

Thomas B. Fordham Foundation



- March 2011 Update for Schools

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Sponsorship News

Columbus Collegiate Academy Wins Highest Award for Achievement

Columbus Collegiate Academy has just been awarded the Gold-Gain EPIC award by New Leaders for New Schools for dramatic gains in student achievement.

This award is an incredible accomplishment on the part of CCA school leader Andy Boy and his dedicated staff. Only four charter schools in the entire country earned the Gold award. CCA won EPIC's silver award last year – and was the only charter school in the whole state of Ohio to win. The school's ability to continue making tremendous gains with students – 94 percent of whom are economically disadvantaged – propelled it into the very top tier for student growth, among the ranks of some of the most impressive charter schools in the country.

CCA Executive Director and Founder Andy Boy explained the school's keys to success in a press release: *We are so proud of our students and staff. Our teachers and staff share the belief that all students can and will learn when provided the right environment for academic success. Through high expectations, a structured school day, and an uncompromising focus on academics our students are outpacing students from around the country.*

Kathryn Mullen Upton, director of charter school sponsorship at the Thomas B. Fordham Foundation, noted: *We are thrilled that Columbus Collegiate Academy is a 2011 EPIC Gold Gain School. This award recognizes the exceptional quality of the academic program at Columbus Collegiate, the relentless efforts of its staff and leader, and the positive impact that Columbus Collegiate has on its students.*

New Leaders for New Schools started EPIC — the Effective Practice Incentive Community – in 2006 “to link principal and teacher incentive pay to the wide-scale sharing of effective educational practices.” EPIC recognizes and rewards school leaders and staff in these schools (CCA will receive approximately \$42,000 in staff bonuses this year) and creates comprehensive case studies of their successes so that others may learn from them. In this way, EPIC serves as not just a unique performance pay program but as a professional development platform for participating charter schools nationwide and district schools in Washington, DC; Memphis; and Denver.

As its authorizer, we're incredibly proud of CCA and the hard work of Andy Boy and the school's teachers and staff. Last year on the Ohio Achievement Assessment, the school's sixth and seventh graders outscored their Columbus City School peers in every tested subject, by margins as large as 54 percentage points. One hundred percent of CCA seventh graders passed the state math test, while 93 percent were proficient on the reading test – compared to averages of 77 percent and 84 percent *statewide*. In other words, the school's students are outpacing their peers in wealthier and suburban communities despite living in the heart of one of Columbus's poorest neighborhoods.

Congrats to CCA and to all this year's winning schools!

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National Alliance of Public Charter Schools Annual Conference

The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools will host its National Charter Schools Conference at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta June 20-23. Advanced registration and discounted hotel blocks end May 31.

For more information, including registration, reserved hotel blocks, and conference sessions please visit the National Association for Public Charter Schools' conference [website](#).

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Policy News

2009 NAEP Science Results Released

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) [2009 science results](#) were recently released. Ohio fourth and eighth grade students outperformed students in several other states. Proficiency rates, overall, though remain low (41 percent for Ohio students and 32 percent nationally).

To read more about these results visit [Fordham's Ohio Gadfly](#).

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Stretching the School Dollar: A Brief for State Policymakers

This recent [policy brief](#), written by Marguerite Roza, senior data and economics advisor at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Michael J. Petrilli, executive vice president at the Fordham Institute, lists fifteen concrete ways that states can "stretch the school dollar" in these difficult financial times. It argues that budget cuts alone, without concurrent reforms, could set our schools back years. But by addressing state mandates around teacher tenure, "last hired, first fired" policies, minimum class sizes, and more, states can free local leaders' hands to make smart, courageous cuts and do more with less. In other words, this challenging climate is an opportunity to make some real changes in education.

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Extras

Pesticide Policy Required by All Schools

School boards need to have a policy regarding the use of pesticides in schools. The policy should allow all parents or guardians of students and all employees of the school to request prior notification of any scheduled pesticide service by businesses, or scheduled applications by school employees. Schools must also designate an employee as a contact person and follow specific posting requirements.

More information on the requirements of this new policy can be found in the [Ohio Administrative Code 901:5-11-15 \(C\)](#).

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Upcoming Deadlines, Trainings and Events

Deadlines

February 17: Phoenix Community Learning Center Board Meeting; KIPP: Journey Academy Board Meeting

February 18: AOIS Submissions (Audit)

February 21: Columbus Collegiate Academy Board Meeting

February 24: AOIS Submissions (Final Approved Board Minutes January 2011, Local Professional Development Committee (LPDC) Minutes February 2011, Monthly Financial Report January 2011, Fire Drill Log)

February 28: Dayton Leadership Academies Board Meeting

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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

Remember - you cannot use the week of May 9 for initial administration. The return schedule for initial test scorable materials, (which have been communicated to district test coordinators) is no later than May 6th for districts with fewer than 2,500 K-8 students.

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Events

The 2011 Ohio Economic-Education Summit IV will be held February 21-23, 2011 at the Hyatt Regency in Columbus, Ohio. For more information visit the summit's [website](#).

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Trainings

Public Charter School Program Grants (aka Federal start-up) training dates will 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.

If you have any questions contact the new PCSP Grant Coordinator, Deneice Cooper at deneice.cooper@ode.state.oh.us or by phone 614-387-2244.

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For additional information on anything in this update, please contact Whitney Gilbert at wgilbert@edexcellence.net

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