

# Valor Academy, Inc.

## *Meeting Agenda*

Date: March 19, 2024

Time: 7:00 AM

1330 Atcheson St.  
Columbus, Ohio 43203

(optional for non-board members)

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86204325653?pwd=VGdrTWVvc1JHenhGZmwvVHAvODRQZz09>

Meeting ID: 862 0432 5653

Passcode: 123731

One tap mobile

+13092053325,, 86204325653#,,,,\* 123731# US

+13126266799,, 86204325653#,,,,\* 123731# US (Chicago)

### I. Call to Order

### II. Roll Call

#### **Board Members:**

- David Jones, President
- Sean Patterson, Vice President
- Dwight Anstaett, Secretary
- Jevon Collins, Director
- Andrew Fox, Director

#### **Other Attendees:**

- Howard Marzolf, *Verano*
- Nikki Hofman, *Verano*
- Dan Mahlandt, *Superintendent*
- Gina Little, *Senior Director of Special Services*
- Marvis McGowan, *Executive Director*
- Rodney Harris, *Valor*
- Stephanie Trawick, *OCCS*
- Tara Jones, *OCCS*
- Becky Enz, Esq., *Amy Goodson Co., Board Legal Counsel*
- Lesley Gillen, *Fiscal Officer Representative*

### III. Review of Agenda

### IV. Public Comment

**V. Action and Discussion Items**

**A. Approval of February 20, 2024, minutes**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Directors approves the February 20, 2024, meeting minutes as presented.

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ayes: \_\_\_\_\_ Opposed: \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Financial Report**

• **Federal Subgrant Expenditures**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Directors approves and adopts financial report, including the federal subgrant expenditures, as presented.

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ayes: \_\_\_\_\_ Opposed: \_\_\_\_\_

**C. State of the School Report**

- **Number of Suspensions and Expulsions**
- **Staff Changes**
- **Residency Verification (March)**
- **Update on PII grant**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Directors accepts the State of the School Report as presented, including the number of suspensions and expulsions, staff changes, and the February residency verification.

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ayes: \_\_\_\_\_ Opposed: \_\_\_\_\_

**D. Management Status Update**

**VI. Informational Reports**

**A. Legal Update**

- **Sunshine Law Training**

**B. Sponsor Update**

**VII. Confirmation of Next Meeting:**      Date: April 16, 2024  
Time: 7:00 AM  
Location: Valor Academy  
1330 Atcheson St.  
Columbus, Ohio 43203

**VIII. Adjournment**

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_

# Valor Academy, Inc.

## *Meeting Minutes*

February 20, 2024

1330 Atcheson St.  
Columbus, Ohio 43203

### **Videoconference, Zoom Link (optional for non-board members)**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85071646977?pwd=YVhYSHR3dzJaSVRTOVdSelN5eC8rZz09>

Meeting ID: 850 7164 6977

Passcode: 701331

One tap mobile

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+13126266799,, 85071646977#,,,,\* 701331# US (Chicago)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 AM

## **1. Roll Call**

### **Board Members Present:**

David Jones, President  
Sean Patterson, Vice President  
Dwight Anstaett, Secretary  
Jevon Collins, Director  
Andrew Fox, Treasurer

### **Attendees:**

Howard Marzolf, *Verano*  
Nikki Hofman, *Verano*  
Dan Mahlandt, *Superintendent*  
Marvis McGowan, *Executive Director*  
Rodney Harris, *Valor*  
Tara Jones, *OCCS*  
Lenny Schafer, *OCCS*  
Becky Enz, Esq., *Amy Goodson Co., Board Legal Counsel*  
David Lamoda-Genêt, *Fiscal Officer Representative*  
Tony Cardinal, *OCCS*

## **2. Public Comment**

None.

## **3. Review of Agenda**

## **4. Action and Discussion Items**

### **A. Approval of January 16, 2024, minutes**

The board reviewed the minutes; no modifications were requested.

**24-06 RESOLVED**, that the Board of Directors approves the January 16, 2024, meeting minutes as presented.

Motion: Mr. Patterson Second: Mr. Fox

Ayes: 5 Opposed: 0

## **B. Financial Report**

- **Federal Subgrant Expenditures**

Mr. Lamoda-Genêt gave the financial report as of January 31, 2024, and discussed cash balances and revenues and expenses. The net position was negative in January. He reviewed ESSER funds and reminded that they need to be spent by September 2024. The audit is complete, but has not yet been released.

