

SPONSORSHIP NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2025

DAYTON LEADERSHIP ACADEMIES - DAYTON EARLY COLLEGE ACADEMY - DECA PREP & DECA MIDDLE - IDEA GREATER CINCINNATI (PRICE HILL & VALLEY VIEW) - KIPP COLUMBUS - REGENERATION SCHOOLS (BOND HILL & AVONDALE) - REGENERATION MIDDLE SCHOOL - SCIOTOVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL - UNITED SCHOOLS COLUMBUS



Updated special education model policies and procedures

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (ODEW) updated the special education model policies and procedures to include changes to the Operating Standards for the Education of Children with Disabilities, which are now available on the ODEW's [Operating Standards and Guidance webpage](#). All educational agencies must upload verification of local school board approval of policies and procedures for the 2024-2025 school year though the [Monitoring System](#) by March 30, 2025. Beginning with the 2025-26 school year, the annual due date is Nov. 30.

School Check-In Calls

Did you know we offer recurring check-in calls for technical assistance with the schools we sponsor? If you are not already taking advantage of this but are interested in setting one up, please let your School Quality Analyst know. We are happy to schedule a call.

2025 National Civics Bee

The 2025 National Civics Bee is open to 6th, 7th, and 8th graders in participating states. Entry is free and open to public, private, charter, and homeschool students alike.

This annual competition encourages young people to flex their civics knowledge and get involved in their communities by identifying real issues and offering solutions. Top students will get to compete for grand prizes including a \$100,000 529 plan for the national champion.

- Essays are due February 4, 2025
- More information and registration [here](#)



ANNUAL REPORTS

- **2024 Fordham Sponsorship Annual Report**

Released and sent out in late November, our report details our sponsorship work and highlights research projects from our Fordham Institute colleagues. It is sent to families of all enrolled students and other stakeholders.

- **2023-24 Ohio Community Schools Annual Report**

Each year, the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce's Office of Community Schools releases a report on the state's public community schools. This annual report is provided to the Governor, Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives, President of the Ohio Senate, and the respective Chairpersons of the House and Senate committees principally responsible for primary and secondary education. We are pleased to see Dayton Leadership Academies (DLA) featured as a community school spotlight in the report!

Other Resources

- [NCSRC Grant Opportunities](#)
- [Ask the Cognitive Scientist: Understanding Disruptive Behavior in the Classroom](#), R. J. R. Blair, Daniel T. Willingham
- [3 Things You Need to Know About Absenteeism](#), Todd Rogers, Emily Bailard, & Mikia Manley
- [Planning Together: A Playbook for Student Personal Device Policies](#), Office of Educational Technology, U.S. Department of Education
- [Counting down five of Ohio's biggest education headlines from 2024](#), Jessica Poiner

Site Visits: Please be on the lookout if you have not yet received a fall site visit report. The remaining reports are being reviewed by school leaders and will be emailed to school boards soon.

Training & Events

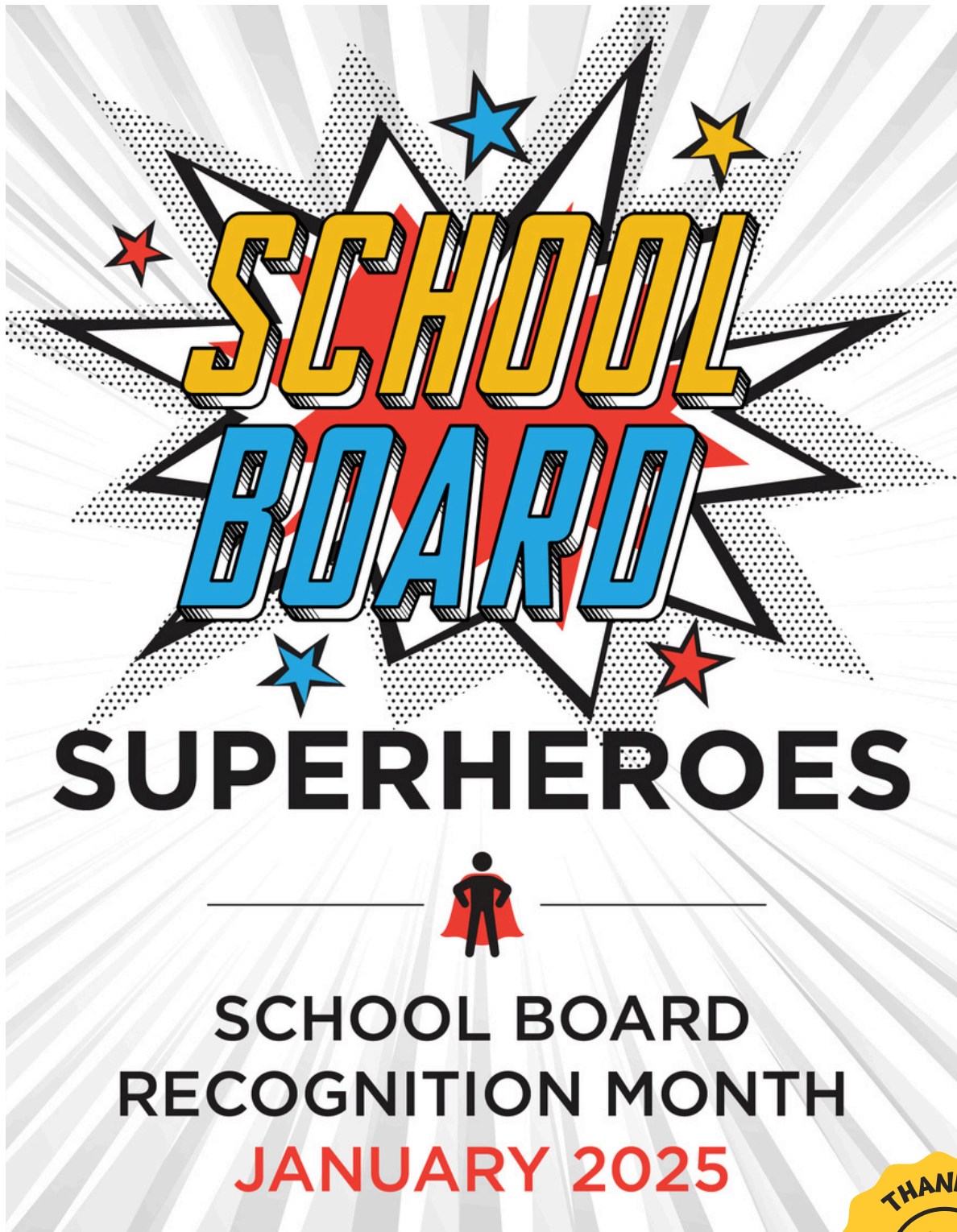
- [Grow Your Own Teacher Scholarship Webinar](#) - January 7, 1:30 - 2:00 p.m.
- [2025 Showcase for AcceleratED Leadership & Learning](#) - January 28, in Columbus
- [Reving Up for Renewal](#)
 - Governing for Greatness webinar series recording, National Charter School Institute
- [Ohio Educational Technology Conference](#) - February 11-13, in Columbus
- Save the Date! [Ohio Teacher Leadership Summit](#) - June 11



