

SPONSORSHIP NEWSLETTER

October 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

Ohio After School (21st CCLC) Program

This federally funded grant program supports high-quality, out-of-school time learning opportunities and related activities for students who attend eligible schools. Recent flexibility from the U.S. Department of Education allows 21st CCLC funds to be used for expanded learning time programming during the school day, week, or year in addition to out-of-school time. The **application window for FY28 opens soon**; see timeline below:

- October 15 - Request for Applications posted - [Ohio After School website](#)
- October 15 at 1pm - Overview Webinar - [Register to attend](#)
- October 19 at 10am - Overview Webinar - [Register to attend](#)
- November-December 2026 - Application Window & Office Hours
- February 2027 - Announce Ohio After School Cohort A
- March-June 2027 - Finalization of programs
- July 2027 - FY28 Begins

EMIS Reporting: Economically Disadvantaged Students in CEP Schools

Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, schools participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) or Provision 2 may no longer automatically report all students as economically disadvantaged in EMIS and **must reflect each student's individual eligibility**. Schools should identify qualifying students using available documentation, including direct certification, categorical eligibility (such as foster or homeless status), income verification, or approved free/reduced-price meal eligibility.

This reporting change **does not affect state foundation funding (DPIA) for FY27** and is not expected to significantly affect Quality Community School Support Fund funding.

Rapback Enrollment Re-Affirmation

Schools with bus/van drivers or non-licensed personnel enrolled in the State Board of Education Rapback system must re-affirm active enrollees by **October 31, 2026**. On November 1, any drivers and non-licensed personnel who have not been re-affirmed by their school/district and are still "Pending" will be unenrolled from the Rapback system. Once unenrolled, these individuals will have to complete additional steps, including a new BCI background check, to become re-enrolled.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Do you have paraprofessionals or educational aides who enjoy working with students with disabilities, and want to continue working in your district while earning their intervention specialist license? Check out the new apprenticeship program at Kent State, [Pathway 2 Teach](#).

SCIENCE OF READING

- In response to Governor DeWine's directive, regional [Instructional Implementation Teams](#) have been established to support Ohio building principals and district leaders to improve implementation of effective literacy instruction, use of high-quality instructional materials, and establishing the systems that support every student's learning. Any K-5 school can request a Learning Walk by [submitting a request](#) by October 31, 2026.
- [2026 Ohio's Learning Standards for English Language Arts K-12 \(REVISED\)](#): K-8 standards revisions focus on alignment to the Science of Reading and clarity of language

Other Resources

- [NCSRC Grant Opportunities](#)
- Ohio Holocaust and Genocide Memorial and Education Commission [Grant Opportunities](#)
- [NASA TechRise Student Challenge](#)
- [A closer look at reading results in Ohio's urban districts](#), Jessica Poiner
- [Cross-sector collaboration needed to address homeless student barriers, researchers say](#), Naaz Modan (K-12 DIVE Brief)
- [Ohio's feel-good school report cards mask poor student outcomes](#), Aaron Churchill
- ODEW's [Career Connections Framework](#) 



This national campaign invites individuals, schools, & organizations to implement 250 acts of kindness this year. Watch [Director Dackin's invitation](#) to join the movement, which schools can do [using this form](#).

Locate resources and materials for schools on the [campaign website](#) and check out the [K-12 School Guide](#).

Trainings & Events

- [ODEW Attendance Webinar Series](#)
 - October 19, noon - Identify the Right Voices: Engaging Community Partners ([Registration](#))
 - November 16, noon - Identify the Right Voices: Engaging Students ([Registration](#))
- [Data Into Decisions](#) (workshop with Jeff Wasbes) - October 21 & November 4
 - A two-session online workshop that teaches you how to recognize and analyze deeper data patterns and make more targeted decisions about how to support teachers effectively.
- [ODEW Math Achievement Office Hours](#) - monthly at 10:00 a.m.
 - Updates and answers to initiative-related questions to support high-quality instruction
 - October 23 ([Registration](#)) / November 13 ([Registration](#)) / December 11 ([Registration](#))



Monthly Networking Meeting



Date: **October 15 at 11:00 a.m.**

Topic: **Early Literacy (grades K-3)**

Zoom Link: [Join Here](#) 

Please use the agenda below to plan the portion(s) that are best for you. We look forward to seeing you there!

- 11:00-11:15 Early Literacy score on the report card
- 11:15-11:35 IEF Focus Indicator of Explicit Instruction from an early literacy lens
- 11:35-12:00 Reading Improvement Plans (and the difference between RIPs, RAPs & RIMPs)



Upcoming Meeting Topics:

- Engineered Participation and Think Time / School Governing Authority Training
- Targeted Questions / Cybersecurity Program Requirements

DECA's Teacher Expo

Each year, DECA brings educators from across their schools together for Teacher Expo, a full day of learning designed to spotlight strong practices already happening in classrooms and inspire their use across the district.

