



# SPONSOR CONNECTION JUNE 2026

Latest News for St. Aloysius Sponsored Schools

## Reminders

- 6/3: CFG and CSP [office hours](#)
- 6/3: Report card training session: [Secure Data Center \(date option #2\)](#)
- 6/3-4: [2026 ReadOhio Literacy Academy and Literacy Academy for Teacher Leaders](#)
- 6/10: CFG and CSP [office hours](#)
- 6/12: [Applications close](#) for Fiscal Year 2027 Career-Technical Education (CTE) Access Grant
- 6/12: [Applications close](#) for Charter Schools Program (CSP) Grant and the Charter School Facilities Incentive Grant (CFG)
- 6/15: ED STEPS [One Funding Application final expenditure report webinar](#)
- 6/17: ED STEPS [General One Funding Application overview webinars](#)
- 6/30: Transcripts & Diplomas Due to Sponsor
- 6/30: School Transportation Surveys Due to Sponsor
- 7/1: Deadline to adopt [formal AI policies](#)
- 7/1: Complete [Community School Gifted Performance Indicator opt-in form](#)
- 7/15: Final day to [submit Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid and Student Wellness and Success Funds report](#)



## 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](#)

## 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](mailto:mwarmke@charterschoolspec.com).



## Reminder: ODEW Has Posted the 2026-2027 List of Approved Assessments

This list provides state-approved assessments in the following areas:

- Tier 1 Dyslexia Screening
- Alternative Standardized Assessment for the Third Grade Reading Guarantee
- Alternative Standardized Assessment for Grades 3-8 (for Chartered Nonpublic Schools)
- Alternative High School Assessment for Graduation (for Chartered Nonpublic Schools)
- High-Quality Student Data
- Gifted Prescreening and Identification

Applicable to the 2026-2027 school year, this list and detailed information are available at the [List of Approved Assessments](#) page on the Department’s website.

The K-3 Diagnostics are not included on the list, but are also available on the List of Approved Assessments page.

If you have questions, please call (614) 466-1317 or email [ApprovedAssessments@education.ohio.gov](mailto:ApprovedAssessments@education.ohio.gov).

## Background Check Reminders

Candidates applying for their first license, or after a gap in licensure, should plan to complete all [background check requirements](#) before or at the same time they submit their licensure application since getting the full background check results, including rapsheets or other BCI documentation stemming from failed or rejected fingerprints, can take up to 60 days or more. Additionally, the State Board of Education team cannot review submitted applications until our agency has received required background checks.



## Schools can now opt in to offer college admission directly to eligible students

Until July 15, schools can opt in to the K-12 Ohio Direct Admission program, an opportunity to proactively offer college admission to eligible students at participating high schools.

[Opt in now](#)

## Legal Department - Contract Modifications

As summer approaches and schools begin to contemplate operations for the next school year, we wanted to take some time to review our Contract Modification procedures. If a school is making one of the following changes, it must go through the Contract Modification Process:

- changing the name of the school;
- adding an annex to the school;
- adding a satellite location to the school
- changing the location of the school;

- changing the lease terms/extending the lease of the school;
- changing/extending the management agreement of the school;
- changing the management company of the school;
- adding grades to the school; or
- changing the education plan of the school;

Additionally, if the school makes any changes to the attachments of the contract, it must also follow the contract modification process.

If a school is interested in making a contract modification listed above, the school should submit a request for a contract modification on the forms provided by CSS. The forms can be found here:

[Request to Relocate Add Facility Extend Lease Form](#);  
[Management Company Change Application Form](#);  
[Request to Add a Grade Change Ed Plan Form](#);  
[Request to Change Name of School Form](#)

The requested modification will be reviewed and **must be approved prior to making any changes to the school**. Once the change has been approved, CSS will provide an email that: 1) identifies the documents needed; 2) includes an Amendment to the Contract; and 3) requests a signed resolution/meeting minutes approving the resolution by the Governing Authority approving the change. The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce requires for all modification uploads that there are minutes showing a resolution was approved or a signed resolution. Once all of the documents and the resolution/minutes have been received, Charter School Specialists will submit the required documents to the Ohio Department of Education and provide notification to the school that the modification process has been completed. Once the school has been notified that the modification process has been completed, the school should make any applicable changes in OEDS.

*\*Contract modifications cannot be effective until the contract modification has been approved and submitted to the Ohio Department of Education.*

*\*The school cannot make a change in OEDS without the modification having been uploaded first.*

## Thank You and Best Wishes to Barbara Murphy and Daniel Willenborg



As we wrap up another successful school year, we would like to recognize and celebrate two respected members of the Charter School Specialists School Improvement Team as they begin their retirements: Barbara Murphy and Daniel Willenborg.

