



2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Charter School Specialists provides this annual report on behalf of St. Aloysius Orphanage. St. Aloysius Orphanage has partnered with Charter School Specialists since 2005 to provide statutorily required monitoring, evaluation and technical assistance to their partner community schools. St. Aloysius Orphanage sponsored 62 charter schools during the 2020-21 school year.

St. Aloysius Orphanage is an independent, non-profit, non-denominational social service agency assisting children and adolescents in Southwest Ohio with mental and behavioral health problems through a variety of support programs to manage the impact of trauma and move beyond it.

At St. Aloysius we believe that every child deserves to receive a good education, no matter what challenges they may be facing. As part of our mission, we strive to be a leader in furthering education for all children throughout our community and statewide. Part of the way we fulfill this mission is by being a proud Charter School Sponsor for the state of Ohio.

Since 2005, St. Aloysius has partnered with Charter School Specialists with a shared commitment to the educational needs of Ohio's public-school students and have become leaders in Ohio's charter school movement, providing the crucial sponsorship services of monitoring, evaluation, and technical assistance.



During the 2020-2021 school year, St. Aloysius sponsored sixty-two schools throughout Ohio. Four new schools and two transfer schools were added to our portfolio last year. Over one-third of the schools we sponsor are drop-out recovery program schools with one school serving mainly special needs students.

Sponsors, also known as authorizers in other states, play a vital role in the broad effort to help ensure that charter schools provide quality educational opportunities in Ohio and across the country. St. Aloysius and Charter School Specialists embrace this role to provide strong oversight, monitoring and technical assistance in support of their sponsored schools by providing many services including:

- ❖ **Attendance and participation at all governing authority meetings, including nearly all regular, special, and emergency meetings, post-audit conferences, and planning retreats.** Participation in these meetings not only support efforts to provide strong oversight and monitoring of school activities but also allows for timely, relevant sharing of data, information and technical assistance as board members and school leaders discuss and act on issues that ultimately impact school compliance and student achievement.
- ❖ **Comprehensive Compliance Assessments.** Charter School Specialists conducted thorough compliance reviews ten days prior to the opening of each new school and at least twice annually while the schools are in session. These visits ensure school compliance with state and federal laws and the terms of the community school contract and provide an opportunity to help schools with any necessary technical assistance. Special education, federal program, and college and career readiness reviews are also conducted to help ensure compliance and that schools are adequately meeting the needs of all students.
- ❖ **Quality Technical Assistance.** School leaders, board members, academic coaches and others participate in the many training sessions coordinated by Charter School Specialists to address schools' specific and common needs in core areas of health and safety, special education, and school improvement. Beyond these broad-interest training opportunities, Charter School Specialists provides one-on-one technical assistance to help address each school's unique individual needs. Additionally, Charter School Specialists has implemented

Virtual Assistance Reviews (VARs), in place of our usual Onsite Assistance Reviews, due to COVID restrictions. This review begins with an assessment of our sponsored schools' faithfulness to the terms of the community school contract, evidence of best practice and indicators of success or needed technical assistance. Charter School Specialists is specifically looking for evidence of fidelity of implementation and will then present the findings and recommendations to both the governing authority and school operators with an offer to provide any necessary technical assistance.

- ❖ **Monthly Fiscal Reviews.** Charter School Specialists' coordinates monthly fiscal reviews of schools' financial reports (as prepared by school treasurers). Monthly "school-at-a-glance" reports are provided to governing authority members to help identify fiscal trends and any potential "red flags" requiring board review or action.

Our dedication to provide quality assistance to our schools was recognized on the 2018-2019 Sponsor Evaluation by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE). Twenty-five sponsors were evaluated, and St. Aloysius was one of six sponsors to receive the highest rating of "Exemplary." St. Aloysius received the maximum score in the areas of "Compliance" and "Quality Practices." Sponsors that are rated "Exemplary" or rated "Effective" for the three most recent years in which they were evaluated are evaluated by the department once every three years. ODE annually evaluates community school sponsors on three components:

- 1) The academic performance of the community schools they sponsor.
- 2) The sponsor's and each sponsored school's compliance with all applicable laws and rules.
- 3) Their adherence to quality sponsoring practices.

