SPONSOR CONNECTION
NOVEMBER 2026
Latest News for St. Aloysius Sponsored Schools

Reminders

November

- 11/1 - T1 Report Deadline for schools receiving transportation funding
- 11/13 - Special Education Ratio/Workload Form
- 11/27 - application deadline for the next cohort of Charting the LifeCourse Ambassadors
- 11/30 - Special Education Policies and Procedures deadline to have policies board approved and uploaded into the Monitoring Tool

FY26-27 Governing Authority and School Leader Timeline

Click the link below to access the the timeline:
Governing Authority & School Leader Timeline 26-27

Charter School Specialists Staff Directory

Click on the link: CSS Staff Directory

2026-2027 Professional Development Catalog

Click on link to access the PD Catalog:
2026–2027 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.



Youthbuild CTE Student Leadership

The Youthbuild CTE Student Leadership Team attended the October 20th Board Meeting. Each member of the group shared something about their experience at Youthbuild and how it's helped them and what their future plans are after graduation. Most of the group plan on entering construction or a health care field. A couple of students also want to start their own businesses.

The CTE Student Leadership Team with board president Anne Misiolek and board member Catherine Hulse looking on.

Recent Legislative Changes Add Offenses to Absolute Bar List

Over the summer, Governor Mike DeWine signed House Bill 455 into law, which adds three new offenses to the "absolute bar" list pursuant to Revised Code section 3319.31(C), strangulation, grooming, and domestic violence. A conviction to one of these offenses would result in an automatic permanent revocation of an educator's license. These changes went into effect on October 9, 2026. The bill also amended ORC 3319.39(B)(1)(a) to add the criminal offenses of strangulation and grooming to the list of offenses related to employment by schools and districts. Learn more about these new changes as well as more information about how criminal convictions affect licensure.

CSS Director of Online Education Presents at DLAC Ignite 2026



Charter School Specialists is proud to celebrate Andrea Dobbins, Director of Online Education, who presented at the DLAC Ignite 2026 Conference in Atlanta, Georgia!

Held October 19–21, DLAC Ignite brings together professionals focused on digital learning and online education. Andrea's session, "Student Engagement in Virtual Settings," took place on October 20 and was selected for inclusion in the conference program. Her presentation explored the topic of curriculum and course design, highlighting an area of importance for educators working to create engaging virtual learning experiences.

We're proud to see Andrea share her expertise with the broader digital learning community and represent CSS on a national stage at this conference!

Compliance - Inspections and Permits Reminder

As we are preparing for the launch of our new compliance document management system, we wanted to provide a few reminders. Once the Hubshare portals are up and running they will provide a smooth and easy to use landing page to see what documents are needed from the compliance process. One aspect that should be improved will be the timely collection and reminders of Fire Inspections, Health Inspections, Food Service Permits, etc. that are time limited. In the meantime, please note that we need updated inspections and permits as they expire, they are typically good for one year.

Relatedly, the Hubshare portal will be the location to see if any policy, minutes, procedure, report, etc. might be needed during the compliance documentation collection process as well. We have distilled down the requirements from ODEW for schools and identified the documents to collected during our compliance reviews.

As a resource, feel free to review the 2026-27 Compliance Process slides from CSS: Click HERE

Please do not hesitate to reach out to your compliance coordinator or Brian Dunbar (bdunbar@charterschoolspec.com) if you have any questions.



New Law Affects Requirements for Math Achievement Plans

Beginning this school year, any school with 51% or fewer students scoring proficient on Ohio's State Test for Grade 3 Mathematics will be required to develop a Math Achievement Plan.

Learn more

Ohio Department of Education & Workforce

Revised Third Grade Reading Guarantee Guidance Manual Now Available

An updated version of the Third Grade Reading Guarantee Guidance Manual is now available, including the latest guidance on the K-3 reading diagnostics, teacher qualification requirements, and more.

Access the manual

Special Education Updates and Reminders

Happy November!! As we are entering the second quarter of the 2026 school year, We are hoping your school year is going well. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions as we enter the busy holiday season!