**24-07 RESOLVED**, that the Board of Directors approves and adopts financial report, including the federal subgrant expenditures, as presented.

Motion: Mr. Patterson Second: Mr. Anstaett  
Ayes: 5 Opposed: 0

## **C. State of the School Report**

- **Number of Suspensions and Expulsions**
- **Staff Changes**
- **Residency Verification (February)**
- **Update on PII grant**

Mr. McGowan presented the school report and discussed enrollment (93) and partnerships. The staff completed A.L.I.C.E. training and the emergency management plan has been updated.

**24-08 RESOLVED**, that the Board of Directors accepts the State of the School Report as presented, including the number of suspensions and expulsions, staff changes, and the February residency verification.

Motion: Mr. Fox Second: Mr. Collins  
Ayes: 5 Opposed: 0

## **D. Racial and Ethnic Balance**

The board reviewed the school's Racial and Ethnic Balance report.

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors has assessed the racial and ethnic balance of the school in accordance with its Sponsorship contract;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Directors finds that the School's racial and ethnic balance is reasonably comparable to that of the community it serves.

Motion: Mr. Fox Second: Mr. Collins  
Ayes: 5 Opposed: 0

## **E. Homeless Student Policy**

The board discussed the revised Homeless Student Policy.

**24-09 RESOLVED**, that the Board of Directors approves and adopts the Homeless Student Policy as presented.

Motion: Mr. Fox Second: Mr. Collins  
Ayes: 5 Opposed: 0

## **F. 2024-2025 School Year Calendar and Discussion on Transportation Plan**

The board reviewed the proposed 2024-2025 School Calendar and discussed the Transportation Plan.

**24-10 RESOLVED**, that the Board of Directors approves and adopts the proposed 2024-2025 school year calendar and authorizes the school leader to submit a transportation plan to the local districts prior to the April 1, 2024, deadline.

Motion: Mr. Collins Second: Mr. Anstaett  
Ayes: 5 Opposed: 0

**G. Management Status Update**

Mr. Schafer discussed the status on the search for new management. Academica, an experienced charter school management company, is coming to visit this week. He also discussed when parents should be notified. The board discussed their concerns with staffing.

**5. Informational Reports**

**A. Legal Update**

Ms. Enz provided the legal update.

**B. Sponsor Update**

Ms. Jones gave the sponsor update. The emergency management plan is complete and a file review has been conducted. Mr. Schafer announced that Mr. Patterson is joining the OCCS board starting next year. Mr. Patterson discussed a potential new board member for Valor.

**Confirmation of Next Meetings:** March 19, 2024, at 7:00 AM  
Valor Academy  
1330 Atcheson St.  
Columbus, Ohio 43203

**6. Adjournment 7:30 AM**

Motion: Mr. Collins Second: Mr. Fox

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Approved by Valor Academy, Inc., Board of Directors on \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

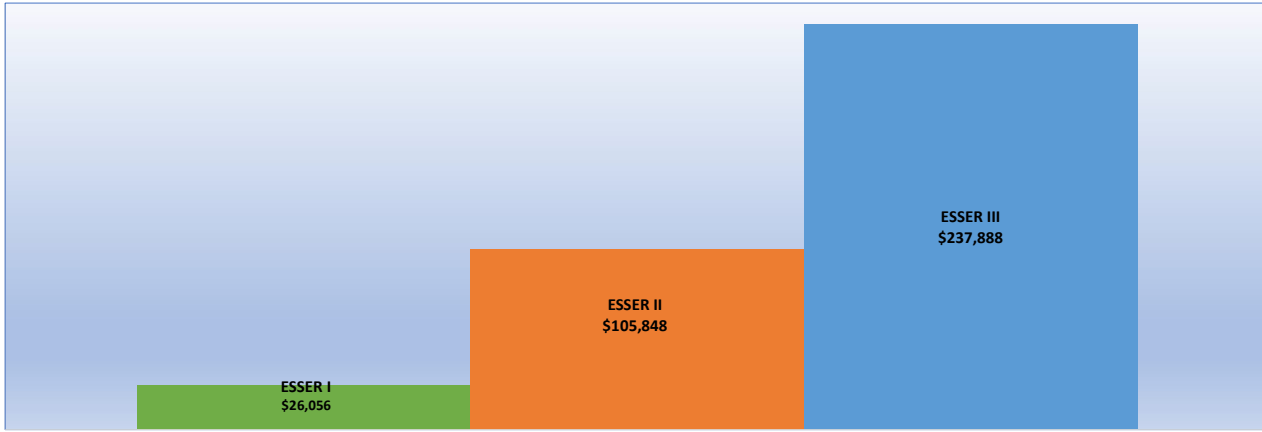
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Board President/Secretary

