



SPONSOR CONNECTION

OCTOBER 2025

Latest News for St. Aloysius Sponsored Schools

Reminders

10/10: 3 Year Forecast due to sponsor
10/24: School Annual Reports due to sponsor
10/24: School Annual Budget due to sponsor
10/24: Spec Ed Expenditure report due to sponsor
10/31: School Annual Reports due to Parents/Guardians
11/1: [T-1 Report](#) due



FY25-26 Governing Authority and School Leader Timeline

Click the link below to access the the timeline.

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

Charter School Specialists Staff Directory

Click on the link: [CSS Staff Directory](#)



Review OEDS Email Addresses for Time-Sensitive Transportation Notifications

The Transportation Enforcement Management (TEM) system sends critical notifications to the emails in the Ohio Educational Directory System (OEDS). Community schools providing transportation should review their OEDS email addresses accordingly.

New Work-based Learning Tool Coming to OhioMeansJobs K-12

Educators can choose from one of four upcoming training sessions designed to help them support students using the new work-based learning tool in OhioMeansJobs K-12. These sessions offer hands-on experience to make it easy to integrate the tool into any classroom or program.

Register [HERE](#).

Cell Phone Policy Must be Adopted by January 1, 2026



New legislation passed in the state budget requires every school district to adopt a policy prohibiting student cell phone use during the school day. This policy must be in place by Jan. 1, 2026. These cell phone restrictions do have some exceptions, including monitoring health concerns.

Research shows that restricting cell phone use in school reduces bullying, especially among students ages 13-16, and improves student focus, helps students connect with their peers, and positively affects the

overall school climate.

Many districts that have already implemented cell phone policies report promising results and feedback. Students are more present in their learning, more connected, and more engaged. We encourage all districts that do not have policies in place to act swiftly.

To support your efforts, the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce has developed administrative guidance, a model local policy, and resources for families. Find these tools at education.ohio.gov/cellphones.

Setting expectations now can help set the tone for a positive school year ahead. Clear communication between schools and families is essential, so parents understand the important role they play in their child's learning and academic development. It's just as important for students to be active in taking ownership of their learning. The more students can have focused and meaningful school experiences, the better positioned they will be to achieve their learning goals.

Legal Department

Management Company Evaluations Due October 30

As we settle into the new school year, this is a quick reminder that your Management Company Evaluations for the 2024–2025 school year are due to CSS by Thursday, October 30, 2025.

Per Section 3.2 of your sponsorship contract, each governing authority is required to complete an annual evaluation of its management company and submit the report to the sponsor.

These evaluations should be created by the Governing Authority, tailored specifically to your school, and submitted via email to Nate Tyler at: ntyler@charterschoolspec.com. If you have any questions or need support in preparing your evaluation, please feel free to reach out to your board counsel.

Community School Enrollment and Attendance

As in previous years, the Ohio Auditor of State (AOS) may conduct random enrollment, and attendance checks at community schools. These surprise audits are designed to verify that schools are accurately reporting student attendance and enrollment data to the Ohio Department of Education, which directly impacts state funding.

To support this effort, the AOS has requested that sponsors continue to actively monitor the enrollment and attendance of each contracted school. Community schools are kindly asked to submit the following documentation for the dates: October 3rd, 9th, 15th, and 21st:

- Classroom attendance printouts (from the system used to report attendance to the state, such as DAL or PowerSchool)
- Student sign-in sheets (for Dropout Recovery Schools)
- Lunch count forms (if lunch is provided on those dates)

Please make sure all documents are submitted by October 30, 2025.

Federal Programs

There is still time to register for the Ohio Association of Administrators of State and Federal Education Programs (OAASFEP) Fall Conference. The conference takes place on October 27-28 at the Hilton in Easton. To register follow this link: [OAASFEP Fall Conference Registration](#).

Please remember to complete your school's federal grants application in CCIP. Although schools completed the One Funding Application in June, ODEW decided to put the One Funding Application's roll-out on a delay, and re-instated CCIP as the system for grant applications. These two systems are not linked; therefore, even though schools completed the One Funding Application, they must still go into CCIP and complete the grant applications in this system. As a reminder, the last day to submit PCRs for FY25 is December 15 and the FERs for FY2025 are due on December 31. Keep in mind that this extension for the FERs will impact the distribution of the carryover funds usually distributed after FERs are final approved.

October is a great time to hold the required Title I Parent Meeting. This meeting is an opportunity to explain to parents and community partners the programs and activities that are being supported with these federal funds. ODEW provides this template for the meeting: [Annual Title I Meeting-Agenda Template](#)

If you have any questions or concerns regarding federal programs, please contact Nannette Sherman at nsherman@charterschoolspec.com or 740-607-9174.

Special Education Reminders



St. Aloysius remains deeply committed to ensuring that all students with disabilities receive specially designed instruction from qualified and properly licensed Intervention Specialists. Both federal and state law clearly define the qualifications required for individuals serving in these critical roles.

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce has made it clear that IDEA funds may not be used to compensate individuals who hold only a general education substitute license. These funds may only be used for substitute teachers under specific circumstances—when the substitute is serving as a long-term replacement for a properly licensed Intervention Specialist.

It is important to note that:

- A substitute license holder cannot be hired to fill an Intervention Specialist position.
- An individual with a substitute license may only serve as a substitute when covering for a licensed Intervention Specialist who is the teacher of record.

Additionally, schools are required to ensure that students with disabilities are served by appropriately licensed Intervention Specialists. While Ohio offers some flexibility in licensure requirements for general education teachers, this flexibility does not extend to special education.