QUALITY AUTHORIZING (SPONSORSHIP) FOSTERS QUALITY SCHOOL CHOICE OPTIONS

A national quality authorizing practice is to seek out effective educational options for parents. St. Aloysius and Charter School Specialists seek applications for new schools each year and vet each application through a rigorous but fair process. The highest quality applicants are then permitted to begin the process to create a new community school.

A high-quality application, strong board of education, and competent educators are needed to implement a quality school. However, without a deliberated and focused effort a quality education option will not materialize. Unlike the traditional education system, community schools must prove their worth at the conclusion of each term. A quality best practice is to conduct a High Stakes Review at the end of each school's charter term. This High Stakes Review is an assessment of whether the school has become an academic success or is on the path to becoming an academic success. Any school that fails this thorough assessment is closed to make room for other quality choice options.

Ongoing Performance Assessment and Support

The foundation of an effective community school is its charter, the sponsorship contract which outlines clear, rigorous performance expectations and specific measurable goals. Because St. Aloysius and Charter School Specialists understand that it takes time for a school to realize its full potential, the first year of operation serves as a baseline for ongoing assessment that tracks a school through its maturation—under national best practices, a five-year process.

Significant resources are dedicated to ongoing monitoring of schools' performance. While all schools sponsored by St. Aloysius are strongly encouraged to engage in regular self-improvement

practices, including the Ohio Improvement Process (OIP), under-performing schools are required to do so. Each school develops or reviews and revises its' individual OIP Focused Plans which must then be implemented with fidelity to adequately address students' academic needs. The process includes SMART (Strategic, Measureable, Attainable, Results-oriented, Time-bound) goals aligned with appropriate strategies and action steps for achievement. Schools must also institute and implement a curriculum that meets Ohio's rigorous system of assessments. Additionally, the school must provide staff with high-quality professional development that is aligned with the school's improvement goals.

St. Aloysius and Charter School Specialists are committed to Ohio's students and the schools that support them. That commitment extends to autonomy, the first principle of the charter school movement that is the foundation of the relationship between schools and sponsors. However, autonomy does not translate into a lack of accountability. To the contrary, the consequences for schools that fail to make adequate academic progress increase each year and are the very foundation of autonomy—the freedom and responsibility to effectively provide the services Ohio's students and families are entitled to receive. To assist schools in meeting and exceeding academic progress, Charter School Specialists' School Improvement Team engages in many activities during the year to support this process:

- ❖ Facilitating webinars for school leaders and board members to better understand local report card metrics.
- ❖ Providing Professional Development opportunities including segments on school leader professional growth, data analysis, Ohio Teacher Evaluation System including Student Learning Opportunities and the 3rd Grade Reading Guarantee.
- ❖ Supporting our contracted partner schools as they assess, continue to develop, and implement their OIP plans, as well as establishing guidance on academic coach eligibility criteria and tools to track their activities.
- ❖ Completion of the Virtual Assistance Review (VAR)

Quality Technical Assistance

Among Charter School Specialists' greatest value to schools sponsored by St. Aloysius is its high-quality technical assistance. From issues of broad interest and application to opportunities for improvement unique to individual schools, Charter School Specialists dedicates significant resources in support of schools sponsored by St. Aloysius. Members of the Charter School Specialists School Improvement Team have extensive expertise and training in a number of key areas of school operations that can be leveraged to improve student achievement:

- ❖ The School Improvement Team includes a resident educator mentor and Formative Instructional Practice (FIP) facilitator.
- ❖ Charter School Specialists' staff includes credentialed Ohio Teacher Evaluation System and Ohio Principal Evaluation System evaluators as part of the ongoing efforts to expand capacity and better support schools' needs.
- ❖ Charter School Specialists' staff participates in professional development opportunities that support efforts to help schools understand and use Local Report Card data and develop comprehensive school improvement plans.

Teaching Ohio's students is a satisfying, valuable life service, and St. Aloysius is proud to partner with Charter School Specialists to provide high level support to all the schools within our portfolio.

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS OF QUALITY

House Bill 166 established a “Quality Community Schools Support Grant” to provide additional funding to community schools designated as a Community School of Quality. Sixteen of our schools were designated as “Quality Community Schools” for SY2020-2021 and were eligible to receive up to \$1,750 in each fiscal year for each pupil identified as economically disadvantaged and \$1,000 for all others.

