

SPONSORSHIP NEWSLETTER

September 2026

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, MIDDLE) - UNITED SCHOOLS COLUMBUS

Attendance Awareness Month

September is Attendance Awareness Month, a national recognition of the importance of attending school every day. Early intervention is critical to supporting student attendance and preventing chronic absenteeism. Students, staff, and community members can celebrate the kickoff of Attendance Awareness Month with the [Stay in the Game! Attendance Network](#) by taking their [Attendance Pledge](#). Find more support and resources on the Department's [Attendance webpage](#).

Ohio High School Outcomes

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) has launched [Ohio High School Outcomes](#) and [Ohio Career and Technical Education Outcomes](#), a set of reports exploring how Ohio high school graduates progress during the six years following graduation. Using existing administrative data, this new resource provides reliable measures of college enrollment, college completion, employment, and earnings. Dashboard users can explore these outcomes at multiple levels, including statewide, by JobsOhio region, district, school, career-technical planning district (CTPD), and career-technical education (CTE) field.

Licensure Renewals

Educators whose licenses expired June 30, 2026, must complete all renewal coursework and submit their renewal application no later than September 30, or the renewal coursework requirement increases to nine semester hours for [professional, advanced, or associate licenses](#) and six semester hours for [Resident Educator licenses](#).

Kindergarten Assessment Change for 2026–2027

Beginning with the 2026–2027 school year, the KRA Language and Literacy section may no longer satisfy the K–3 reading diagnostic requirement. Schools must administer the KRA to first-time kindergarten students by the 20th day of instruction and a separate ODEW-approved K–3 reading diagnostic by September 30.

ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH





Week 1 (9/1-4): TAKE THE PLEDGE
Take the Attendance Pledge on our website, download, and print the pledge certificate.



Week 2 (9/7-11): DOOR DECORATING
Decorate a door or bulletin board to celebrate or track attendance and support your pro-team.



Week 3 (9/14-18): ATTENDANCE MVP
Celebrate individual students each day this week for their good or improved attendance.



Week 4 (9/21-25): ART CHALLENGE
Show off your creative skills with an art challenge designing a poster celebrating attendance.



September 30: Atten-DANCE
Celebrate the last day of Attendance Awareness Month with a dance party or clap-out.

SPECIAL EDUCATION CORNER

Would you like to learn more about special education? The Office for Exceptional Children Supports and Monitoring Team holds monthly Informational Sessions. These monthly meetings occur on the **first Thursday of every month at 1:00 p.m.** Although the sessions are geared toward Special Education Directors, other interested parties can log onto the meetings or view past sessions. Past topics include how literacy intersects with special education and common noncompliance items in IEPs. Upcoming session topics along with past session recordings and slides on ODEW's [Supports and Monitoring Information Session \(SAMIS\)](#) webpage.

EMIS TRAINING

A new [EMIS Training Video](#) has been posted. The purpose of this video is to assist with utilizing the Student Claiming Module (SCM) in the Ohio District Data Exchange (ODDEX). Watching this video is recommended for EMIS coordinators and other staff involved with the enrollment of students.

Other Resources

- [NCSRC Grant Opportunities](#)
- [ODEW's School and District Attendance Support page](#)
- [Ohio Won't Approve Weak Credentials That Students Use as 'Shortcut' to Graduate](#), Patrick O'Donnell
- [Should Students Learn Science Through Inquiry?](#), Adam Boxer
- [How a Tennessee Charter School Doubled its Reading Proficiency Rate in 4 Years](#), Charlie Friedman
- [The Next Chapter: Ohio's implementation of the science of reading-and where to next](#), Aaron Churchill
- [Dysfluency: A Hidden Crisis in Middle and High School Literacy](#), Doug Lemov

Trainings & Events

- [Federal Policy Update on Child & Youth Homelessness](#) - September 8, 2:00 p.m.
- [ODEW Attendance Webinar Series](#)
 - September 21, noon - **Identify the Right Voices: Engaging Parents and Families** ([Registration](#))
 - October 19, noon - **Identify the Right Voices: Engaging Community Partners** ([Registration](#))
 - November 16, noon - **Identify the Right Voices: Engaging Students** ([Registration](#))
- [2026-2027 Ohio Assessment Conference](#) - September 22-24, 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. each day (via Zoom)
- [Attendance Works: Ensure Support All Year Long](#) - September 23, 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.



Monthly Networking Meeting



Our next monthly meeting for Fordham-sponsored schools will be held on **September 17 at 11:00 a.m.** This session will focus on **changes to school site visits**, including an:

- Overview of our updated site visit protocol
- Introduction to the focus indicators for our classroom observations this year, which are taken from Fordham's new Instructional Excellence Framework (IEF)

The intended audience includes any leaders who will be involved with the site visit and/or want to learn more about how we plan to support and implement the IEF this school year. The meeting will take place using the Google Calendar link. Feel free to reach out if you have not received an invitation or invite others.