Barbara concludes a distinguished career in education that spans more than three decades. Her professional journey has included leadership and instructional roles in urban education, curriculum development, school administration, and federal programs. Over the years, she has supported educators and students as a teacher, principal, curriculum leader, and consultant working alongside several large Ohio school districts. Barb also shared her knowledge in higher education by teaching courses focused on urban education and curriculum at the college level. Throughout her career, she has remained deeply committed to ensuring all students have access to meaningful educational opportunities and support for success.

Daniel Willenborg retires after dedicating more than 30 years to educational leadership and school improvement. Much of his career was spent with Livonia Public Schools in Michigan, where he served as both a longtime high school principal and later as a district-level administrator overseeing secondary schools and career-technical education programs. In those roles, he helped guide instructional leadership and district operations while serving on the superintendent's leadership team. Before entering education, Dan served as an officer in the United States Marine Corps, bringing a strong sense of leadership and service to every stage of his career. During his time with CSS, he has been known for his thoughtful guidance, professionalism, and commitment to supporting schools and students.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Barb and Dan for the experience, leadership, and dedication they brought to Charter School Specialists and the schools they served. We wish them both a rewarding retirement filled with family, travel, relaxation, and many new opportunities ahead.

## Federal Programs

Along with the warmer weather, June also means it is time to make sure that all the required activities for accepting federal funds are completed. Every two years, schools are required to complete an inventory of all the items purchased with federal funds. As a reminder, include the date of the latest review on the inventory. Schools must also complete the assigned type of monitoring review, onsite, desk or self-review. These reviews must be completed by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Perhaps one of the most exciting activities for June is completing the budget applications for the coming school year! Please note that for the FY27 grant applications there will be two types of applications. CCIP will be used for the consolidated grant applications, Title I, Title II, Title III, Title IV, IDEA and ECSE (Early Childhood Special Education). If your school receives competitive grants, or the Title I Non-Competitive Supplemental School Improvement grants, you will complete these grants applications in the One Funding Application. Remember that the One Funding Application can be found in the OHID platform under ED STEPS.

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

Some of you may have attended the May 12, Ohio Department of Education and Workforce's (ODEW) Industry Recognized Credential Redesign Town Hall where Graham Wood and team laid out the rationale, plan, and timeline for the release of the new credential list. The foundational components of the redesign are:

- Do employers value the credential(s) and are student outcomes improved by earning the credential(s).
- Do the credentials link to specific jobs, wages, and in-demand skills.
- Does earning the credential(s) lead to higher pay, steady employment, and further education.
- Is the credential(s) aligned to Ohio's workforce priorities.
- Will the credential approval process be adaptable over time with new labor market data.

Additionally, the Department is working hard at balancing the needs of stakeholders (Workforce-Schools) with this redesign. Specifically, Rigor and Access, Clarity and Complexity, and Ambition-Feasibility. Click [HERE](#) to see graph.

The Department shared that the new list of ODEW industry recognized credentials will be released in June of 2026 with the graduation cohort of 2030 (Freshman 26-27 school year) having the ability to use the revised list as a pathway to graduation. Click [HERE](#) to see proposed timeline below.

ODEW acknowledges that this change will mean significant changes for schools and districts, and while the Department will be supporting schools and districts through this transition, we want to assure you know Charter School Specialists (CSS) will be ready to support our schools in implementing the credential redesign changes.

Stay tuned for more information, as CSS will be communicating updates as they become available.

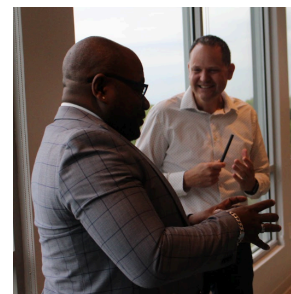
### Transcript Requests and School Responsibility

This is a friendly reminder for high schools to promptly respond to transcript requests and diligently search for the requested records. The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (ODEW) has received multiple complaints from former students, military recruiters, and colleges regarding unresponsive schools or claims that records cannot be found. The complaints are then forwarded to the sponsor.

It's important for schools to maintain comprehensive student records, including those that may be archived or were transferred when the school changed operators or locations. Remember, the records are tied to the school's IRN, not the school's name. If a school changes operators, locations, and names, the student records are to be transferred with the school. Current operators should coordinate with the former operator for a timely and organized transfer of records. Proper organization is key, and schools should adhere to their retention schedules. If there are boxes of records in storage that have not been reviewed since they were transferred from the prior school/operator or location, it's essential to sort through them, remove documents that no longer need to be kept, and create an accessible filing system. Keep in mind that transcripts are required to be kept indefinitely. For some schools this can be a monumental task, but it is necessary and ultimately the school's responsibility.

If a school has thoroughly searched for a graduate's transcript but cannot locate it, they should offer the requester a graduation verification letter. In some cases, they can be referred to ODEW for a graduation verification, but the individual must have graduated beginning with FY2007; anything prior to that, ODEW cannot verify. This action should only be taken as a last resort.