To receive this designation a community school’s sponsor must be rated “exemplary” or “effective” on the most recent Sponsor Evaluation and meet one of three criteria established in H.B. 166.

Congratulations to our schools who qualified for the 2020-2021 Quality Community School Support Fund:

- ❖ Bella Academy of Excellence
- ❖ Capital Collegiate Preparatory Academy
- ❖ Central Point Preparatory Academy
- ❖ Cornerstone Academy Community School
- ❖ Groveport Community School
- ❖ Parma Academy (aka Huber Heights Preparatory Academy)
- ❖ Toledo Preparatory Academy (aka Kenmore Preparatory Academy)
- ❖ Klepinger Community School
- ❖ Madison Avenue School of Arts
- ❖ North Columbus Preparatory Academy
- ❖ Patriot Preparatory Academy
- ❖ Richard Allen Academy
- ❖ South Columbus Preparatory Academy at German Village
- ❖ South Columbus Preparatory Academy at Southfield
- ❖ Sullivant Avenue Community School
- ❖ West Preparatory Academy

ASSESSMENT OF SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Each year, the Ohio Department of Education requires sponsors to assess the performance of each school they oversee. Schools can receive a rating of either **Exceeds, Meets, or Did Not Meet** in the areas of Academic Performance, Fiscal Performance and Organization and Operation. Schools receive a **Meets** or **Did Not Meet** in the area of Legal Compliance. St. Aloysius assesses schools based on the following criteria:

Academic Performance – Ohio’s ordered school-building closure and subsequent emergency legislation have had substantial impacts on the state’s accountability system and Ohio School Report Cards for the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years. As a result, schools did not receive letter grades on their School Report Cards from ODE for either school year. Therefore, schools receiving a rating of “**Meets**” were not on the Ohio Department of Education’s at risk for closure list in 2020-2021. Schools receiving a rating of “**Did Not Meet**” were on the Ohio Department of Education’s at risk for closure list in 2020-2021 and subsequently placed on probation by St. Aloysius. House Bill 110, signed into law by Governor DeWine on June 30, 2021, amended the school closure law to reset the closure criteria to begin with the 2022-2023 local report card. No schools are at risk for automatic closure as established in the Ohio Revised Code at this time.

Fiscal Performance – Schools that receive an “**Exceeds**” rating will be fully compliant with all aspects of meeting their fiscal accountability as outlined in their community school contract. Schools will be fully compliant with proper financial controls and have a strong financial

position. Schools will have clean audits by the Ohio Auditor of State and no corrective actions plans related to the fiscal performance of the school. Schools that receive a “**Meets**” rating will be substantially compliant in meeting their fiscal accountability as outlined in their community school contract. Schools will have clean or substantially clean audits by the Ohio Auditor of State and will have successfully resolved any minor compliance or management letter issues through the sponsor’s corrective action process. Fiscal reviews are to be submitted each month in a timely manner. Any school that does not meet this standard and/or was placed on fiscal probation or suspension will be assessed as “**Did Not Meet.**”

Organization and Operation - Schools that receive a rating of “**Exceeds**” will be fully compliant with the school’s code of regulations, the community school contract and successfully comply with and execute the educational program defined in the community school contract. Governing authorities must have the statutorily required number of members, have met the board training requirements, submitted annual disclosures, and received no corrective action plans related to the organization or operation of the school. Schools that receive a “**Meets**” rating will be substantially compliant with all aspects of their community school contract, the school’s established code of regulations and the education plan defined in the community school contract. Governing authorities must have the statutorily required number of members, have met the board training requirements, and submitted annual disclosures. Any school that has not met these obligations and/or was placed on probation or suspended due to organization and operation compliance will be assessed as “**Did Not Meet.**”

Legal Compliance - Schools that receive a “**Meets**” rating are substantially compliant with all legal requirements of the Ohio Revised Code, the Ohio Administrative Code, and the community school contract. Schools that fail to be in substantial compliance with statutes and the community school contract and subsequently were placed on Probation or Suspension during the 2020-2021 school year receive a “**Did Not Meet**” and the areas of deficiency are noted on the summary spreadsheet.



