



SPONSOR CONNECTION AUGUST 2026

Latest News for St. Aloysius Sponsored Schools

Reminders

8/1: Deadline to notify district, ODEW, and sponsor of intent to transport all students from one or more districts
8/1: Deadline to adopt Online Day Plans
8/31: Deadline to submit the T2 for applicable schools



FY26-27 Governing Authority and School Leader Timeline

Click the link below to access the timeline. [Governing Authority & School Leader Timeline 26-27](#)

Charter School Specialists Staff Directory

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

Documents Required for All Interim Licenses

Interim license candidates (Interim Resident Educator and Interim Principal) must submit a position verification letter from their employing superintendent or human resources director verifying their assignment for the upcoming school year in an Ohio school with each licensure application (new and renewal). Note that educators renewing their interim license must also submit a screen shot of their final holistic annual evaluation through their CORE Dashboard with their renewal application. Review the details on the [Interim Resident Educator](#) and [Interim Principal](#) licensure webpages.

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. Getting full background check results, including rap sheets 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 the agency has received required background checks.

Legal Department

Changes to Community School Training on Public Records and Open Meetings Laws

Last November, the Auditor of State issued a Bulletin which clarified the standards that will be used by the auditors to determine if the Sunshine Law training requirements have been met. The bulletin from the auditor of state can be found here: [Auditor of State Bulletin 2025-014](#). The bulletin identifies that all Governing Authority Members, officials, and employees of a community school must annually attend a 1 hour live (virtual or in-person) session on open meetings and public records training (Sunshine Law) beginning July 1, 2026. The session must be presented by legal counsel for either the school, the sponsor, or the operator. Every person that attends the training must submit the certificate of attendance to the sponsor and to the auditor, whether it is the Auditor of State or an independent auditor.

Charter School Specialists will be hosting three (3) live virtual sessions that are available to all St. Aloysius sponsored school Governing Authority Members, officials, and employees. The sessions will be as follows:

August 25, 2026	12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
December 11, 2026	2:00 pm – 3:00 pm
April 7, 2026	4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Registration for each of these sections can be found at the following link: <https://charterschoolspec.com/webinars/>. Approximately 2 days before the scheduled session, you will receive a packet of materials and a link to the session. Each individual that attends must attend for the full length of the training and must attend the session through their own computer/log-in in order for that individual to get credit for attending the session.

Alternatively, your school's legal counsel or legal counsel for the management company may offer live sessions for you to attend. If you are not able to attend any live session that is available, you will still be able to watch the on-demand trainings offered by either the Attorney General's Office or the Auditor of State's Office and receive the credit for the Sunshine Law training. Links to the on-demand sessions can be found here:

[Attorney General's Office Training](#)
[Auditor of State's Office](#)

Federal Programs

As the new school year begins, it is a fantastic opportunity to review your school's One Plan. One Plans should reflect the school's improvement goals, strategies, and the action steps the school is taking to meet those goals. The school's leadership team and stakeholders should all review these components of the One Plan. If they believe the current One Plan continues to align with the school's goals and actions, then nothing needs to be done. On the other hand, if the team believes that adjustments to the One Plan could better address student needs based on current student data and root-causes, then the team should revise the One Plan.

The school's stakeholders should work together to determine what needs revised. We have created a One Plan Review and Revision tool to help guide the process for revising the One Plan. [CLICK HERE for tool.](#)

If your leadership team reviews the school's goals and believes they need revised, they should go to the One Needs Assessment located in ED STEPS and review their responses and the priorities that went to the Pre-Planning page. To change the One Plan goals, the One Needs Assessment's status will need to be changed to "In Progress" so that the priorities can be adjusted. Once the One Needs Assessment has been edited, the school will change the status back to "Completed" and save it. This will send changes to the One Plan. The team will then need to go into the One Plan and make any needed changes. Please note that if the school's One Plan had already received "Agency Approved" status, then the revised One Plan will not go back to ODEW for another review, unless the school receives the Title I Non-Competitive Supplemental School Improvement grant and the Expanding Opportunities for Each Child grants. If the school only receives the consolidated grants, the revision only needs to be approved by the Fiscal Representative and Authorized Representative.