Special Education Ratio & Workload Collection

On Monday, September 14th each sponsored community should have received an email from Molly Warmke that included the **Special Education Ratio/Workload Form** for completion. One form should be completed per school and **returned upon completion**, **or by Friday, November 13th**. This annual collection assists both schools and the Sponsor in monitoring staffing levels and compliance with **Ohio Administrative Code 3301-51-09** regarding intervention specialist caseloads and service delivery requirements. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Stacey Swank at sswank@charterschoolspec.com.

Special Education Desk Review

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (ODEW) Office for Exceptional Children (OEC) held its overview of Desk Review Phase 1 (Establish Teams and Schedules) and Phase 2 (Professional Development and Processes) on September 3. For those who could not attend, all schools participating in a Desk Review for the 2026-2027 are to have all four phases completed by June 4, 2027. According to the OEC, the sponsor should be included in the Cross Functional Team, so please email Stacey Swank at sswank@charterschoolspec.com meeting information if you would like her to attend. For all things OEC Desk Review, please visit ODEW's website at this LINK**.**

OEC Open Office Hours

The Support and Monitoring Information Session will be held on **November 5th from 1:00-2:00 p.m.** This session will feature Amy Szymanski exploring Ohio District Data Exchange (ODDEX) and using it to make data driven team decisions. Please join at this LINK.

Monthly Federal Programs and Special Education Professional Development Series

Dr. Erica McMillon and Nannette Sherman will be holding a one-hour professional development on **November 10th from noon to 1:00 p.m.** They look forward to sharing their expertise on Progress Monitoring and the Educational Benefit: Aligning Progress Monitoring to IEP Goals, Frequency and Documentation, as well as Preparing Evidence for Compliance Reviews. Join at this LINK.

CSS Open Office Hours with Stacey

Join Stacey to get your special education questions answered and to connect with other special education leaders from our sponsored community schools on **Wednesday, November 11th from 9:00-10:00.**

To help her prepare, email questions in advance to sswank@charterschoolspec.com. This gives her time to research answers or check with ODEW if needed. Join us at this link: Special Education Open Office Hours.

New Targets for Indicator 1 and 2

ODEW is working this fall on getting stakeholder input on Special Education Profile Indicators 1 Graduation and Indicator 2 Dropout. Please check their webpage periodically for updates on providing input for the new targets. Link to ODEW Webpage for Indicator 1 and 2

November 30th Deadline!

Special Education Policies and Procedures must be board approved and uploaded into the Monitoring Tool November 30th.

Federal Programs

Historically November is a time where we used to celebrate the end of the harvest season and also make sure we preserve food for the winter. In Federal Programs, this month typically begins the time when FERs (Final Expenditure Reports) are final approved, and schools receive their carryover funds. Carryover funds are the unspent funds from the FY26 consolidated grants. These funds, if unspent, will expire on 9/30/2027. Schools need to ensure that these carryover funds are spent down by 9/30/27. Any unspent funds from FY26 will be swept (taken back by ODEW) after 9/30.

Schools should also be monitoring their intervention groups supported by Title I funds. ODEW recommends monitoring student progress at least every 6 weeks. Schools should also ensure that Students with Disabilities (SWD) are receiving Title I Intervention. SWD are entitled to

receive the same intervention as their non-disabled peers, which includes the services supported with Title I funds. There can be some confusion regarding placing SWD in Title I supported intervention groups. Sometimes, because both Title I intervention and Specially Designed Instruction (SDI) provided by intervention specialists may take place in a pull-out program, these programs are often thought to be the same. The two programs are different. SDI focuses on a student's Individualized Education Program goals whereas a Title I Intervention program focuses on closing identified gaps in learning. These are two different programs and SWD are entitled to participate in the Title I programs.

If you have questions regarding federal programs, please feel free to reach out to Nannette Sherman at: nsherman@charterschoolspec.com

College and Career Readiness Corner

Applications Open for Charting the LifeCourse Training Series

Self-determination and self-advocacy are among the most important skills young people can develop as they prepare for life beyond high school. Research consistently demonstrates that students who develop these skills are more likely to experience positive postsecondary outcomes and successfully pursue their own vision of a **Good Life**.