St. Aloysius Orphanage 2020-2021 Compliance

Schools	Academic Performance	Fiscal Performance	Organization and Operation	Legal Compliance	Comments
AchievePoint Career Academy - Cincinnati	Meets	Exceeds	Meets	Meets	
Akros Middle School	Meets	Exceeds	Meets	Meets	
Bella Academy of Excellence	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	
Black River Career Prep High School	Does Not Meet	Exceeds	Meets	Meets	The school was placed on probation for being on the at-risk of closure list.
Broadway Academy	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	
Buckeye Community School	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	
Capital City Career Prep High School	Meets	Exceeds	Meets	Meets	
Capital Collegiate Preparatory Academy	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	
Central Point Preparatory Academy	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	
Cincinnati Achievement Academy	Meets	Does Not Meet	Meets	Meets	The school was placed on probation during FY19-20 and at the beginning of FY20-21 for declining enrollment and financial concerns. The school increased its enrollment and was released from probation on 8/3/2020.
Cliff Park High School	Meets	Exceeds	Meets	Meets	
Cornerstone Academy	Meets	Exceeds	Meets	Meets	
Cypress High School	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	
East Academy	Does Not Meet	Meets	Meets	Meets	The school was placed on probation for being on the at-risk of closure list.
East Branch Preparatory Academy dba Wright Preparatory Academy	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	
East Preparatory Academy	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	
Euclid Preparatory School	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	
Everest High School	Does Not Meet	Meets	Meets	Meets	The school was placed on probation for being on the at-risk of closure list.
Franklinton Prep High School	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	
Gem City Career Prep High School	Meets	Exceeds	Meets	Meets	
Glass City Academy	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	
Greater Ohio Virtual School	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	
Green Inspiration Academy	Meets	Did Not Meet	Meets	Meets	The school was placed on probation during FY19-20 for financial issues and remained on probation during FY20-21. The school was released from probation on 5/20/21.
Groveport Community School	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	
Harvard Avenue Performance Academy	Does Not Meet	Exceeds	Meets	Meets	The school was placed on probation for being on the at-risk of closure list.
Hope Academy Northcoast Campus	Meets	Exceeds	Meets	Meets	
Huber Heights Preparatory Academy dba Parma Academy	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	
Invictus High School	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	
Kenmore Preparatory Academy dba Toledo Preparatory Academy	Meets	Exceeds	Meets	Meets	
Kids Care Elementary	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	
Klepinger Community School	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	
Lake Erie International High School	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	
Liberty High School	Meets	Exceeds	Meets	Meets	
Lorain Preparatory Academy	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	
Madison Avenue School of Arts	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	
Marshall High School	Meets	Exceeds	Meets	Meets	
Middlebury Academy	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	
Monroe Preparatory Academy	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	
Mount Auburn Preparatory Academy	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	
North Columbus Preparatory Academy	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	
North Woods Career Prep High School	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	
Northwest Ohio Classical Academy	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	
Orchard Park Academy	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	
Patriot Preparatory Academy	Meets	Exceeds	Meets	Meets	
Queen City Career Prep High School	Does Not Meet	Meets	Meets	Meets	The school was placed on probation for being on the at-risk of closure list.
Randall Park High School	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	
Richard Allen Academy	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	
Richard Allen Preparatory	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	
River Gate High School	Meets	Exceeds	Meets	Meets	
South Columbus Preparatory Academy at Southfield	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	
South Columbus Preparatory at German Village	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	
STEAM Academy of Warren	Does Not Meet	Meets	Meets	Meets	The school was placed on probation for being on the at-risk of closure list.
Sullivant Avenue Community School	Meets	Exceeds	Meets	Meets	
The Edge Academy	Meets	Exceeds	Meets	Meets	
Towpath Trail High School	Meets	Exceeds	Meets	Meets	



St. Aloysius Orphanage 2020-2021 Compliance

Schools	Academic Performance	Fiscal Performance	Organization and Operation	Legal Compliance	Comments
West Park Academy	Does Not Meet	Meets	Meets	Meets	The school was placed on probation for being on the at-risk of closure list.
West Preparatory Academy	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	
Westwood Preparatory Academy	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	
YB Columbus Community School	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	
Youngstown Academy of Excellence	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	
Zenith Academy East	Meets	Exceeds	Meets	Meets	
Zenith Academy West	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	