Remember that the funds used in the One Plan include public funds (federal funds) and as such are made available to the general public. Staff should be knowledgeable about the One Plan. Staff should know the goals, strategies, and action steps well enough to respond to parent questions. Stakeholders should all know the programs and activities the federal funds support. The One Plan's activities should be discussed and progress reviewed at staff meetings.

If your school needs any assistance reviewing or revising the One Plan, please feel free to contact Nannette Sherman at nsherman@charterschoolspec.com.

Graduation 2026 - Beginning of a Great Adventure!

It is with great pride that Charter School Specialists celebrate the graduating Class of 2026 from the schools we are honored to sponsor. We also recognize the school boards, educators, staff, families, management, and community partners whose unwavering support helped make this achievement possible.



As we celebrate 3,827 newly minted graduates, it is impossible not to be inspired by all they have accomplished. As you'll see in each school's Graduation Highlights, these graduates are prepared to pursue their own vision of a good life with confidence and purpose. Together, they have earned 6,172 industry-recognized credentials, secured millions of dollars in scholarships, and are embarking on a wide range of post-graduation pathways including careers, apprenticeships, military service, higher education, and combinations of these opportunities. The Class of 2026 is ready for what comes next.

Achievements like these are only possible through the collective dedication of school boards, school leaders, educators, staff members, management partners, and countless others who invested in these students every step of the way. The Charter School Specialists team extends its sincere gratitude to everyone who was part of the village that supported the Class of 2026.

To the Class of 2026: Congratulations! As you begin this next chapter, pursue your dreams with courage, curiosity, and determination. We are confident you will make a meaningful difference in your communities and help build a brighter future for us all.

Graduation Highlights

AchievePoint Career Academy Cincinnati – 117 graduates, 64 credentials earned, 6 scholarships
 AchievePoint Virtual Academy – 30 graduates, 8 credentials earned, 2 scholarships
 AkroTech High School – 5 graduates, 33 credentials earned, 2 scholarships
 Banyan High School – 18 graduates, 35 credentials earned, 3 scholarships
 Black River Career Prep High School – 58 graduates, 262 credentials earned
 Buckeye Community School Mansfield – 163 graduates, 162 credentials earned
 Buckeye Community School Fremont – 73 graduates, 73 credentials earned
 Buckeye Community School London – 164 graduates, 163 credentials earned
 Buckeye Community School Marion – 262 graduates, 259 credentials earned, 2 scholarships
 Capital City Career Prep High School – 35 graduates, 183 credentials earned
 ChallengeU Ohio Community School – 269 graduates, 178 credentials earned
 Cliff Park High School – 61 graduates, 120 credentials earned, 5 scholarships
 Cornerstone Academy – 62 graduates, 216 credentials earned, 1.9 million awarded in scholarships
 Cypress High School – 76 graduates, 276 credentials earned, 5 scholarships
 Fairborn Digital Academy – 55 graduates,
 Franklinton Prep High School – 35 graduates, 42 credentials earned, 1 scholarship
 Frederick Douglass High School – 141 graduates, 145 credentials earned, 1 scholarship
 Gateway Online Academy of Ohio – 722 graduates, 1,216 credentials earned
 Gem City Career Prep High School – 68 graduates, 415 credentials earned
 Glass City Academy – 118 graduates, 91 credentials earned
 Greater Ohio Virtual School – 218 graduates, 167 credentials earned
 Innovative Career Academy – 32 graduates, 19 credentials earned, 12 scholarships
 iSchool Virtual Academy – 3 graduates, 6 credentials earned
 Lake Erie International High School – 18 graduates, 51 credentials earned
 Liberty High School – 65 graduates, 319 credentials earned
 Lorain Preparatory High School – 24 graduates, 60 credentials earned
 Marshall High School – 144 graduates, 413 credentials earned, 3 scholarships
 Mount Auburn Preparatory Academy – 15 graduates, 2 scholarships
 North Woods Career Prep High School – 34 graduates, 193 credentials earned
 Northwest Ohio Classical Academy – 20 graduates, 16 scholarships
 Pathfinder Career Academy of Ohio – 44 graduates, 69 credentials earned
 Patriot Preparatory Academy – 30 graduates, 1 credential earned
 Premier Online School of Ohio – 18 graduates, 15 credentials earned
 Randall Park High School – 32 graduates, 27 credentials earned, 4 scholarships
 River Gate High School – 59 graduates, 79 credentials earned
 Steel City High School – 27 graduates, 40 credentials earned, 2 scholarships
 Towpath Trail High School – 216 graduates, 567 credentials earned
 Westwood Preparatory Academy – 11 graduates
 YB Columbus Community School – 72 graduates, 205 credentials earned