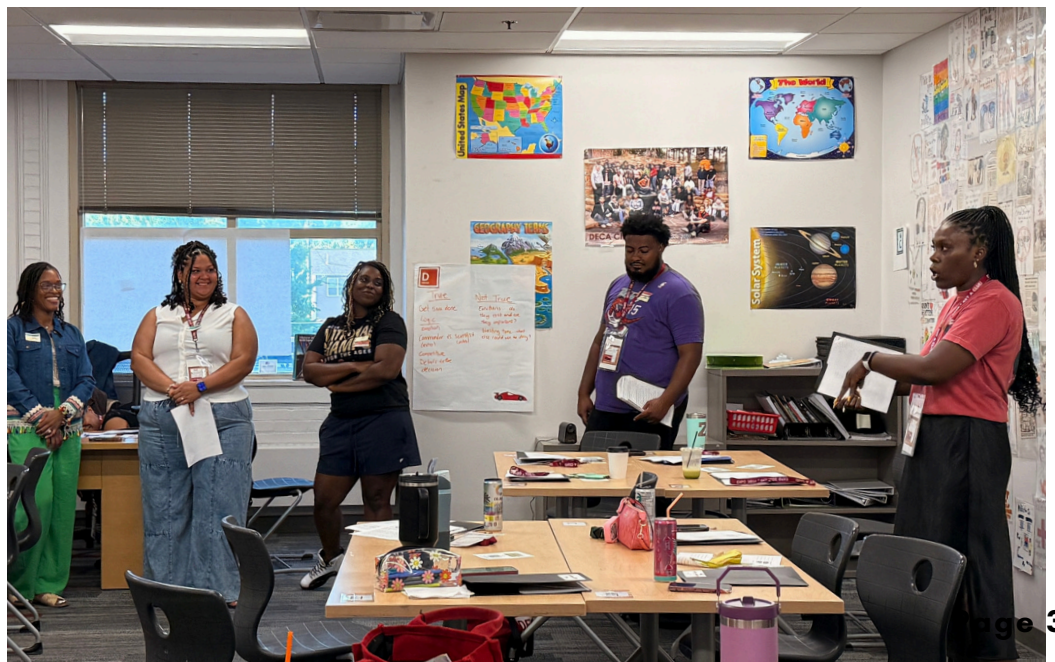
This year's Expo drew inspiration from the classic board game, *Clue*, turning every educator into an investigator in pursuit of the evidence, strategies, and practices that lead to exceptional schools. Throughout the day, teachers followed clues, examined evidence, shared ideas, and uncovered practices they can bring back to their own classrooms and strengthen their collective impact on students.

The day featured four session blocks, each centered on an essential element of excellent teaching and learning:

Collaboration
Learning Environment
Urgency
Excellence



Together, they gave the educators the CLUEs to keep learning from one another, strengthening their practice, and raising the bar for every DECA student.



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.

Epicenter Requirements

We'll be providing details for a few submissions each month that receive the greatest number of requests for clarification. **Policies and other submissions requiring board adoption must include proof of approval.** If you have any questions about any requirements, please contact Theda.

Note: The Mailing Address List requirement has been removed, and the Corrective Action Plan (CAP) requirement will be added next week. We will upload CAP documentation received before October 1 and provide instructions for accessing the CAP task.

10/6/26

- Child Find Documentation: *If applicable, provide in the narrative where the procedures are linked on the school's website.*
- Internet Safety and Acceptable Use Policy
- Truancy Policy

10/13/26

- Parental Involvement Policy
- State Testing and Assessment Calendar: *The calendar includes the number of hours/percentage of instruction spent preparing for district wide or state assessments or taking district wide or state assessments.*

10/16/26

- Mission Specific Goals Progress Report
- Teacher Retention Data

10/20/26

- Anti-Harassment and Bullying Policy
- Conduct of Academic Prevention and Intervention Services Policy: *Evidence of annual review and update by the Governing Authority.*
- Parent Information District Screening Health and Developmental Disorders: *The information needs to have the school's name and the date on which the notification occurred. If the information is posted on the school website, provide the link.*
- Staff Handbook: *Include evidence of board approval.*
- Student Handbook: *Include evidence of board approval.*

10/22/26

- Annual Budget (The board resolution or minutes showing approval will be collected in December.)

10/27/26

- Annual Report of Special Education Services and Expenditures: *There is a new simplified one-page form for schools to complete.*
- Final Approved Board Minutes - October
- Policy on Career Advising: *Evidence of update and board approval within the past two years.*

10/31/26

- Annual Report: *Submission must include the report AND evidence of notification to parents.*
- Monthly Financial and Enrollment Report

11/2/26

- Attendance Policy: *The policy or policies submitted must include the references in ORC 3314.03 (A)(6) (b) for automatic withdrawal after 72 hours AND (A) (32) notification in change of address.*

Important Deadlines and Reminders

- October 15: [Immunization reporting](#) must be submitted to the [Ohio Department of Health](#).
- October 31: School annual reports should be completed and provided to the Thomas B. Fordham Foundation and parents.
- November 1: [T-1 Transportation Pupil Reporting](#) is due to ODEW.
- November 1: Hearing and vision screenings must be completed in accordance with [Ohio Department of Health guidelines](#).