THOMAS B. FORDHAM FOUNDATION

ADVANCING EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE



SPONSORSHIP NEWSLETTER

November 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

Local School Wellness Policy Requirements

Ohio community schools participating in the National School Lunch Program and/or School Breakfast Program must maintain and implement a Local School Wellness Policy that promotes student health, nutrition, and physical activity. Policies must address nutrition education, physical activity, federal nutrition standards, and opportunities for stakeholder involvement.

Each year, schools are required to notify the public about their wellness policy. At least once every three years, schools must conduct an assessment to evaluate compliance, progress toward wellness goals, and alignment with model policies. These assessment results must be made publicly available. Schools should maintain documentation of policy implementation, stakeholder participation, and assessments. For additional guidance, see the USDA Wellness Policy Resources and Federal Requirements (7 CFR 210.31).

Clarification on Public Notice Requirements for Board Meetings

Under Ohio Revised Code 121.22(F), community school governing authorities must provide public notice of board meetings. For additional guidance, see the Ohio Attorney General's Open Meetings Act Resources.

- **Regular meetings:** provide advance notice of the date, time, and location; the law establishes no specific minimum notice period.
- **Special meetings:** provide notice of the date, time, location, and purpose, including at least 24 hours' notice to news media requesting notification.
- **Emergency meetings:** provide requested media notifications immediately.

Epicenter Submission Reminder: Beginning in January, all board meeting minute submissions must include how the public notice is provided. You may do this by providing a link to the posting on your website in the narrative or attach evidence of the posting.

Clarification on Policies and Submissions Requiring Board Adoption

Proof of board approval may be provided through any of the following:

- Board meeting minutes documenting approval;
- If the policy is listed on the most recent board certification of policy adoption and has not been revised since the certification was signed, include the signed certification of policy adoption; or
- If the corresponding board meeting minutes are available in Epicenter, a policy that includes its adoption or revision date.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Looking for free resources for children or adults with disabilities? Like a traditional library, OCALI's Lending Library offers thousands of free materials, resources, and technology on a range of topics from transition, to social-emotional development, evidence-based practices, and more.

Taking place November 17-20, the annual OCALICON online conference offers a place for a global community to come together to share ideas, strategies, and innovations that support individuals with autism and disabilities.

WEBINAR November 13, 9 a.m. - Special Education Indicators 1 & 2: Graduation & Dropout

A training session to discuss these two indicators & an opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed targets and help inform Ohio's final decisions before the targets are submitted as part of the new SPP/APR package.

Other Resources

- NCSRC Grant Opportunities
- Studying the Southern Surge: How Alabama Beat the Odds in Reading, Liana Loewus
- Nearly 1 in 3 Teachers Aren't Sold on The Science of Reading, The 74
- Ohio Attendance Dashboard for Community Partners, ODEW guide

PURPLE STAR AWARD

The application for the 2027 program is open through December 15. ODEW will host office hours on November 19 and Dec. 9 at 3:30 p.m. Visit the Department's Purple Star School webpage to access these resources and register for the upcoming webinar.

Trainings & Events

- **ODEW Attendance Webinar Series**
  - November 16, noon - Identify the Right Voices: Engaging Students (**Registration**)
- **Ohio's Integrated MTSS Professional Learning Series** - monthly at 1:00 p.m.
  - November 17: Data-Based Decision Making / December 15: Team-Based Problem Solving
- **The Attendance Crisis Isn't Over: What's Driving It-and What Works** - November 18, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
- **ODEW Math Achievement Office Hours** - monthly at 10:00 a.m.
  - Updates and answers to initiative-related questions to support high-quality instruction
  - November 13 (**Registration**) / December 11 (**Registration**)



Monthly Networking Meeting

Date: **November 19 at 11:00 a.m.** 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!

- **11:00-11:30 Instructional Coaching and Strong Practices:** United Schools Columbus will share its coaching framework and strategies for accelerating teacher development. The session will feature a video of a second-year teacher demonstrating strong instructional practices in *Engineered Participation and Think Time*, providing an example of effective instruction across our portfolio.
- **11:30-12:00 School Administrators and Governing Authority Training:** School administrators and governing authority members will review written guidance that complements the sponsorship contract and clarifies the respective roles and responsibilities of the sponsor and school.









KIPP Columbus

This summer, KIPP Columbus hosted Dreams on Horseback in their Extended School Year program. Students participated in social emotional learning programing that allowed them to expand their skills from the school year. It was wonderful to see progress for some of their students with the highest needs, including new language skills! KIPP is so grateful for the gifted instructors from this team and their equine partners, who were a joy to work with!







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

The submission list below includes November and December 1 deadlines. **Review each item's stated due date when preparing submissions.** If you have any questions about any requirements, please contact Theda.

11/9/26

- Public Records Policy – *In addition to the policy, proof that the policy is posted in a conspicuous location at the school (such as a photo of the posting) must also be submitted.*

11/16/26

- LPDC Approved Signature Form – *The requirement previously titled "LPDC Approved Signature Form" is now titled "LPDC Committee Documentation." A screenshot of the LPDC registration in CORE may be submitted as this documentation.*

11/24/26

- Final Approved Board Minutes (November) – *Final approved and signed board minutes from the previous meeting AND public notice link or evidence of posting.*

11/29/26

- Truancy Documentation – *Submit the form the school uses for tracking OR you may submit student information system reporting.*

11/30/26

- Monthly Financial and Enrollment Report – *Submission Requirements include:*
  - *General Account or Bank Reconciliation*
  - *Check Register or Disbursement Summary*
  - *Balance Sheet Summary or Statement of Net Position*

12/1/26

- Blood-borne Pathogens Training – *Include all of the following in the submission:*
  - *School's exposure control plan*
  - *Information on how the plan is conveyed to employees (such as training)*
  - *Training log or training platform completion report*
- School Safety and Violence Prevention Training – *Submit both the program of in-service training AND proof that the training was given to all applicable staff. Proof may include a training log or training platform report. The submission must include the name or type of training.*

Important Deadlines and Reminders

- November 30: Deadline to submit special education procedures survey
- November 30: Final day to submit applications for K-5 core instructional materials in mathematics
- December 4: Upload a copy of the Hinkle system's email notification of receipt of the Annual Hinkle Report filed with the Auditor of State in Monitoring/Sponsor Fiscal Survey.
- December 5: **Emergency Management Test (EMT) submission deadline**. Submit the completed record of the annual emergency exercise/drill to local law enforcement no later than December 5 of each calendar year. The school may conduct the exercise/drill anytime between September 1 and August 31.
- December 5: School safety lockdown drill must be completed, unless otherwise directed by current law or safety guidance.