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Date

**VALOR ACADEMY**  
**ESSER FUNDS SUMMARY**  
**\$369,792**



**Authorizing Legislation and Period of Availability**

ESSER I - Awarded under the CARES Act Legislation. Available for obligation from March 13, 2020 through September 30, 2022.  
 ESSER II - Awarded under the CRRSA Act Legislation. Available for obligation from March 13, 2020 through September 30, 2023.  
 ESSER III - Awarded under the ARP Act Legislation. Available for obligation from March 13, 2020 through September 30, 2024.

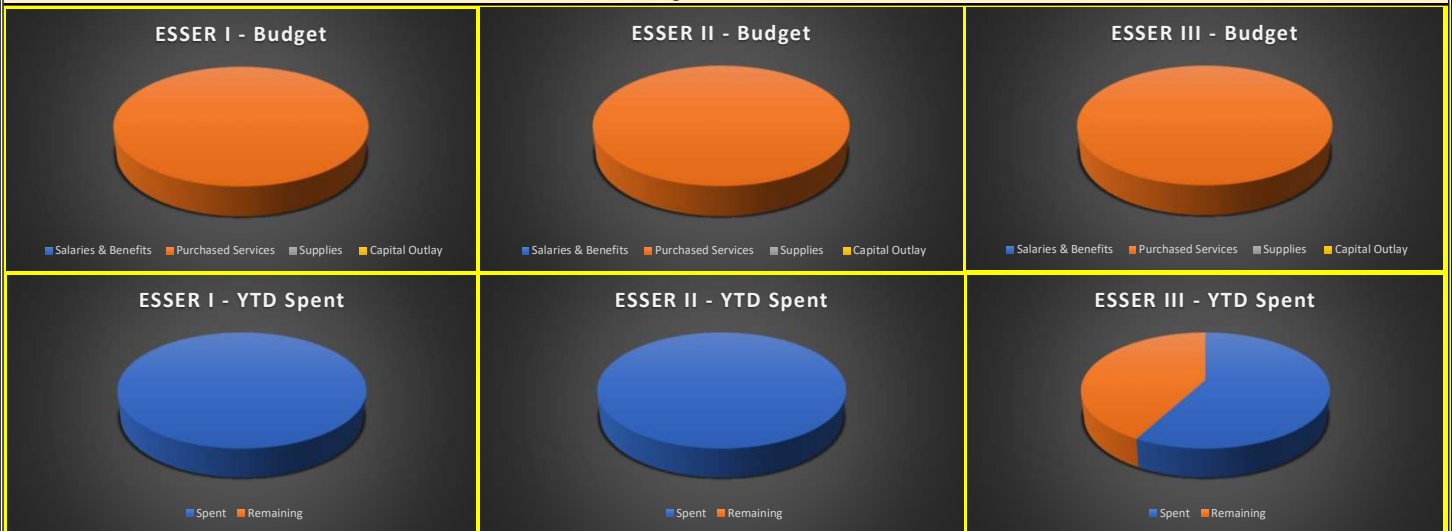
**Permitted Uses**

- coordinating preparedness and response efforts with State, local, Tribal, and territorial public health departments to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19;
- training and professional development on sanitizing and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases;
- purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean the LEA's facilities;
- repairing and improving school facilities to reduce risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards;
- improving indoor air quality;
- addressing the needs of children from low-income families, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth;
- developing and implementing procedures and systems to improve the preparedness and response efforts of LEAs;
- planning for or implementing activities during long-term closures, including providing meals to eligible students and providing technology for online learning;
- purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software, connectivity, assistive technology, and adaptive equipment) for students that aids in regular and substantive educational interaction between students and their classroom instructors, including students from low-income families and children with disabilities;
- providing mental health services and supports, including through the implementation of evidence based full-service community schools and the hiring of counselors;
- planning and implementing activities related to summer learning and supplemental after-school programs;
- addressing learning loss; and
- other activities that are necessary to maintain operation of and continuity of and services, including continuing to employ existing or hiring new LEA and school staff.

**Additional Requirements**

- Schools must reserve 20 percent of its total **ESSER III** allocation to address learning loss through the implementation of evidence-based interventions such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive afterschool programs, or extended school year programs, and ensure that such interventions respond to students' academic, social, and emotional needs and address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on the underrepresented student subgroups.