➤ Third Thursday Virtual Networking Meetings

Based on feedback from school surveys, we will continue hosting these meetings and have developed a schedule for 2025. We will also add a link to the invitation so that you can access any shared materials. Please let us know if you would like us to add anyone else from your school or team to receive invitations.

Thursday, January 16th at 11:00 a.m. - This month's topic is the **Medicaid Schools Program**. You will learn initial enrollment and eligibility requirements, as well as the major components that should be addressed in establishing a new school or district in the Medicaid School Program (MSP). The meeting will take place via Microsoft Teams. Contact us if you have not received the invitation. Please [email Theda](#) if you would like anyone added to the invitation list.



Thank you, School Board Members

We would like to thank the superhero board members of our sponsored schools for their commitment to your students and community. Thank you to the dedicated leaders who serve--you play a crucial role in the education of all children.

Reminder: As one of our sponsored community schools, ALL board members have a free membership to Charter Network, which is available in Epicenter! If you would like access, let us know and we will set up a personal account where you can access resources, webinars and events.

Compliance and Epicenter Requirements

1/11/25 - Governing Authority Bylaws

1/12/25 - Disclosure of Related Parties

1/18/25 - Food Allergy Protection Policy; Pesticide Notification Policy

1/25/25 - Final Approved Board Minutes

1/31/25 - Fire and Safety Drill Log; Monthly Financial and Enrollment Report

2/1/25 - Vision and Hearing Screening

2/2/25 - Frequent Flyer Policy

2/9/25 - Roster of Staff, Faculty, and Administrators; Board Member Update Certification; Affidavit for Criminal Background Checks

Compliance Refresher

Retained Applicant Fingerprint Database (Rapback) Enrollment Timeline for Non-Licensed Employees and Contractors [ORC 3319.316](#)

Who is required to be enrolled in Rapback? Ohio educators and school bus drivers submit fingerprints through the BCI background check process as a condition of their initial employment or licensure.

Effective October 24, 2024, this program was expanded and includes non-licensed school employees and contractors if they have routine interaction with a student or regular responsibility for the care, custody, and control of a student. The school or district must determine the level of student interaction for a given position; however the following positions are commonly included: food service personnel, custodians, building secretaries or administrators, and other contractors and employees who interact with students. Those **not required** to be enrolled would typically include: volunteers (including parent volunteers) and contractors/employees who do not interact with students.

Deadline: Those non-licensed school personnel that are required to be enrolled in Rapback should be enrolled by **January 31, 2025**. The Rapback expansion and FAQs can be found [here](#).

Community schools are not exempt from the requirements for criminal records checks of job applicants as set forth in Ohio Revised Code sections 3319.39, 3319.391, and 3319.393.

How we verify compliance:

1. Schools' contracts, as a responsibility of the governing authority, include compliance with the code sections noted above.
2. Schools must submit an affidavit of compliance with the requirements for background checks when there are additions to the staff roster (including contractors) or governing authority members. Updated rosters and affidavits are requested three times each school year as an Epicenter submission.