Also, there have been several instances of former students reaching out to the school for transcripts, only to be informed incorrectly that the school has no student records or any affiliation to the school under its previous name or operator. The school staff instead forwards these students to the sponsor for assistance in locating their transcripts. It is crucial to emphasize that the sponsor does not have access to older transcripts from schools that have not closed. It is essential to ensure that the staff are well-trained in handling requests from former students in these scenarios or to designate specific staff members as the contacts for such requests.



### FusionEd Hosts 2026 Impact Summit

FusionEd recently welcomed school leaders, partners, and stakeholders to its 2026 Impact Summit held on Friday, May 1, 2026, at First Merchants Bank. The event served as an opportunity to reflect on organizational growth, discuss future initiatives, and highlight the work taking place across FusionEd schools. CSS's Brian Dunbar and Molly Warmke were also in attendance throughout the day.

The summit featured presentations from members of the FusionEd leadership team, each sharing perspectives on the organization's direction, evolving educational landscape, and continued efforts to support student success.

Jamie Panganiban, Chief Executive Officer, opened the event by discussing FusionEd's mission and long-term vision. Jim Blair, Founder and Board Member, provided insight into the organization's ongoing development and future focus areas, while Board Chairman Jeff Brownlow spoke about broader educational shifts and emerging opportunities within the field.

Additional sessions highlighted the many systems and supports that contribute to positive student outcomes. Crystal Garmon, Director of School Operations, shared information about operational and student-centered support efforts, and Tammy Shoup, Chief Academic Officer, discussed instructional approaches, academic expectations, and classroom learning experiences across the network.

Attendees also viewed a student-centered video presentation featuring personal stories and experiences from students impacted by the work of FusionEd schools.

The event reinforced FusionEd's dedication to collaboration, innovation, and creating meaningful educational experiences that support students, families, and school communities.

Photos included with this article were provided by FusionEd.

## Charter Schools Program Grant Supports Community School Growth and Expansion

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce continues to offer funding opportunities through the [Charter Schools Program \(CSP\) Grant](#) to support the development, replication, and expansion of high-quality community schools throughout the state.

The CSP Grant is designed to assist eligible schools during critical stages of planning and growth. Funding may help support startup costs, implementation activities, and expansion efforts that strengthen educational opportunities for students and families. The program is intended to encourage innovation while supporting schools in building sustainable, high-quality learning environments.

Eligible applicants are encouraged to review available grant options, timelines, and application requirements to determine how the program may support their school's future goals and initiatives. Schools considering expansion or the development of new educational programming, may find this opportunity particularly valuable.

Additional information, eligibility details, and application resources are available on the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce website. Questions regarding the grant may be directed to: [CommunitySchoolGrants@education.ohio.gov](mailto:CommunitySchoolGrants@education.ohio.gov).

## School Facilities Incentive Grant Now Available for Community Schools

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce is offering a new funding opportunity aimed at helping community schools address facility needs and improve learning spaces for students. The [School Facilities Incentive Grant](#) provides financial assistance to eligible schools seeking to complete projects related to their buildings and educational environments.

Funding may be used to support a variety of facility initiatives, including renovations, expansions, property improvements, and other projects that help schools create safe and functional spaces for teaching and learning. The grant opportunity reflects Ohio's ongoing focus on supporting the long-term success and sustainability of community schools across the state.

Schools considering future facility improvements are encouraged to review the program requirements and application details to determine eligibility and prepare for upcoming deadlines. This opportunity may be especially beneficial for schools planning capital improvements or exploring ways to enhance student learning environments. Additional information, eligibility guidelines, and application materials can be found on the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce website. Questions regarding the grant may be directed to [CommunitySchoolGrants@education.ohio.gov](mailto:CommunitySchoolGrants@education.ohio.gov).

## Denison University AI Summer Camp Opportunity

Denison University is offering an exciting AI Summer Camp, the Tomorrow Tech Institute, designed to introduce students in grades 9–12 to the world of artificial intelligence through engaging, hands-on learning experiences. The program will take place Monday, June 22 through Thursday, June 25, 2026, at Denison University.

Participants will explore how artificial intelligence is used in everyday life, learn foundational AI concepts, and examine the ethical and practical implications of emerging technology. This experience provides students with the opportunity to strengthen critical thinking, problem-solving, collaboration, and digital literacy skills in an interactive learning environment.

Registration Link: [Tomorrow Tech Institute Registration](#)

Additional information about this opportunity can be found [here](#).

Please consider sharing this summer opportunity with your students and families. Questions regarding the program may be directed to Lori Robbins at [robbinsl@denison.edu](mailto:robbinsl@denison.edu).

## DID YOU KNOW?



Charter School Specialists, a sponsor representative, offers federal programs support, fiscal services, and professional development to schools across Ohio.

- 📄 Guidance and Compliance Support
- 📊 Budget & fiscal expertise
- 👤 Training for educators and school leaders

Available statewide to all Ohio community schools

✉️ [CSS@charterschoolspec.com](mailto:CSS@charterschoolspec.com)