**Budgets & Utilization**



Valor Academy  
Statement of Net Position  
February 29, 2024

ASSETS

<u>Current Assets</u>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$	35,397
		<hr/>
Total Current Assets		35,397
		<hr/>
Total Assets	\$	35,397
		<hr/> <hr/>

LIABILITIES AND NET POSITION

<u>Current Liabilities</u>		
Accrued Expenses	\$	40,727
Due to Strongmind		6,701
		<hr/>
Total Current Liabilities		47,428
		<hr/>
<u>Net Position</u>		
Net Position - Operating		(12,031)
		<hr/>
Total Net Position		(12,031)
		<hr/>
Total Liabilities & Net Position	\$	35,397
		<hr/> <hr/>



Valor Academy  
Summary Budget vs. Actual  
For the Eight Months Ending February 29, 2024

	<u>Current Month</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>
Revenues		
State Revenues	\$ 83,841	\$ 769,392
Federal Revenues	3,568	125,237
Local Revenues	25	1,007
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Revenues	87,434	895,636
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Expenses		
Purchased Services:		
Salaries	25,641	307,930
Benefits	16,063	145,304
Facilities	4,668	40,377
Professional Fees	8,946	152,940
Marketing	0	109,823
Supplies	860	33,925
Field Trips & Transportation	0	22,663
Working Capital Contributions	25,227	17,518
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Purchased Services	81,405	830,480
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Board Expenses:		
Professional Fees - Legal	0	8,400
Professional Fees-Sponsor Fees	2,800	23,013
Prof Fees - Audit and Acctng	2,453	24,653
Insurance	0	3,917
Board Stipends	623	4,000
Bank Charges	153	1,173
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Board Expenses	6,029	65,156
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Income	\$ 0	\$ 0
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Valor Academy  
Statement of Cash Flow  
For the eight Months Ended February 29, 2024

	Current Month	Year to Date
Cash Flows from operating activities		
Net Income	\$ 0.02	\$ (0.25)
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities		
Accts Receivable - Grants	0.00	30,591.40
Accounts Payable	(210.00)	(2,505.00)
Accrued Expenses	1,689.40	(3,863.61)
Due to Strongmind	(5,558.00)	(36,987.00)
	<u>(4,078.60)</u>	<u>(12,764.21)</u>
Total Adjustments	(4,078.60)	(12,764.21)
Net Cash provided by Operations	<u>(4,078.58)</u>	<u>(12,764.46)</u>
Cash Flows from investing activities		
Used For		
Net cash used in investing	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Cash Flows from financing activities		
Proceeds From		
Used For		
Net cash used in financing	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Net increase <decrease> in cash	<u>\$ (4,078.58)</u>	<u>\$ (12,764.46)</u>
Summary		
Cash Balance at End of Period	\$ 35,397.17	\$ 35,397.17
Cash Balance at Beg of Period	<u>(39,475.75)</u>	<u>(48,161.63)</u>
Net Increase <Decrease> in Cash	<u>\$ (4,078.58)</u>	<u>\$ (12,764.46)</u>

**Valor Academy**  
**Account Reconciliation**  
**As of Feb 29, 2024**  
**10-000-0001-002 - Cash - Operating HUNT 2597**  
**Bank Statement Date: February 29, 2024**

Filter Criteria includes: Report is printed in Detail Format.

Beginning GL Balance	28,793.74
Add: Cash Receipts	
Less: Cash Disbursements	(80,202.36)
Add (Less) Other	<u>76,098.38</u>
Ending GL Balance	<u>24,689.76</u>
Ending Bank Balance	24,689.76
Add back deposits in transit	<u>                    </u>
Total deposits in transit	
(Less) outstanding checks	<u>                    </u>
Total outstanding checks	
Add (Less) Other	<u>                    </u>
Total other	
Unreconciled difference	<u>0.00</u>
Ending GL Balance	<u><u>24,689.76</u></u>

**Valor Academy**  
**Account Reconciliation**  
**As of Feb 29, 2024**  
**10-000-0001-004 - Cash - Sweep HUNT 4989**  
**Bank Statement Date: February 29, 2024**

Filter Criteria includes: Report is printed in Detail Format.