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce is currently accepting applications from parent mentors, State Support Team consultants, and Ohio educators interested in participating in a training series focused on the Charting the LifeCourse (CtLC) framework.

Charting the LifeCourse is a person-centered framework designed to help individuals and families of all ages and abilities envision a meaningful future and identify the steps needed to achieve it. Grounded in the belief that everyone deserves the opportunity to live, love, work, play, and pursue their aspirations, CtLC emphasizes personal goals, informed decision-making, and the importance of family, community, and other support systems.

Through practical tools and strategies, the framework empowers individuals to identify their strengths, explore opportunities, overcome challenges, and build the supports necessary to achieve greater independence and success.

For educators, CtLC offers a valuable approach to helping students take ownership of their futures, develop self-advocacy skills, and make informed decisions about their education, careers, and lives beyond graduation.

The application deadline for the next cohort of Charting the LifeCourse Ambassadors is November 27, 2026.
More information can be found HERE.



We're excited to offer Literacy Open Office Hours for CSS partner schools with Pharon Hranko, Director of Literacy and Professional Learning!

These monthly office hours provide an opportunity for school leaders and staff to connect directly with Pharon, ask questions, discuss literacy-related topics, and seek guidance related to literacy instruction.

Literacy Office Hours will be held on the first Tuesday of each month from 1:00–2:00PM throughout the 2026–2027 school year.

Below is the 2026–2027 Schedule:

- November 3
- December 1
- January 5
- February 2
- March 2
- April 6
- May 4
- June 1

No registration is required. Schools are welcome to join any of the scheduled office hours when they have a question, concern, or topic they would like to discuss with Pharon.

Microsoft Teams Link:
Literacy Open Office Hours

For questions, please contact Pharon Hranko, Director of Literacy and Professional Learning, at phranko@charterschoolspec.com.

We look forward to connecting with you!

Beyond The Drill - Are We Truly Prepared or Simply Checking the Box?

School Safety & Leadership

Every school conducts emergency drills, but **does completing a drill mean students and staff are truly prepared to respond during a crisis?**

Effective emergency preparedness requires more than following procedures. It involves developing confidence, situational awareness, decision-making skills, and psychological readiness while recognizing that realistic training can also create stress, anxiety, and fear.
My doctoral research examining educators' experiences with emergency preparedness training revealed three important findings that school leaders should consider.

Three Lessons for School Leaders

1. Repetition Builds Confidence—but Practice Must Be Meaningful.
Repeated, structured training helps staff become familiar with emergency procedures and understand their responsibilities. However, completing required drills does not necessarily demonstrate readiness.

2. Preparedness Is Psychological as Well as Procedural.
Emergency training can increase confidence while also creating anxiety or concern. Schools should consider the emotional well-being of students and staff when planning and conducting preparedness activities.

3. Learning Should Continue After the Drill.
Realistic scenarios, reflection, and situational awareness strengthen preparedness. Structured debriefings help schools identify weaknesses, improve procedures, and apply lessons learned.

Moving Beyond Compliance

Emergency preparedness should be a continuous learning process rather than a series of isolated compliance activities.
PRACTICE → REFLECT → ADJUST → APPLY → REPEAT

After your next emergency drill, consider asking:

- Did everyone understand their responsibilities?
- What worked, and what created confusion?
- Were there emotional or safety concerns?
- What will we do differently next time?

These simple questions can help transform routine drills into meaningful opportunities for improvement.

Professional Development for Sponsored Schools

Charter School Specialists offers professional development and technical assistance to help sponsored schools strengthen emergency preparedness, staff readiness, situational awareness, and school safety practices. Schools interested in additional training or support are encouraged to contact Charter School Specialists to explore available opportunities.

The Bottom Line

The goal is not simply to complete the drill. The goal is to develop a school community that is prepared, confident, and supported when an emergency becomes real.

Preparedness should not end when the drill is over. That is when the learning should begin.

For more information, please contact Dr. Erica McMillon at emcmillon@charterschoolspec.com.

