



SPONSOR CONNECTION FEBRUARY 2026

Latest News for St. Aloysius Sponsored Schools

Reminders

2/20: Financial Forecast due to sponsor

2/27: Registration closes for [Military Signing Day](#)



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 Directory](#)

2025–2026 Professional Development Catalog

This year's catalog features a comprehensive lineup of upcoming professional development sessions, on-demand learning opportunities, and additional trainings designed to support school leaders, teachers, and our valued partners.

Access the catalog:

[2025-2026 Professional Development Catalog](#)

We encourage you to explore the catalog and share it with your teams. If you have any questions or would like to request customized professional development, please contact Molly Warmke at mwarmke@charterschoolspec.com.

Department of Education and Workforce's Science of Reading Refresher Course

Under [Ohio law](#), teachers, administrators, school psychologists, and speech language pathologists are required to take the Department of Education and Workforce's forthcoming refresher course in the Science of Reading. Note that the refresher course will consist of two modules. Please see the Department's [Science of Reading Professional Development webpage](#) for module information and completion timelines. Please direct all questions to ReadOhio@education.ohio.gov.

Registration Open for Resident Educator Program Coordinator Regional Network Meetings

Registration is now open for the February Resident Educator Program Coordinator Regional Network meetings. The State Board of Education is hosting two virtual regional meetings to bring program coordinators together to engage with colleagues, share insights and strategies for program implementation, and hear from the Resident Educator Program staff. Participants can choose to attend ONE of the following meeting dates:

- February 17, 2026 - 9-11:30 a.m.
- February 19, 2026 - 9-11:30 a.m.

Educators may register for either one of the dates as the same content will be shared at both meetings. [Register here](#) by February 10. Registered participants will receive an email containing meeting access information one week prior to the meeting date. Confirmation is not generated at registration.

For questions, email REProgram@SBOE.ohio.gov. For additional information, please visit the [Program Coordinators webpage](#).



Digital Learning Office Hours

Digital Learning Office Hours is a monthly opportunity for collaboration, discussion, and support in the area of digital education.

Sessions will be held on the first Tuesday of each month from 9:00-10:00am.

These informal sessions are open to building leaders, teachers, and management company representatives who are interested in exploring all aspects of digital learning. Whether you represent an e-school, a blended learning environment, or are simply looking to learn more about best practices in digital instruction, these sessions are designed for you.

Join us to ask questions, network with colleagues, share effective practices, and stay informed about the latest updates from the Department of Education and Workforce.

To receive the meeting link, please contact Andrea Dobbins at adobbins@charterschoolspec.com.

Celebrating Our Schools: Quality Community School Support Fund Awards

We are proud to congratulate 34 of our schools on being awarded funding through the ODEW Quality Community School Support Fund. Collectively, these schools received approximately \$25 million in additional resources to support high-quality instruction, strong organizational practices, and improved student outcomes.

The Quality Community School Support Fund is designed to recognize and invest in community schools that demonstrate strong academic performance and operational quality. These funds will help schools continue building sustainable systems, strengthening student supports, and expanding opportunities for success across their communities.

We are excited to celebrate the following schools for this significant achievement:

- Bella Academy of Excellence
- Broadway Academy
- Cincinnati Classical Academy
- Cleveland Sports Academy
- Cliff Park High School
- Cornerstone Academy Community School
- Cypress High School
- Franklinton Prep High School
- Ginn-Thompson Academy for Girls
- Harvard Avenue Performance Academy
- Heart of Ohio Classical Academy

- Hinckley Preparatory
- Liberty High School
- Marshall High School
- Monroe Preparatory Academy
- Mosaic Classical Academy
- Mount Auburn Preparatory Academy
- New Richmond Preparatory
- Niles Preparatory Academy
- Northeast Ohio Classical Academy
- Northwest Classical
- Orchard Park Academy
- Patriot Preparatory Academy
- Randall Park High School
- Richard Allen Academy
- South Columbus Preparatory Academy at German Village
- South Columbus Preparatory Academy at Southfield
- Southeast Ohio Classical Academy
- STEAM Academy of Warren
- Towpath Trail High School
- West Cleveland Drop Back In dba Frederick Douglass High
- YB Columbus Community School
- Zenith Academy East
- Zenith Academy West

Congratulations to each of these school communities on this well-deserved recognition. We look forward to seeing the continued impact of this investment on students, families, and staff across Ohio.

One Plan Development Day – February 20, 2026

Charter School Specialists invites school teams to attend the One Plan Development Day on Friday, February 20, 2026, from 9:00a.m. to 4:00p.m. at the OCLC Conference Center. This full-day, in-person professional learning opportunity is designed to support schools in making meaningful progress on their One Plan, the foundation of school improvement in Ohio.

During this interactive, team-based session, schools will analyze data, identify root causes, and develop actionable goals, with dedicated time built in for teams to apply learning directly to their work. Participants will also have access to expert support tables offering evidence-based strategies in key areas, including literacy and math, engagement, and attendance, MTSS, college and career pathways, and special education.

While all schools are welcome, Cohort 3 schools will receive priority registration as their One Plans are due to ODEW by April 30, 2026. Registration is \$90 per person and includes lunch. Schools may use applicable federal funds, including Title I, II, III, IV, and IDEA, to cover registration costs. Space is limited, and early registration is encouraged.

For more information, and to register, please click on the following link: [One Plan Development Day Registration Form](#).



Frederick Douglass High School Euclid Campus Receives Generous \$5,000 Welding Education Donation from AIRGAS

Frederick Douglass High School's Euclid Campus is celebrating an exciting milestone in its growing Career Tech programs. On December 5, 2025, Construction and Manufacturing students received a generous \$5,000 donation from AIRGAS through their High School Welding Education Initiative, a highly competitive national program that supports hands-on welding education for youth.