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Beginning GL Balance	10,682.01
Add: Cash Receipts	
Less: Cash Disbursements	
Add (Less) Other	25.40
Ending GL Balance	<u>10,707.41</u>
Ending Bank Balance	10,707.41
Add back deposits in transit	<u>                    </u>
Total deposits in transit	
(Less) outstanding checks	<u>                    </u>
Total outstanding checks	
Add (Less) Other	<u>                    </u>
Total other	
Unreconciled difference	<u>0.00</u>
Ending GL Balance	<u><u>10,707.41</u></u>

**Valor Academy**  
**Check Register**  
**For the Period From Feb 1, 2024 to Feb 29, 2024**

Filter Criteria includes: Report order is by Date.

<b>Check #</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Amount</b>
1123	2/8/24	Amy Goodson Co. LLC	210.00
1124	2/8/24	Massa Financial Solutions LLC	2,452.86
ACHVA234	2/15/24	Strongmind	76,914.50
ACHVA235	2/21/24	David Jones	125.00
ACHVA236	2/21/24	Andrew Fox	125.00
ACHVA237	2/21/24	Dwight Anstaett	125.00
ACHVA238	2/21/24	Jevon Collins	125.00
ACHVA239	2/21/24	Sean Patterson	125.00
<b>Total</b>			<b><u>80,202.36</u></b>

**Valor Academy  
Aged Payables  
As of Feb 29, 2024**

Filter Criteria includes: 1) Includes Drop Shipments. Report order is by ID. Report is printed in Summary Format.

<b>Vendor</b>	<b>0 - 30</b>	<b>31 - 60</b>	<b>61 - 90</b>	<b>Over 90 days</b>	<b>Amount Due</b>

Fiscal Year: 2024

Ohio Department of Education and Workforce  
Office of Budget and School Funding  
**Payment Comparison - Community/STEM School**  
February Payment, Data as of 01/30/2024

Name: Valor Academy, Inc.

County: Franklin

IRN: 019212

Sponsor Name: Ohio Council of Community Schools

E-School: No

	January	February	Difference	Percentage
<b>State Support</b>				
A Base Cost	\$680,263.90	\$678,616.20	\$-1,647.70	-0.24%
Base Cost – Student Wellness and Success	\$37,721.33	\$37,622.65	\$-98.68	-0.26%
B Special Education	\$60,788.36	\$53,316.72	\$-7,471.64	-12.29%
C Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid (DPIA)	\$14,693.61	\$14,782.77	\$89.16	0.61%
D English Learners	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
E Career Technical Education	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
F Core Foundation Funding [A+B+C+D+E]	\$793,467.20	\$784,338.34	\$-9,128.86	-1.15%
G Transportation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
H Equity Supplement	\$66,648.51	\$66,479.46	\$-169.05	-0.25%
I Formula Transition Supplement	\$146,335.52	\$153,080.71	\$6,745.19	4.61%
J Facilities	\$99,984.39	\$99,921.67	\$-62.72	-0.06%
K Total State Support [F+G+H+I+J]	\$1,106,435.62	\$1,103,820.18	\$-2,615.44	-0.24%
<b>Transfers</b>				
L Educational Service Center	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
M Other Adjustments	\$-6,078.84	\$-5,331.67	\$747.17	12.29%
N Total Transfers [L+M]	\$-6,078.84	\$-5,331.67	\$747.17	12.29%
<b>O Net State Funding [K+N]</b>	<b>\$1,100,356.78</b>	<b>\$1,098,488.51</b>	<b>\$-1,868.27</b>	<b>-0.17%</b>
<b>ADM Data</b>				
Enrolled ADM	102.54	102.28	-0.26	-0.25%
Special Education ADM	12.98	11.34	-1.64	-12.65%
Category 1	0.41	0.41	0.00	0.00%
Category 2	12.40	10.76	-1.64	-13.24%
Category 3	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Category 4	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Category 5	0.14	0.14	0.00	0.00%
Category 6	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.00%
Economically Disadvantaged ADM	27.99	28.14	0.15	0.55%
English Learners ADM	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Category 1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Category 2	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Category 3	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Career Technical Education FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Category 1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Category 2	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Category 3	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Category 4	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Category 5	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Career-Tech Students Educated in JVS or CTPD	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Community/STEM School Transportation FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%



Valor Academy, Inc.  
Date-03-18-2024

#### SCHOOL INFORMATION

School	Valor Academy, Inc.
School Leader	Marvis McGowan
Month	02
Year	2024

#### ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

Budgeted Enrollment	125
Current Head Count	100

#### STUDENT INFORMATION

Attendance Rate	78
No. of New Enrollees	1
No. of Truant Students	34
No. of Students with Attendance Improvement Plans	5
No. of Total Withdrawals	4
No. of Forced Withdrawals	1

