our May Trivia Contest Winner!

Michele Coldiron from Heart of Ohio Classical in Columbus was our May winner. Michele received a \$25 Amazon gift card. Our June winner will be announced in the August Sponsor Connection.

June was our last month for the Board Member Trivia Contest and thanks to all of you that participated over the past few months. We're always looking for ways to engage board members in their important work, so if you have ideas for future activities or ways that we can support you, please reach out to Frank Stoy at fstoy@charterschoolspec.com.



**Department of
Education &
Workforce**

Upcoming Grade 3 data collection to impact Ohio School Report Cards

The Retention/Promotion – Grade 3 Only reporting collection will open on July 10. Accurate and timely reporting of the Retention/Promotion Status is essential, as this data directly impacts the early literacy component of the Ohio School Report Cards.

Schools and districts can review their preliminary early literacy data through the Local Report Card tile in the Secure Data Center. Note that until Retention/Promotion data is submitted, the early literacy component rating may appear significantly lower.

Direct questions regarding report card data to ODEW at accountability@education.ohio.

Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid, Student Wellness and Success Funds Report

Ohio law requires reporting for the 2024-2025 school year

Ohio laws for [Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid](#) and [Student Wellness and Success Funds](#) require schools and districts to complete a report detailing planning, use of funds, and expenditures for the 2024-2025 school year. Schools and districts are required to complete a report by July 18, even if they did not spend funds during the current fiscal year.



Transportation Updates

As the 2025-2026 school year begins, ODEW's Office of Pupil Transportation has shared information for community schools who are transporting their own students or are interested in transporting their students.

[RC 3314.091](#) allows community schools (CS) to transport students if the school enters an agreement with the school district in which students reside or notifies the school district by August 1 that CS intends to provide transportation. For more information, including funding information, please [review this publication](#) on the Department's website.

If your school is planning to begin transporting students for FY25-26, you will need to send a copy of the proposed agreement with a school district, or a copy of the notification you sent to the school district, to the sponsor at cisaac@charterschoolspec.com and to the Office of Pupil Transportation at SchoolBus@education.ohio.gov.

If schools transport students or plans to transport students via board owned buses/vans or contract with a vendor for bus/van service the school must adhere to the following:

- All yellow school buses and drivers must meet Ohio school bus safety standards and driver training requirements. Information concerning school bus standards and Ohio State Highway Patrol inspection requirements are available on the website at [State Highway Patrol](#). Information concerning school bus driver CDL and pre-service training requirements are available on the website at [Bus Drivers](#).
- If a CS intends to use vehicles other than yellow school buses for student transportation (e.g., vans), both the vehicles and the drivers must meet Ohio legal requirements.
- For vehicles, please see the information from the website regarding the [Use of Vehicles other than school buses for pupil transportation](#). This includes information on the use of 12-passenger vans (not including the driver), effective June 30, 2025.
- All school vehicle drivers will need to complete background checks and enroll in [Rapback](#) with the [State Board of Education](#).
- If you are considering using a contractor for student transportation, please reference [this document](#) located on the Department's website.

If you have pupil transportation questions, please email SchoolBus@education.ohio.gov.

Five Year Forecasts Resubmission due by September 1

ODEW released new five-year forecast guidance and a new form on their website for the spring/May forecast. Unfortunately, the new form was not updated on ODEW's site until April 30, and it was not communicated to sponsors or treasurers. The Auditor of State found an error on the form in the "days cash" cell and this caused a delay in getting a new locked form from the Auditor's

Office. In addition to the new form, the auditor's office added another new assumption to the narrative, requesting a capital asset replacement policy or schedule of capital assets.

To assist our community school treasurers with these changes, ODEW has scheduled a submission of the school's capital asset replacement policy in Epicenter to fulfill this new requirement from the auditor's office. For forecasts that were returned due to using an old spreadsheet, those submissions have been returned for revision using the updated template. The correct template is located on the [Department website](#).

The submission of the capital asset replacement policy and any five-year forecasts that must be corrected and submitted on the new template must be completed and submitted no later than **September 1**, by the sponsor. This should allow time for the Governing Authority of the schools to review and/or adopt a capital asset replacement policy and new forecast, when required.

Going forward, ODEW has ensured that communication will be sent to all sponsors, operators, and treasurers offering specific guidance and open office hour opportunities.

Legal Department

Governing Authority and School Leader Timelines

St. Aloysius and Charter School Specialists strive to provide transparent oversight and proactive assistance to our sponsored schools. In order to help governing authorities and school leaders plan for a successful year, we have put together an annual timeline of important deadlines. The timeline is not intended to be an all-inclusive list but rather a list representing some of the significant items that governing authorities and school leaders should be actively monitoring. You will find the timeline [HERE](#) as well as on our website. We also have a link in this Sponsor Connection Newsletter and will continue to have this timeline in each monthly sponsor connection for the remainder of the school year.

Sponsor Policy Reminder

As required by the Ohio Department of Education and the Sponsor Evaluation System, Charter School Specialists is providing this annual reminder of the intervention policies in place to comply with the Ohio Revised Code sections. R.C. §3314.023 requires sponsors to provide monitoring, oversight, and technical assistance to community schools. R.C. §3314.023(E) states that this shall include "taking steps to intervene in the school's operation to correct problems in the school's overall performance", declaring the school to be on probationary status pursuant to section §3314.073 of the Revised Code, suspending the operation of the school pursuant to section §3314.072 of the Revised Code, terminating the contract of the school pursuant to section §3314.07 of the Revised Code, or assuming the operations of a school pursuant to Section 1.4 of the Charter Agreement as determined necessary by the sponsor.