AchievePoint Career Academy - Cincinnati experienced tremendous student and school growth during the 2025-2026 school year. We successfully graduated well over 100 students - an increase of nearly 20% from the previous school year. Through their hard work and dedication, students at AchievePoint earned over \$750,000 worth of scholarships to more colleges and universities than ever before and continued to strengthen their workforce readiness skills through our popular Institute for Hospitality and Leadership (IHL) and Career Minded school programs. The 2026-2027 school year has never looked brighter for students at AchievePoint Career Academy!



AchievePoint Virtual Academy operated for the first time in the 2025-2026 school year. The school year began in September, and we've seen a rapid increase in enrollment each month. Multiple applicants participated in our Graduation Alliance scholarship application process, resulting in two winners who will continue with higher education. Our graduation ceremony is scheduled for August 5th in Columbus, Ohio, where students from all over the state will gather to celebrate their accomplishments. We look forward to continued results in the new school year and a focus on increasing our graduation rates for the 2026-2027 school year.



This year, a dedicated group of just five senior graduates absolutely shattered expectations by earning a whopping 33 industry credentials combined! As a traditional high school with a deep focus on career-technical education, our mission has always been to give students real-world advantages before they even cross the graduation stage. From our early days starting out in temporary, shared rooms to watching these students excel inside our current high school building, this group has proven what is possible with hard work and determination. They didn't just build skills; they helped shape our entire school culture and paved a wide path for the classes following in their footsteps.



Banyan High School

Resilient, Driven, and Inspiring are just a few words to describe members of the Inaugural Graduating Class of Banyan High School. Each started with a goal. Banyan Staff supported the Student and Family with devising a Graduation plan tailored specifically for the student. The student executed the plan. And the rest is Banyan History!



Buckeye Community School-Marion

The school celebrated their graduates on June 2, 2026, at the Marion Palace Theater.

They held two ceremonies this year!



On Wednesday June 3, 2026, at Terra State Community College, **Buckeye Community School-Fremont** held its graduation ceremony. The approximately 900 in attendance witnessed 61 of 73 total graduates receiving their diploma in a quick 45-minute ceremony. Student speaker Te'Asa Jones highlighted the ceremony by telling graduates, "Let's not wait for someone else to change things - let's be the change."



Black River Career Prep HS

Our graduation ceremony was a truly special celebration. Watching our graduates walk across the stage highlighted their resilience, perseverance, and the unique journeys that brought them here.

Many students came to Black River after facing challenges in traditional settings, making this milestone a powerful symbol of second chances and personal growth. One of the most meaningful moments was the Rose Ceremony, where graduates honored those who supported them along the way.



Buckeye Community School in Mansfield celebrated the accomplishments of the Class of 2026 during its graduation ceremony held on May 27th at Storyside Church. The ceremony was attended by more than 1,100 family members, friends, staff, and community supporters looking to celebrate this important milestone. Of the 163 graduates, 130 chose to participate in the ceremony, making it a memorable evening filled with pride and encouragement.