These funds will directly support the continued development of the school's new Welding and Metal Working Lab—an innovative space currently being built by the Construction pathway students themselves. As interest in welding continues to rise among students, this lab will give them the opportunity to explore a skilled trade that leads to stable, high-demand careers.

The AIRGAS donation includes steel materials for constructing the first three full-size welding booths, weld curtains, fume extractors, and a complete class set of welding helmets. These essential items will allow students to safely practice real-world welding techniques and gain exposure to the tools and environments they may encounter in future employment.

"This initiative will open doors for our students for years to come," shared Matt Dings, Construction Teacher, who played a pivotal role in securing the donation. Selected from more than 1,000 applicants nationwide, Dings applied to AIRGAS's competitive program on behalf of the school—a testament to his dedication to expanding opportunities for his students.

Students across the Euclid Campus have expressed excitement about learning in a hands-on, industry-aligned environment. With support from AIRGAS and the leadership of teachers like Dings, Frederick Douglass High School continues to build meaningful pathways that connect students to in-demand careers.

Oakmont Education extends its deepest gratitude to AIRGAS for investing in the future of our students and for helping us create a cutting-edge learning space that will benefit generations to come.

as published in Oakmont Education's January Newsletter

Federal Programs

Federal Consolidated Entitlement Grants Required Documentation

Federal consolidated entitlement grants have specific requirements and schools need to be able to document that the requirements have been met. One of the first requirements is that the school has stakeholder participation in the Title programs development. One way to get stakeholder participation is to give each stakeholder group a survey. Our website has sample surveys available. Schools also must document the annually required Parent Title I Meeting. While an agenda can serve to document the topics discussed at the meeting, it does not serve as documentation of attendance. Whenever holding meetings, it is best to have sign-in sheets to serve as evidence. A written list of attendees does not serve as evidence that the named person attended. Having a sign-in sheet and requiring each attendee to sign-in provides evidence

that meets the federal requirements. Evidence of the grant implementation must be kept for three years beyond the grant's funding. For example, for this school year FY26, the funds are available for 27 months, or from July 1, 2025-September 30, 2027. Therefore, documentation from this fiscal year must be kept until September 30, 2030.

If you have questions or need assistance with federal programs, please contact Nannette Sherman at nsherman@charterschoolspec.com.

College and Career Readiness Corner



It is no secret that Ohio's Office of Workforce Transformation's mission to connect Ohio's business, training, and education communities to build a dynamically skilled, productive, and purposeful workforce has had a significant impact on funding and supporting many initiatives to meet this mission. For Ohio's schools, expansion of career-technical education opportunities and access to these pathways along with building bridges between the K-12 education and the business community has created multiple opportunities for students to train and get credentialed to meet the current and future Ohio workforce needs. This month, we feature several of those initiatives that can assist schools in preparing youth for success in the new economy.

[Career Pathway Resources](#)

In addition to resources for Counselors & Teachers, Parents, and Businesses, the Career Pathways Toolkit features the many positive outcomes that can be realized through College Credit Plus, Industry Recognized Credentials, Career-Technical Education, and Pre-Apprenticeships.

[Individual Microcredential Assistance Program \(IMAP\)](#)

This initiative helps Ohioans participate in a training program to receive a credential at no cost. This can include high school students entering their junior or senior year. These free and mostly online training programs are available in Business Technology, Construction Technology, Healthcare Technology Information Technology, Cybersecurity, Manufacturing Technology, Military and Smart Transportation, and Robotics/Automation.

[Ohio's Teacher Bootcamp Program](#)

This initiative provides tuition reimbursements to Ohio teachers who want to up-skill themselves in areas such as Advanced Manufacturing, Artificial Intelligence, Broadband and 5G, Cybersecurity, Healthcare, Transportation, as well as other trade areas. The Bootcamp is available to K-12 Teachers.

If you would like to learn more about the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation, you can find it at [Learn More](#).

As always, if you are in need of technical assistance in navigating the new CTE program, or renewal CTE program process, do not hesitate to reach out to CSS's Director of College and Career Readiness at bross@charterschoolspec.com

Complete 2026 Federal Quota Registration of Blind Students by February 27

The [Assistive Technology and Accessible Educational Materials \(AT&AEM\) Center](#) at OCALI, on behalf of the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, securely emailed the annual [Federal Quota Registration of Blind Students](#) to all Ohio school districts and community schools on Dec. 15, 2025. This email requested that all Ohio districts and community schools electronically register every eligible blind student attending their district by Feb. 27. All eligible preschool, homebound, homeschooled, scholarship, and adult students should be included.

Districts or community schools that serve students with visual impairments are reminded of the importance of providing students with accessible educational materials (audio, braille, digital, and large print textbooks, and educational aids). The Federal Quota registration generates supplemental funds for registered students that the AT&AEM Center utilizes to purchase supplemental accessible educational materials at the district's request from the American Printing House for the Blind.

Each registered student must meet eligibility guidelines. A signed parent permission form must be kept on file at the student's school district of attendance.

Visit the [AT&AEM Center's website](#) to learn more about the Federal Quota eligibility requirements. Please pay particular attention to these guidelines, as there is another classification for eligibility which allows students who meet the IDEA definition of a student with a visual impairment to also be registered.

The 2026 Federal Quota Registration of Blind Students must be completed online through the AT&AEM Center's [web portal](#) and electronically signed by the superintendent by Feb. 27. Students **will not be registered** if the superintendent does not log onto the web portal to submit their electronic signature.

Direct questions regarding the registration eligibility or process to fqaemsupport@ataem.org.

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