Upcoming Meeting Topics:



- Explicit Instruction for New Content & Reading Improvement Plan Requirements
- Engineered Participation and Think Time & School Governing Authority Training
- Targeted Questions & Cybersecurity Program Requirements

Welcome to the team!

The Thomas B. Fordham Foundation is very excited to introduce our new Chief Learning Officer (CLO), Morgan Leavitt.

Morgan is an accomplished education leader who brings more than a decade of experience in instructional leadership, literacy, strategic planning, and classroom instruction. Prior to joining Fordham, Morgan served as a Literacy Director at the KIPP Foundation, where she led national literacy initiatives and supported regional leaders in implementing research-based instructional practices aligned with the science of reading. Previously, she was Managing Director of Teaching and Learning at Breakthrough Public Schools in Cleveland, where she led academic strategy, leadership development, curriculum implementation, and continuous improvement efforts across a network of ten schools.



As Fordham's CLO, Morgan will bring her deep instructional expertise and experience translating research and strategy into effective systems across schools to help drive our sponsorship work forward, with a particular focus on the Instructional Excellence Framework (IEF). We're excited to have her leadership and expertise as we strengthen our instructional excellence work.



Get to know Morgan



- I have three daughters, who are everything to me! I love spending time with my kids and my husband, and the rest of my family, a lot of whom live close by in Cleveland!
- I am super passionate about literacy. I truly believe that literacy is liberation and love working with anyone and everyone who wants to talk about ensuring all students can read. Whether it be early literacy or building fluency and comprehension for students beyond second grade through high school!
- I also am obsessed with instructional systems and coaching and ensuring they actually lead to academic growth for our students. Bring on the data and coaching!
- I love reading and always appreciate good book recommendations (mostly novels) and also love good food!

Compliance and Guidance on Changes in Rule, Law, and Policy

Compliance and Epicenter Requirements Protocol

1. Please read all compliance requirements carefully, as instructions and requirements have been updated to include ODEW sponsor evaluation requirements and changes in law. There may be additional requirements for narratives.
2. No memorandums will be accepted.
3. You may re-use requirements from last year, if they have not been changed.
4. Any requirements that include board approval must have either the Board Certification of Policy Adoption attached OR approved and signed board meeting minutes, if they have been updated or revised.

Annual and Semi-annual Requirements

Two policies require board adoption or review in a specific cadence: Academic Prevention and Intervention – annually; Career Advising – every 2 years (Grades 6–12 only).

New Requirements for 2026–2027

1. Artificial Intelligence Policy: This is now an active governing authority requirement effective July 1, 2026. Although the policy requirement was introduced last year, the 2026–2027 submission must also include documentation of posting and communication.
2. Threat Assessment Team training for schools serving grades 6–12, including training upon appointment and refresher training every three years.
3. Science of Reading compliance. Staff subject to the requirement should complete Introduction to the Science of Reading unless exempt; refresher training is required on a five-year cycle.
4. Elementary enrollment packets must include Ohio Department of Health Type 1 Diabetes information. Elementary schools are any schools serving students in grades K–8.

September Epicenter Requirements

We'll be providing details for a few submissions each month that receive the greatest number of requests for clarification. However, if you have any questions about any requirements, please contact Theda.

9/8/26

- Child Abuse Recognition, Violence and Substance Abuse Training
- Child Abuse Referral Information
- Heimlich Training

9/15/26

- Safety Notification to Parents
- NCLB Parent Notification of Teacher Information: *This is the non-properly certified letter sent to the caregivers of students receiving instruction from a teacher who is working in a program supported with Title 1 funds BUT does not meet proper certification requirements (appropriate license for the assignment) AND has been teaching in the assignment for 4 or more consecutive weeks. **Include a list of the teachers and educational aides without the proper certification or licensure with the letter or notification.***

9/16/26

- Curriculum Table

9/22/26

- Privacy (Confidentiality) Policy – FERPA
- Wellness Policy

9/28/26

- Residency Documentation Policy and Verification Process: *Both the policy for the number and types of documentation for proof of residency and the verification procedures must be included. A school must have a policy for parent notification when residency changes. A policy must also address the enrollment of resident and nonresident students which aligns with the contract enrollment area. **You may submit more than one policy but they each should have evidence of board approval.***

9/29/26

- Concussion Information Form and Training
- Inventory
- Promotion and Retention Policy
- Final Approved Board Minutes – September

9/30/26

- Monthly Financial and Enrollment Report
- Affidavit for Criminal Background Checks
- Disclosure of Related Parties
- Roster of Staff, Faculty, and Administrators: *Include the EMIS Coordinator and Bus Drivers if the school owns buses or provides transportation. **New for 2026-2027: In addition to uploading your current roster, use the narrative box to list teachers who are responsible for RIMPs in grades 3 and 4 only.***

10/6/26

- Child Find Documentation
- Internet Safety and Acceptable Use Policy
- Truancy Policy

**Wishing you all
a wonderful
new school year!**