Graduate speakers Kaitlyn Richardson and Aldin Reynolds delivered messages centered on perseverance and the importance of never giving up, reminding their classmates that determination can help them overcome life's challenges and reach their goals.

As part of the ceremony, each graduate received a pen as a symbolic gift. The pen represented more than a writing tool—it served as a reminder that every graduate has the opportunity to continue writing their own story. While graduation marks the end of one chapter, it also begins a new one filled with possibilities, purpose, and the chance to create a bright future.



Capital City Career Prep HS

On June 4, **Buckeye Community School London** proudly celebrated the graduation of 164 remarkable students during two commencement ceremonies held at Tolles Career & Technical Center in Plain City, Ohio. Splitting the ceremony into two celebrations allowed us to honor our largest graduating class while recognizing each student's incredible achievements. 99% of our graduates earned both an Industry-Recognized Credential and the OhioMeansJobs-Readiness Seal.

The ceremonies featured inspiring remarks from four student speakers, and recognition of one of our amazing teachers as she retired after an extraordinary 50 years of service to education. Each graduate received a custom ink pen as a symbol of the exciting journey ahead and a reminder that they are the authors of their own future. As they begin this next chapter, they were encouraged with these words: "The blank pages ahead of you are not something to fear; they are opportunities waiting to be written. Your future is not prewritten. You hold the pen, it is your legacy and you decide what comes next." Congratulations to the Buckeye Community School London Class of 2026—we can't wait to see the incredible stories you will write!

Prior to Graduation Capital City Career Prep had an awesome Senior Banquet where we celebrated and honored our graduates along with their families, friends and supporters. In which we had 9 students receive their Phlebotomy certification, 2 of the 9 received their Medical Assistance certification along with their Phlebotomy certification, 20 students were awarded certification in Workforce Readiness and 2 certified in Construction and Forklift training. In addition to all the certifications we had one student enlisted into the Marines, scoring extremely high on their ASVAB test. It was very heartwarming and satisfying to see so many of our students do so well and all the support behind them.

As for graduation, everything went very well. We had a total of 35 students graduate this year. We had a huge turnout of family, friends and staff support of our graduates; tons of laughter, tears, gratitude, appreciation and powerful moments making this year one of the biggest, most memorable and best thus far.



ChallengeU Ohio

In its third year as a Dropout Prevention and Recovery school, ChallengeU celebrated 269 graduates for the 2025-26 school year.

Of these graduates, 178 students — 66.17% of the class — earned an Industry Credential, reflecting the school's strong emphasis on career readiness alongside academic achievement.

One standout graduate completed 30 college credits prior to graduation, demonstrating the rigor and opportunity available through ChallengeU's academic pathways. These outcomes highlight the continued growth and impact of ChallengeU's mission to re-engage students and prepare them for meaningful postsecondary success.



Cliff Park High School

At Cliff Park the graduates' accomplishments reflect the hard work, perseverance, and determination our students demonstrated throughout the year. One student fully embraced the opportunities available through the College Credit Plus (CCP) program. She completed her final college course this summer while finishing high school and is now on track to graduate from Clark State College next spring with her associate's degree.



At **Cornerstone Academy High School**, our greatest strength is the community we have built together. Our students are known for their kindness, compassion, and willingness to serve others, creating a culture where everyone is welcomed, supported, and encouraged to succeed. They celebrate one another's achievements, volunteer their time, and form meaningful relationships with both peers and staff. Despite coming from a wide variety of cultural, socioeconomic, and family backgrounds, our students demonstrate that respect, friendship, and shared purpose can unite a community. Through challenges, change, and growth, including helping shape our school's traditions and culture—they have shown remarkable resilience and character. The Cornerstone community is one where students not only achieve academically, but also grow into caring, responsible leaders who leave a lasting impact on those around them.