To remain in compliance:

- Schools must employ one licensed Intervention Specialist for every 16 students with an IEP in grades K–8.
- Schools must employ one licensed Intervention Specialist for every 24 students with an IEP in grades 9–12.

Failure to maintain proper licensure or meet staffing ratios (1:16 for K–8 and 1:24 for high school) may result in the issuance of a Corrective Action Plan.

Thank you for your continued commitment to ensuring that all students receive the high-quality, legally compliant support they deserve. If you have any questions, please contact Erica at (785) 289-3039 or emcmillon@charterschoolspec.com.

College and Career Readiness Corner

When we think about student success, we often picture graduation and the achievement of earning an Ohio diploma. While that milestone is a significant indicator of success, graduation is not an end point—it is a launching pad. For each student, true success lies in being prepared for what comes next, whether that means entering the workforce, pursuing postsecondary education, enlisting in the military, starting an apprenticeship, or combining several of these pathways. Helping students realize their own definition of a “good life” begins long before graduation—it starts the moment they walk into kindergarten.

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce's [Career Connections Framework](#) is an invaluable resource for K-12 educators, students, and families in supporting this vision. The framework scaffolds career development across grade levels—fostering career awareness in the early grades, career exploration in middle school, and career preparation in high school. With its tools, strategies, and instructional materials, Career Connections helps schools seamlessly embed developmentally appropriate career education throughout a student's academic journey.

One powerful component of the Career Connections Framework is [INFOhio's Open Space](#) platform, which houses a wide range of career-related lessons and activities designed for use across disciplines. Many of these resources are aligned with Ohio's Learning Standards, making them easy to integrate into existing instruction. Educators are encouraged not only to explore and utilize these resources but also to join the Open Space Community—sharing their own career-focused lessons and activities to strengthen opportunities for all students.

2025-2026 Compliance Process Update

As the calendar turns to Fall, our attention in the compliance department has turned to the Fall/Winter Review and beyond. Each school leader has received their initial email with the details of the process for the year. We started with the collection of required documents for the beginning of the year (Opening Assurances), we are now on to the bulk of the collection (Fall/Winter Review and On-Site Review), and in the Spring we will collect additional information during the Spring Survey.

We will again send updates to each governing authority of any outstanding items that are needed in February and April. The February and April updates are simply to make sure everyone has the same understanding of the items that are still outstanding. The end of the compliance season will

again be April 30. In May, each school will receive their Annual Compilation Report which will include the Annual Compliance Report. If a school still has outstanding compliance items due at the beginning of May, an Intervention Letter indicating what is still outstanding will be issued. Any items not submitted by the date indicated in the Intervention Letter will need to be addressed in a CAP response approved by the Governing Authority. The goal of this process is to ensure there are no surprises at the end of the year.

While changes from HB8 (Parents Bill of Rights) and HB 96 (2025 Budget Bill) likely require some policy updates, a few noted changes to the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce's compliance worksheet include:

- All cell phone policies need to be updated to prohibit their use during the school day with a few exceptions.
- Grades 9-12- Student ID cards/student planners/ electronic portals must include the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.
- Instruction that includes sexuality content has additional requirements.

To review the compliance process please see the [25-26 Compliance Process Training document](#). 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 do not hesitate to reach out to your compliance coordinator or Brian Dunbar (bdunbar@charterschoolspec.com) should you have any questions.

6.4b Intervention Status Notifications Released

In September 2025, schools received their 6.4b intervention status notifications for the 2025-2026 school year. These determinations were based on the recently released 2024-2025 Local Report Card data and reviewed by the School Improvement team.

The 6.4b process provides a structured framework for school improvement and accountability. It ensures that schools identified as needing additional support take actionable steps toward improving academic outcomes, with guidance and resources provided by their sponsor.

- K-12 Schools: Intervention levels are tied to Local Report Card star ratings. Schools falling below the minimum thresholds enter Level 1 interventions, with the potential to move through higher levels if performance challenges continue.
- Dropout Prevention and Recovery Schools: Intervention status is based on the Overall School Rating. Schools rated "Does Not Meet Standards" begin at Level 1 interventions, with escalating requirements for consecutive years of lower performance.

Through this process, the goal is to deliver timely, targeted support to schools while maintaining accountability for continuous improvement.

For questions about the 6.4b process or your school's status, please contact Jennifer Heyman at jheyman@charterschoolspec.com or Molly Warmke at mwarmke@charterschoolspec.com.

YouthBuild is Making it Happen!

YouthBuild Columbus Community School's Department of Labor construction student participants are making a powerful impact on the Stambaugh neighborhood through the full-scale renovation of a single-family home. As part of their hands-on learning experience, these students embraced the challenge of transforming a vacant property into a safe, beautiful, and affordable residence for a low-income family.

Over the course of the project, students gained real-world experience in every aspect of residential renovation—including demolition, framing, drywall installation, plumbing, electrical work, flooring, painting, and exterior improvements. Guided by skilled instructors and industry professionals, participants not only acquired valuable construction skills but also developed a strong sense of pride and ownership in helping to rebuild their community.

In recognition of their efforts and commitment to workforce development, Department of Labor YouthBuild participants were compensated \$15 per hour while working on the Stambaugh job site.

This initiative is more than a job-training program, it's a movement of neighborhood revitalization. By bringing new life to this home, these young builders are laying the foundation for a brighter, more inclusive Stambaugh. Their work exemplifies the mission of YouthBuild: to empower young people through education, vocational training, and service to their communities.

Once complete, the home will be sold to a low-income family—and notably, three of the YouthBuild participants who helped renovate it have expressed interest in purchasing the home they helped restore themselves. That's an impact you can see, inside and out.