

Thomas B. Fordham Foundation



- January 2011 Update for Schools

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Sponsorship News

Spring Site Visits are Fast Approaching

Fordham's spring site visits will start a little earlier than last year, late January to be exact. This new schedule - one school every three weeks, with a break during testing - will allow Fordham staff more time to focus on each individual school's report and, ideally, turn the final report around to each school's board within 30 days of the visit.

Proposed dates for each schools site visit have been sent to school leaders and we ask that you please confirm at your earliest convenience. The spring site visits will be structured similarly to the fall visits (i.e., one full day that encompasses a student records review, special education records review, classroom observations, and interviews with the school leader and staff).

If you have any questions about the process or your school's site visit date please contact Whitney Gilbert at wgilbert@edexcellence.net or 937-227-3368.

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Fordham and the Dayton Public Schools Discuss Purchasing Cooperative

The Thomas B Fordham Foundation will host a meeting to discuss the possibility of forming a purchasing cooperative with the Dayton Public Schools and area charter schools on January 12 from 10:00 – 11:00 am at the Dayton View Campus.

The idea is to form a group comprised of different organizations with similar needs that are seeking to cut costs on services such as janitorial, food service, supplies, technology, etc. James Harris, Chief Operating Officer for the Dayton Public Schools, will provide background information on the project and answer questions from those who are interested.

If you have questions regarding the purchasing co-op please contact Kathryn Mullen Upton at kmullenupton@edexcellence.net.

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Geoffrey Canada at the University of Dayton



On January 18 the University of Dayton will continue its Diversity Lecture Series with Geoffrey Canada. Mr. Canada has been the President and CEO of Harlem's Children Zone and will address "Waiting for Superman: The Crisis Facing Youth - What Adults and Communities Can Do to Save Our Children."

This event is free and open to the public. The event will be held at 7:30 pm in the RecPlex on the University of Dayton's campus. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Lynnette Heard, executive director of the office of the president, at 937-229-4122.

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SES Transportation

The U. S. Department of Education recently advised us that any charter school offering Supplemental Education Services (as required per No Child Left Behind) must ensure that all SES providers are in full compliance with all state transportation laws and rules, if the SES provider transports any students. This directive applies even if the school does not own or operate any of the vehicles used to transport the students participating in SES.

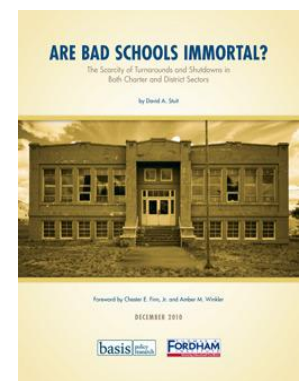
If you have questions, please contact Kathryn Mullen Upton at kmullenupton@edexcellence.net.

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Policy News

Are Bad Schools Immortal?

This study from the Thomas B. Fordham Institute finds that low-performing public schools—both charter and traditional district schools—are stubbornly resistant to significant change. After identifying more than 2,000 low-performing charter and district schools across ten states, analyst David Stuit tracked them from 2003-04 through 2008-09 to determine how many were turned around, shut down, or remained low-performing. Results were



generally dismal. Seventy-two percent of the original low-performing charters remained in operation—and remained low-performing—five years later. So did 80 percent of district schools. Read on to learn more—including results from the ten states.

You can find the full report on [Fordham's website](#).

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Extras

Don't forget to add the new Special Education Contact role to OEDS

Come February 1, 2011, the Office of Exceptional Children (OEC) will be relying on information found in OEDS to create a special education contact list. As such, OEC is asking that every Local Education Agency (LEA – charter schools are their own LEAs in Ohio) supply them with a special education contact. The OEDS administrator must add this role and assign an appropriate individual by January 31, 2011. You can find instructions on how to add a role on page 75 of the [OEDS-R Desk Guide](#).

If you have questions about the new role contact the Office of Exceptional Children at (614) 466-2650.

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Upcoming Deadlines, Trainings and Events

Deadlines

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

January 20: Phoenix Community Learning Center Board Meeting

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

January 24: Dayton Liberty Academies Board Meeting; Columbus Collegiate Academy Board Meeting

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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Key Dates for OAA Spring 2011

Below are important dates to remember when preparing for the spring 2011 administration of the OAA. For more information about the Ohio Achievement Assessment view ODE's [District Test Coordinator Newsletter](#) or their [testing page](#).

January 31 – February 17	TIDE open for submitting on-time orders
January 31 – March 3	TIDE open for submitting pre-ID files
Week of April 11	OAA spring 2011 test materials due in district
Week of April 18	2011 OAA pre-ID and generic labels due in district

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Events

eTech Ohio's 2011 Educational Technology Conference will be held from January 31 to February 2 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. For more information on the conference, including how to register, visit [eTech Ohio's conference webpage](#).

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Trainings

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

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