Cypress High School students made this year one to remember. They earned essential credits, showed strong growth on their EOC tests, and proved that learning happens both in and beyond the classroom. Healthcare students completed community service at a local nursing home, cultivating meaningful relationships and making connections with residents. Construction students stepped up for the Village of Lexington by cleaning the ball fields, and manufacturing students followed by rebuilding the spaces, leveling bases, and helping restore the fields for community use. Business students kept the PBIS store running smoothly, gaining real experience in management and customer service. Across the building, core teachers strengthened learning through cross-curricular teaching that tied subjects together and helped students see the bigger picture. In total, the 76 graduates earned more than 250 industry-recognized credentials, showing just how hard they worked and how ready they are for what comes next. Cypress students didn't just complete a school year; they built it, supported it, and lifted their community along the way.



On June 18, 2026, **Fairborn Digital Academy** staff, students and friends celebrated the graduation of seniors. FDA holds graduation ceremonies twice per year for students who meet the State of Ohio requirements for a high school diploma during each semester.

The Valedictorian of the Class of 2026 is Jenna Botkin, while Salutatorian honors go to Aidan McNabb. This completes the class of 2026 after having 22 graduates in January of this year. We congratulate the success of all our 2026 graduates!

"Depending on the program that is right for the student, we offer the flexibility that many of our students and their families need to get through high school," explained Erik Tritsch, Executive Director of FDA. "A traditional high school setting is not optimum for every student. We make an effort to be aware of individual differences that may make learning and succeeding a challenge, and we address those issues for each student."



Franklinton Prep High School has a small but mighty graduation class this year. We are very proud to announce that each of our graduates earned at least one Industry Recognized credential, with 7 students earning two credentials. Further, we had one graduate get a full-ride scholarship to her preferred university and three others were accepted into their preferred universities as well. We are very proud of our graduating class and can't wait to see the amazing things they will go on to accomplish.



Frederick Douglass High School's Euclid Campus school year was one of tremendous growth and achievement for our school community. We proudly served nearly 300 students and celebrated with 97 graduates as they took the next step toward bright futures. Looking ahead, we're excited to expand our campus with a new second floor, launch a Nail Technology Career Tech program, and welcome additional staff members to support our continued growth. The future is bright, and we're committed to providing even more opportunities for student success.



This year, **Gateway Online Academy** proudly celebrates 722 graduates. A remarkable milestone that reflects determination, perseverance, and the belief that every student deserves the opportunity to succeed.

What makes this graduating class truly special is not just the number of diplomas earned, but the resilience demonstrated along the way. Many of these students did not follow a traditional path to graduation. They overcame academic setbacks, re-engaged in their education, recovered credits, and continued moving forward despite the challenges they faced.

The Gateway Online Academy Class of 2026 is a powerful reminder that success is not determined by taking a perfect path. Success is earned through resilience, commitment, and the courage to keep going. We are incredibly proud of our 722 graduates and look forward to the positive impact they will make in their communities and beyond.

Gem City Career Prep HS

The graduation ceremony for the Class of 2026 was held at Sinclair Community College and was a memorable celebration. More than 60 students from Gem City High School participated in the commencement ceremony, and over 400 guests were in attendance. Parents and supporters enthusiastically celebrated throughout the event. The graduates expressed great pride in their accomplishments. The staff received numerous commendations for



On Tuesday, June 2nd, 2026, the **Greater Ohio Virtual School** proudly hosted its 22nd graduation ceremony. The event, held at Mason Middle School, saw 218 students complete their high school journey and earn their diplomas. This significant achievement was made possible by the dedicated GOVS staff and the additional supports introduced over the past four years,



their excellent organization of the ceremony and their commitment to supporting the graduating class.

including academic coaches, mental health supports, a resource coordinator, and the GOVS student center. These initiatives have played a crucial role in the increase in the number of graduates. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the Class of 2026!