#### STUDENT DISCIPLINE GEN ED

No. of Out of School Suspensions	7
No. of Out of School Suspensions K-3	0
No. of Expulsions	2
No. of In School Suspensions	2

#### SPECIAL STUDENT POPULATIONS

Total number of SWD (do not include 504 or speech only)	26
No. of SWD K-8	26
No. of SWDs 9-12	0
Total Number of Students on 504 Plan	1



No. of 504s K-8	1
No. of 504s 9-12	0
Total No. of Intervention Specialists	1
IS Serving K-8	1
IS Serving 9-12	0
Total Number of ESL Students	0
Total ESL Qualified Staff	0

**DISCIPLINE OF SWD**

No. of In School Suspensions SWD	2
In School Suspensions SWD K-3	0
In School Suspensions SWD 4-8	2
In School Suspensions SWD 9-12	0
No. of Out of School Suspensions SWD	2
No. of Out of School Suspensions SWD K-3	0
No. of Out of School Suspensions SWD 4-8	2
No. of Out of School Suspensions SWD 9-12	0
No. of Expulsions SWD	0
No. of Expulsions SWD K-3	0
No. of Expulsions SWD 4-8	0
No. of Expulsions SWD 9-12	0
No. of Manifestation Determination Meetings(MDM)	0
MDM Due to Discipline	0
MDM Due to Truancy	0
MDM Due to Other	0

**DETAILED INFORMATION**

Academic Update (Including SIP)	Ongoing partnership with our Academic specialist Dr. Randall Samson. New partnership with Reading specialists 2/22/24.
Events	8th grade students were able to go to a bridal shop to get free dance dresses and suits.
Additional Info	

**DRILL INFORMATION**

Type of Drill	Date
School Safety Drill	02/23/2024

**STAFF INFORMATION**

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## Monthly Board Proof of Residency Verification

Month of Review: March 2024

Name of Reviewer: Karla Martox

Date of Review: 3 11 24

Choose five student files at random each month. Check to ensure that the Proof of Residency (POR) documentation is valid. The POR must be dated within 12 months of the review date and must match the address section in PowerSchool as well as the Ohio Contacts Page. If the POR is not in the primary parent/guardian's name, an Affidavit of Residency must also be on file along with the POR.

Random Student #1 SID: [REDACTED]

As of the date above, this student's Proof of Residency documentation is:

Valid.

Not valid. A new POR document (and/or Affidavit of Residency) has been requested.

Random Student #2 SID: [REDACTED]

As of the date above, this student's Proof of Residency documentation is:

Valid.

Not valid. A new POR document (and/or Affidavit of Residency) has been requested.

Random Student #3 SID: [REDACTED]

As of the date above, this student's Proof of Residency documentation is:

Valid.

Not valid. A new POR document (and/or Affidavit of Residency) has been requested.



ACADEMY OF OHIO

1330 Atcheson Street  
Columbus, OH 43203

Random Student #4 SID: [REDACTED]

As of the date above, this student's Proof of Residency documentation is:

- Valid.
- Not valid. A new POR document (and/or Affidavit of Residency) has been requested.

Random Student #5 SID: [REDACTED]

As of the date above, this student's Proof of Residency documentation is:

- Valid.
- Not valid. A new POR document (and/or Affidavit of Residency) has been requested.



# LEGAL UPDATE

For Ohio Community School Boards



## SUNSHINE LAW TRAINING - FY 24 UPDATE

“Certified” sunshine law training will not be required of community schools this fiscal year as originally reported. The Auditor of State recently revised [Bulletin 2021-007](#) to delay implementation of their interpretation that community school board members must participate in training certified by the Ohio Attorney General. The revisions indicate that the implementation is delayed until “further notice.”

This is welcome change to many as the certified training is three hours in length and not customized to the needs of community schools.

Training on Ohio’s public records act and open meetings laws is still required this fiscal year (and future years) for all community school board members, the designated fiscal officer of the school, the chief administrative officer and other

administrative employees of the school, performing supervisory or administrative services for the school under a contract with the operator.

### **3rd Grade Paper Testing**

If your school would like to administer 3rd grade state tests in 2024-2025 via paper rather than on-line, the school’s governing authority must pass a resolution so authorizing by this May 1st.

