

# The Thomas B. Fordham Foundation



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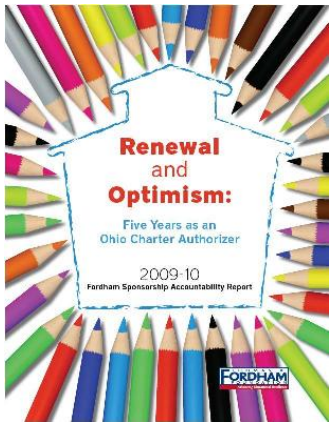
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## Sponsorship News

### Fordham Sponsorship Accountability Report



The Thomas B. Fordham Foundation has been authorizing (aka sponsoring) charter schools in Ohio since 2005, and each year we submit an “accountability report” to the state that documents our authorizing work, our schools’ performance, and more. Sharing lessons from our charter authorizing work is important and so we spend a lot of time and energy on it. We’re eager to share it with those interested in and committed to improving charter school quality as well as authoring excellence.

This year’s report, [Renewal and Optimism: Five Years as an Ohio Charter Authorizer](#), details some of our contract renewal decisions, outlines some achievement success stories and contrasts our schools with comparable schools locally and statewide. The report also discusses Fordham’s support – along with the Educational Service Center of Central Ohio – of a new statewide authorizing entity

that could help ensure quality through scale. To view the whole report, as well as video profiles of the six schools Fordham authorized in 2009-10, please visit our [website](#)

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## Policy News

### Now What? Imperatives and Options for Common Core Implementation and Governance

This Fordham Institute publication—co-authored by President Chester E. Finn Jr. and VP Michael J. Petrilli—pushes folks to think about what comes next in the journey to common education standards and tests. Most states have adopted the “Common Core” English language arts and math standards, and

most are also working on common assessments. But...now what? The standards won't implement themselves, but unless they are adopted in the classroom, nothing much will change. What implementation tasks are most urgent? What should be done across state lines? What should be left to individual states, districts, and private markets? Perhaps most perplexing, who will govern and "own" these standards and tests ten or twenty years from now?

Finn and Petrilli probe these issues in "Now What?" After collecting feedback on some tough questions from two-dozen education leaders (e.g. Jeb Bush, David Driscoll, Rod Paige, Andy Rotherham, Eric Smith), they frame three possible models for governing this implementation process. In the end, as you'll see, they recommend a step-by-step approach to coordinate implementation of the Common Core. Read on to find out more.

You can find the full report [on our website](#).

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## **Extras**

### **No Calamity Days For Community Schools (this is a good thing!)**

Just a reminder: community schools do *not* get calamity days, and this is a positive for charters. Specifically, charter schools are paid on the hours of instruction in the profiles that they submit to ODE at the beginning of each year. Thus, if your school closes for whatever reason, it is up to the school to adjust the calendar accordingly and make up the time (as opposed to having to make up the extra days that district schools must). Tip: if inclement weather requires a significant adjustment to your school's calendar, be sure the board approves the change. As the calendar is tied to the profile, which in turn is tied to funding, this will make the auditor happy (and that's a good thing, too).

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### **You're Leaving? Succession and Sustainability in Charter Schools**

Kudos to the Center on Reinventing Public Education for its new report, which sheds much needed light on a critical yet rarely addressed element of charter schools' sustainability: school leader succession planning. Leader turnover in charters is high—71 percent over five years. Yet less than a quarter of schools surveyed here had substantive succession plans in place—a necessity for allaying potential leadership crises. While the author acknowledges that many charters face myriad daily issues that stretch their leaders in multiple directions, the uniqueness of each school's mission necessitates finding a qualified, like-minded leader. When formulating succession plans, charter school boards should address the school's mission, strengths, and weaknesses and account for emergency and longer term circumstances. Most importantly, though, all stakeholders, from the school leader to the authorizer, should be engaged in honest discussion and held responsible for their share of the process. This report is a must read for charter practitioners of every sort.

You can find the entire report on the Center on Reinventing Public Education's [website](#)

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## **Upcoming Deadlines, Trainings and Events,**

### **Deadlines**

**December 16:** Phoenix Community Learning Center Board Meeting

**December 17:** AOIS Submissions (Fire Drill Log November 2010, LPDC Meeting Minutes November 2010, Monthly Financial Report November 2010, Final Approved Board Minutes November 2010); KIPP Journey Academy Board Meeting

**December 20:** Columbus Collegiate Academy Board Meeting; Dayton Leadership Academies Board Meeting.

**January 14:** AOIS Submissions (Governing Authority Policies & Bylaws, Food Allergy Protection Policy)

**January 17:** Dayton Liberty Academies Board Meeting; Columbus Collegiate Academy Board Meeting

**January 20:** Phoenix Community Learning Center Board Meeting

**January 21:** KIPP: Journey Academy Board Meeting; **AOIS** Submissions (Truancy Documentation: October through December)

**January 28:** AOIS Submissions (Final Approved Board Minutes December 2010, Local Professional Development Committee (LPDC) Minutes January 2011, Monthly Financial Report December 2010, Fire Drill Log)

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### **Trainings**

**A Testing Webinar** will be held by Fordham on Tuesday, December 14 at 4:00 pm. This webinar will review Ohio Achievement Assessment preparation requirements including scheduling, materials, and basic logistics concerned with test security and monitoring. We'll also review recent rule book changes.

**Mentor-Resident Educator Trainings** for mentors (one day and two day, depending on mentor experience) can be found by searching in the Event Name for "MENTOR" in [STARS](#).

**Public Charter School Program Grants (aka Federal Start-up)** trainings dates should be posted soon on ODE's [website](#). Schools interested in the planning, implementation or dissemination grants

should check to ensure they don't miss the webinars. These sessions contain information on the particulars of the application process, and provide a forum for questions.

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For additional information on anything in this update, please contact Whitney Gilbert at [wgilbert@edexcellence.net](mailto:wgilbert@edexcellence.net)

Visit us on the web at [www.edexcellence.net/index.cfm/our-charter-schools](http://www.edexcellence.net/index.cfm/our-charter-schools)