Innovative Career Academy celebrated its Class of 2026 on May 21 at Second Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church, and the milestone was one the school had never reached before: 21 of the 32 graduates were juniors, finishing high school a full year early.

Five graduates are the first in their families to finish high school, and five are the first headed to college. The class earned 19 industry-recognized credentials in customer service and sales, and its graduates are moving on to college, careers, trades, and military service.

For graduate A'raya Norton, who is entering military service, the difference was the people. *"The people who supported me and the people who helped me mentally ground myself," she said. "That's what made it special."*

Principal Tina Smith put the school's mission plainly. "For the student, we are a saving grace," she said. "If they were elsewhere, in a larger school, they may not have made it to the point of graduation."



iSchool Virtual Academy

As part of our Finish Strong process, every graduate participated in an individual interview where they reflected on their experience at the school and shared their plans. Below are a few highlights of what our graduates had to say.

What Students Liked Best About the School

Students overwhelmingly appreciated the flexibility to work at their own pace and on a schedule that fits their lives. Many also highlighted the supportive teachers, quick communication, and one-on-one help that made them feel successful. One graduate shared that they learned English while attending the school, while another appreciated being able to work ahead while balancing a full-time job.

What's Next for Our Graduates

Our graduates are pursuing a wide range of exciting opportunities. Some are attending college to study biology, social work, and early childhood education, while others are preparing for careers in law enforcement, veterinary medicine, and the skilled trades. Several students plan to start their own businesses such as a jewelry company, daycare, HVAC business, or car dealership. One graduate is even looking forward to traveling internationally before beginning the next chapter of their journey.

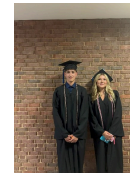


Lake Erie International High School is incredibly proud to celebrate our newest class of 18 graduates, who have demonstrated exceptional dedication and resilience in reaching this milestone. Not only have these students earned their high school diplomas, but they have also collectively secured an impressive 51 industry credentials. This remarkable achievement goes beyond traditional academics, equipping these young adults with the tangible, career-ready skills they need to step confidently into the workforce and build successful futures.



Lorain Preparatory High School

Our second graduating class made its mark. All 24 seniors walked on the stage with poise and pride. With perseverance and focus, over 60 credentials were earned towards their next step in adulthood. Academic, financial, and community scholarships will aid all the graduates in their post-secondary plans! Congratulations to Class of 2026, you did it!



Marshall High School had two students earn the Alison Shuemake scholarship that is only awarded to graduates of Marshall High School. The scholarship is in memory of a former Marshall graduate that passed away unexpectedly shortly after their graduation. The students receiving this honor were Adrian Anguiano and Tori Lambert. They will both pursue post-secondary education. Adrian will be attending University of Rio Grande majoring in Business and Tori will attend Sinclair Community College majoring in Nursing.



Liberty High School

The concluding academic year was defined by rigorous academic milestones and notable student achievements. While the student body faced increased academic expectations, the graduating class successfully met these elevated instructional standards. This effort resulted in quantifiable improvements across standardized metrics and established a strong performance baseline for future academic cycles. For this academic cycle, Liberty celebrates the graduation of **65 scholars** who successfully embodied the institutional motto: *Be Present, Expect Success, Listen to Others, and Lead by Example.*

Graduates have secured diverse pathways for their post-secondary advancement with 27 graduates having finalized college acceptances for the upcoming term, 14 graduates have accepted direct employment within their designated career fields, and 1 graduate has



North Woods Career Prep HS' graduation ceremony was filled with joy as students proudly walked across the stage to receive



Northwest Ohio Classical Academy's mission provides parents with something to contemplate and discuss with their students. The beauty of the charter school movement



Randall Park High School proudly celebrated 32 graduates from the Class of 2026, each taking the next step toward a bright future. Of our graduates, 14 will

their diplomas—a celebration of their dedication, perseverance, and hard work throughout the year. Surrounded by family, friends, and staff, our graduates celebrated this incredible milestone and the bright future that lies ahead.