The training needs to be completed by June 30th or sooner per your specific sponsor contract. Your board legal counsel can conduct the training in conjunction with a board meeting or via Zoom (which is permissible as trainings in which board members are not deliberating may be lawfully conducted via video conference.)

# TRANSPORTATION SAFETY



Following a school bus crash last summer, which killed one child and injured 23 others, Governor DeWine formed a task force to study safety on school transportation. Last month the report from the 15-member Ohio School Bus Safety Working Group made numerous suggestions. Those include more driver training; driver benefits, recruitment, and retention; and safety features, including external cameras and collision avoidance systems.


Recommendations did not include a mandate for seat belts, leaving Ohio as one of the large majority of states (42) that do not require seat belts on school buses. DeWine said his administration has begun discussions with the legislators about establishing a grant fund to help schools pay for vehicle upgrades or new safety-enhanced buses to align with the taskforce's guidance.

## Question & Answer:

### **Q: What can we do to ensure our students receive bussing?**

**A:** To help ensure your school's eligible students receive transportation from their resident school districts, your school must provide relevant districts with your 2024-2025 daily start and end times by April 1st. After timely receiving your school's information the district must develop a plan with schedules and routes. This transportation plan must be provided to your school within 60 days. If your school does not meet the April 1st deadline, district responsibility falls from an obligation to simply making an attempt.



 [330-962-6776](tel:330-962-6776)

 [www.AmyGoodsonLaw.com](http://www.AmyGoodsonLaw.com)

 [Amy@AmyGoodsonLaw.com](mailto:Amy@AmyGoodsonLaw.com)



## COMPLIANCE & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- In March and April, Tara Jones will begin to collect 3<sup>rd</sup> Trimester tasks and worksheets including collection and review of policies, certifications, and website postings.
- As of March 5<sup>th</sup>, Epicenter is up to date and the OCCS School Leader Report has been finalized. Thank you for your consistent, timely and accurate submissions.

### Sunshine Law Training Update

The Auditor of State (AOS) recently revised guidance regarding community school compliance with the sunshine law training component for board members, fiscal officers, school administrators and administrative and supervisory EMO staff outlined in [state law](#). The AOS will not be auditing schools on whether the completed sunshine law training was approved by the Attorney General for the 2023-2024 SY. A copy of the AOS's bulletin can be found [here](#). Please consult with the school's legal counsel when fulfilling this training requirement.

### Science of Reading

[State law](#) requires instructional materials in English language arts (ELA) to be aligned with the science of reading and strategies for effective literacy instruction.

- Beginning not later than the 2024-2025 school year, each school must use core curriculum and instructional materials in ELA and evidence-based reading intervention programs only from the lists developed by the Department of Education and Workforce.
- The current list of [approved core curriculum and instructional materials](#) for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten-grade 5 along with additional information on this requirement can be found [here](#).

*Is your school's curriculum on the approved list?*

### AI Toolkit

Ohio Lt. Governor Jon Husted, in partnership with The AI Education Project (aiEDU) has created a toolkit to offer guidance and resources to assist school staff members and policymakers in fostering greater AI literacy. The toolkit is a practical guide for developing policies and recommendations to help prepare all Ohio students for jobs in an increasingly AI-driven world. The toolkit can be found [here](#).

*How is AI impacting your school?*

### Reporting Fraud, Theft in Office, or the Misuse or Misappropriation of Public Funds

[State law](#) allows school employees to make anonymous complaints to the [Auditor of State's \(AOS\) fraud reporting system](#) regarding misuse and misappropriation of public money. Additionally, effective March 28, 2024, state law requires the same from:

- 1) people elected to local public office;
- 2) people appointed to or within a local public office;
- 3) people with a fiduciary duty to the local public office;
- 4) people holding a supervisory position within a local public office; and

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5) people employed in the department or office responsible for processing any revenue or expenses of the local public office to notify the AOS via the fraud reporting system when they become aware of fraud, theft in office, or the misuse or misappropriation of public money.

## FISCAL

### Federal Programs – Spring Is Time for Reflection and Planning

- School year 2023-2024 Federal Title Program dollars should be used by June 30, 2024.
- Federal Program plans and budgets for the 2024-2025 school year should be discussed now and board approved by June 30, 2024.

*Do you know what programs are being funded with federal funds? How are you monitoring the effectiveness of these programs?*

### Remember the deadline to use American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) Funds is September 30, 2024.