A school may be placed on a corrective action plan, placed on probation or suspended for the following reasons:

1. Violation of rule and/or law.
2. Violation of community school contract.
3. Excessive decrease in enrollment.
4. Financial instability.
5. Organizational/Operational deficiencies.
6. Failure to respond to reasonable requests from sponsor.
7. Failure to adequately address deficiencies from the school being placed on probation; and
8. Failure to make adequate academic progress or meet local report card measures.
9. Other Good Cause as identified by the sponsor.

Additionally, R.C. §3314.072 allows a sponsor to terminate a contract prior to its expiration if the sponsor has suspended the operation of the contract.

Charter School Specialists has developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) that outline the responsibilities of the school leader, management company (if applicable), governing authority counsel, governing authority president and other personnel related to intervention. The SOPs are available at any time on the Charter School Specialists website. By clicking the links, you may review the Intervention Process, the Community School Non-Renewal Process, the Community School Termination Process, and the School Closure Process SOPs.

A link to all of the available St. Aloysius and Charter School Specialists SOPs can be found [HERE](#).

Roles and Responsibilities

As we approach the 2025 – 2026 school year, we want to take this opportunity to highlight the important roles and responsibilities that each stakeholder has in making every community school successful, accountable, and responsive to student and family needs. As this year brings many new challenges, we are confident that all of the members of our Charter School Specialists' family will work together to ensure that students across the state of Ohio have access to high performing community schools.

The document titled "[Unique Roles Defined in Ohio's Community School System](#)" clearly lays out the responsibilities of each entity involved with our community schools. This document and the roles will be covered in a training to be released this summer. We will send a notification when this training becomes available and after that date this training will be available on our website for all of those who were not able to attend.

We all have a role in maintaining high standards for school performance, ensuring school autonomy, and protecting the interests of taxpayers and students. Our schools need to be able to answer these questions:

1. Is the educational program of the school a success?
2. Is the school financially viable?
3. Is the organization operated effectively?

Understanding the roles and responsibilities covered in the resources provided here will help us to answer those important questions.

Prior to the start of the school year, we will be emailing to all of our Governing Authority members and school leaders a training regarding the contract that will delineate the roles and responsibilities of the school. This training will also be available on our website for you to review.

Thank you for the work you do for your school, and we wish everyone a successful 2025-2026 school year.

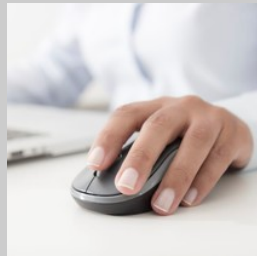
Federal Programs

Usually, July is not a busy month for Federal Programs. However, this year schools will be extremely busy resubmitting their One Funding Application (Consolidated Grant Application). All schools should have submitted their Title I application by June 30th. Once ODEW receives the other entitlement grant numbers from the Department of Education, ODEW will return the applications to schools with the other grant allocations loaded (Title II, Title III, Title IV, IDEA, ECSE). Please note that if you did not take Title I funds last year, you will not receive a Title IV allocation. Title IV is only given to schools who received Title I funds in the prior year.

There have been some bugs/programming issues in ODEW's new One Funding Application. This is a common occurrence when a new platform is created and opened for the first time. Please know that ODEW only knows there is an issue with the One Funding Application, when they hear from the schools. Our office has been in daily contact with ODEW to identify issues as they are discovered. If you have any difficulty with the system not operating correctly, please feel free to contact ODEW directly, or email Nannette Sherman. We will work with ODEW to resolve system issues.

In preparation for the coming school year, please remember to conduct a physical inventory of items that were purchased with federal funds. Schools are required to conduct physical inventories at least every two years. Be sure to note the date the inventory was completed on the inventory document. Also, as your school hires new paraprofessionals, please ensure that they meet the federal requirements by having one met one of the following criteria: have an associate degree or higher from an accredited college or university, have certified transcripts showing 2 years of college-level coursework from an accredited college or university, or receive a passing score on the state's paraprofessional exam. Any paraprofessional not having met one of these criteria may not work with any students at a Title I Schoolwide school. If your school is operating a Targeted Assistance Title I Program, then paraprofessionals that have not met at least one of the criteria may not work in the Title I Program but may work with students in some other capacity. Schools must document how each paraprofessional has met the criteria at schools receiving Title I funds.

Please contact Nannette Sherman with any questions regarding federal programs at: nsherman@charterschoolspec.com.



Restraint and Seclusion Reporting Deadline is August 8

This is a reminder that the annual restraint and seclusion data collection for the 2024-2025 school year closes on August 8th.

[Directions](#) for completing the data collection, [frequently asked questions](#), and additional guidance and forms are available on the Department's [restraint and seclusion webpage](#).

Direct questions to [PBIS Restraint Seclusion Questions@education.ohio.gov](mailto:PBIS_Restraint_Seclusion_Questions@education.ohio.gov).

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