is that while we are strongly in favor of the classical educational model, understand that one educational model is not right for every student. We strive to train the minds and improve the hearts of young people through a rigorous, content-rich classical curriculum in the liberal arts and sciences, one that produces thoughtful leaders and virtuous citizens. Our latest graduating class includes students entering the workforce, joining the military, pursuing professional trades, and seeking higher education.

attend college, 9 are pursuing skilled trades, 7 are entering the workforce, and 2 have chosen to serve our country in the military. In addition to earning their high school diplomas, many students graduated with valuable industry credentials in Business, Advanced Manufacturing, Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), and Phlebotomy, giving them a strong head start on their careers. We are incredibly proud of our graduates and look forward to seeing all they accomplish.



Mount Auburn Preparatory Academy

The 2025–2026 Mount Auburn school year was filled with growth, resilience, and moments that reminded us of what it truly means to be a school community. Like every year, we faced challenges, but we also found ways to come together, support one another, and keep moving forward. The loss of one of our students deeply impacted on our school family, yet it also revealed the strength, compassion, and unity demonstrated by our staff and students. Our focus on student success never wavered, and that commitment was reflected in our students' academic growth and improved performance on state assessments.

As the year progressed, the energy and school spirit throughout our building continued to grow as we created more opportunities for students to connect, celebrate, and succeed. Students celebrated important milestones through Prom, the 8th Grade Crossing the Bridge Ceremony and 12th Grade Commencement, while also enjoying memorable experiences like the Sneaker Ball, Field Day, and our school-wide trip to Kings Island. Our Peer Mediation Program continued to develop student leaders who modeled accountability, communication, and positive conflict resolution. These experiences strengthened our school community and reinforced that education extends beyond the classroom. By creating opportunities for celebration, leadership, and connection, we are helping students build confidence, lasting relationships, and memories that will stay with them long after they leave our halls.



River Gate High School had one of its largest graduations this year with 59 graduates. We had 4 graduates complete our CNA program. We had 19 graduates complete the Leadership Excellence credential and Yellow

Belt credential. We had 27 Rise Up credentials earned by graduates. Finally, there were 10 graduates who earned a Pre Apprenticeship in either Health or Hospitality. We are looking forward to giving our future graduates the option of a construction credential!



YouthBuild Columbus Community School

is proud to celebrate the accomplishments of our students this year. We graduated 72 students, and our FY25–26 graduates earned 205 industry-recognized credentials that will help them take the next step toward careers and continued

education. This summer, students also earned 36.5 credits through Summer School, keeping them on track to reach their goals. Every graduate's journey is different, and we're proud to support each student as they build a strong foundation for the future.



Pathfinder Career Academy of Ohio celebrated its first graduating class! Our students put in the work to not only complete academic requirements but also prepare for in-demand career fields. Some of our graduates even attained job

offers in their fields before graduating. With experience from internships and credentials to back them up, they are truly ready for what life brings next!

The ceremony was beautiful and it was so nice to see our students, who have put in so much work, walk across that stage. Our student volunteers led key parts of the ceremony and even delivered a thoughtful, heartfelt message to the crowd. It's an honor and a privilege to see so many success stories start here.



Earning a diploma from **Patriot Preparatory Academy** is not an easy task. Students are not just required to pass a class but earn at least a "C" to receive credit. As a college prep program, our students

will continue to earn credits beyond the state minimum of 20. Fourteen students in our graduating class earned at least 25 credits in high school and 2 of them earned over 30 high school credits. The academic rigor and challenge do not end there. Students can earn college credits while attending high school. Our graduating seniors earned 99 college credits while still enrolled in high school and a select few have even finished a year of college! Ohio State Graduation Requirements require seniors to earn 2 seals in order to graduate. In total our seniors earned a total of 140 seals, with 100% of students earning more than the 2 required seals. Our seniors have excelled beyond the classroom, particularly in the area of giving back to the community. In total they have put in over 2,936 hours of community service during their high school careers.