*Does your school have remaining ARP ESSER funds? How do you plan to use them before the deadline? Is there any current programming that will no longer be funded?*

### Five Year Forecasts

The updated five-year forecast will be due to Adrienne Shreve, [adrienne@ohioschools.org](mailto:adrienne@ohioschools.org), no later than Friday, May 17, 2024. Please ensure that assumptions are reasonable, revenue and expense estimates are fully explained, any debt is detailed, and, if needed, vendor contracts and management agreements should be referenced.

### Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid and Student Wellness and Success Funds Guidance

Schools receive [Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid](#) and [Student Wellness and Success Funds](#) to fund initiatives providing wraparound services for Ohio's students. For Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025, districts and schools are required to use funding to support the initiatives outlined in the FY24-25 Student Wellness and Success Funding and Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid Uses [table](#).

The schools are required to present a plan to the boards on how they will spend this money.

- The plans are to be shared to the board, but do not require board approval.
- The plan must be presented prior to using the funding and be posted to the school's website.
- 50% of the funding must be used on student physical well-being, mental-well being, or a combination of the 2.
- There are other uses for the DPIA portion which include academic interventions, PD, community learning centers, and school safety training.
- The money doesn't carry over from fiscal year to fiscal year.

Visit the Department's updated [Supporting Student Wellness webpage](#) for guidance on funding and allowable uses. Contact [wellnessandsuccess@education.ohio.gov](mailto:wellnessandsuccess@education.ohio.gov) with any questions.

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## ACADEMICS

### State Leaders Release Recommendations to Improve Statewide Student Attendance

Members of the Ohio Attendance Taskforce announced recommendations to improve school attendance and reduce chronic absence. Read the [Ohio Attendance Taskforce Recommendations Report here](#).

*What is your school's Chronic Absenteeism rate?*

## ASSESSMENT

### Submit Grade 3 Paper Testing Resolution for 2024-2025 by May 1

[Ohio law](#) allows districts the option of paper or online test administration for the third grade Ohio's State Tests and Alternate Assessment for Students with the Most Significant Cognitive Disabilities (AASCD). A district board of education or governing authority must make the choice to use paper tests and submit a board or governing authority resolution by May 1 for the 2024-2025 school year.

A district can choose to deliver all or some of the following Grade 3 tests via paper test forms:

- Ohio's State Test for English Language Arts;
- Ohio's State Test for Mathematics;
- AASCD English Language Arts; and
- AASCD Mathematics.

All data and PDF copies of board or governing authority resolutions must be submitted via the survey by **May 1**. Schools should be aware of the short turnaround time in receiving the paper test results and distributing them to the appropriate parties as required by ODEW.

## SPECIAL EDUCATION

### Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) Special Education Profile- First Release

The first phase of the 2023-2024 Special Education Profile, released December 2023, contains many indicators that may have required actions. This includes alternate assessment, exiting, compliance and survey indicators. Your school has been assigned an Improvement Plan due to missing one or more Indicators, and all appropriate staff have been notified by Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) as well as Ohio Council of Community Schools (OCCS). The Self-Review Summary Report and Improvement Plan are due 3/29/2024. The Improvement Plan needs to be signed by the State Support Team (SST) representative and then OCCS Special Education Representative before being uploaded to the state.

### Alternative Assessment Administration

This spring during the testing window, the Alternative Assessment is administered to any student that has qualified for the test through their IEP team. Please ensure that the testing materials have been secured and appropriate staff are trained to administer.

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## UPCOMING

### Post-Secondary Scholarship Cycle

OCCS is proud to announce its 17th annual [Post-Secondary Scholarship](#) for students attending OCCS-sponsored schools and pursuing a 2 or 4-year college or technical school for their post-secondary education and training for the 2024-2025 school year. These scholarship opportunities were developed to award academic achievement, help students with financial need, support virtual students and first-generation college students. The scholarship application opens on Friday, February 16, 2024. Application requirements and guidelines can be found [here](#). Completed applications and all required documents are due by Friday, May 3, 2024. If you have any questions, please contact the OCCS Scholarship Team at [scholarships@ohioschools.org](mailto:scholarships@ohioschools.org) or by phone at 419-720-5200.

### OCCS Convocation

Save The Date for the OCCS Annual Convocation on Wednesday, August 7, 2024, at the Renaissance Columbus Westerville Polaris Hotel. The theme this year is *Innovate. Educate. Elevate: Chartering the Next Era*, which captures the essence of innovation, education, and the elevation of charter schools as they embark on the next era of development. Mark your calendars. Registration will open May 2024.

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