Premier Online School of Ohio

As part of our Finish Strong process, every graduate participated in an individual interview where they reflected on their experience at the school and shared their plans for the future. Below are a few highlights of what our graduates had to say.

What Students Liked Best About the School

Students overwhelmingly appreciated the flexibility to work at their own pace and on a schedule that fits their lives. Many also highlighted the supportive teachers, quick communication, and one-on-one help that made them feel successful. One graduate shared that they learned English while attending the school, while another appreciated being able to work ahead while balancing a full-time job.

What's Next for Our Graduates

Our graduates are pursuing a wide range of exciting opportunities. Some are attending college to study biology, social work, and early childhood education, while others are preparing for careers in law enforcement, veterinary medicine, and the skilled trades. Several students plan to start their own businesses such as a jewelry company, daycare, HVAC business, or car dealership. One graduate is even looking forward to traveling internationally before beginning the next chapter of their journey.

At **Steel City High School**, we are committed to the fundamental belief that every student deserves a fresh start. Our philosophy, embodied in the Steel City Mission: RESET EVERYDAY - Recognize the Mistake, Express Responsibility, Support Improvement, Encourage Better Choices, Transition Forward - guides our approach to education and student development. Regardless of their circumstances or where they



are in their academic journey, we strive to provide the best opportunities for success within a supportive environment tailored to individual needs.

Our dedicated staff members are passionate about building meaningful relationships with students, offering encouragement, guidance, and the resources necessary for personal and academic growth. At Steel City High School, we are more than just a school - we are a community where students can reset, develop resilience, and achieve their goals.

Reflecting on our second year, we celebrated the theme "The WORLD was YOURS," and achieved significant milestones: 27 graduates, a 67% attendance rate, enrollment of 190 students, and over 600 credits earned. These accomplishments reinforce our commitment to empowering students and fostering a nurturing environment.

As we look forward to year three, we are extremely excited about the opportunities and successes that lie ahead. Steel City High School remains dedicated to transforming lives through education and support, ensuring every student has the chance to thrive.



Towpath Trail High School proudly celebrated the Class of 2026 during its graduation ceremony on June 5, 2026, at EJ Thomas Performing Arts Hall. Representing the school's three campuses, 216 graduates crossed the stage before an audience of over 3,000 family members, friends, staff, and community supporters. Together, these graduates earned more than 550 industry-recognized credentials in healthcare, construction, manufacturing, culinary arts, and business, demonstrating their commitment to career readiness and lifelong success. These accomplishments reflect Towpath Trail High School's focus on providing personalized learning experiences that prepare students for both the workforce and higher education. Throughout the ceremony, students were

recognized not only for earning their diplomas but also for their resilience, determination, and perseverance in overcoming challenges along the way. The tremendous community support shown throughout the evening highlighted the pride surrounding this exceptional graduating class and the lasting impact of their achievements. As they embark on the next chapter of their lives, the Class of 2026 leaves Towpath Trail High School equipped with the knowledge, skills, confidence, and credentials to make meaningful contributions to their communities and chosen careers.



This year's graduation at **Westwood Preparatory Academy's** Necco Center was a celebration of perseverance, growth, and the power of collaboration. As seven graduates received their diplomas, they also earned the Ohio Fine Arts Graduation Seal through an innovative partnership between Westwood Prep's education team and Necco Center's clinical staff, integrating therapeutic fine arts into the school day and culminating in a student art showcase. In addition, through collaboration with facility partners, students earned the OhioMeansJobs Readiness Seal, equipping them with valuable career-ready skills for life after graduation.

For nearly 11 years, Westwood Preparatory Academy and Necco Center have worked together to provide meaningful educational and therapeutic opportunities for residential youth, making this year's commencement an inspiring reflection of that shared commitment. Congratulations to the Class of 2026, and to Necco Center as it celebrates 30 years of changing lives through its residential program in Pedro, Ohio.

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

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