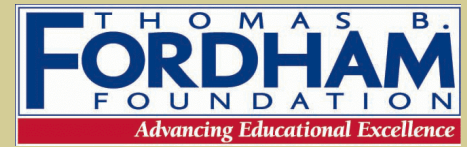


The Thomas B. Fordham Foundation



- September 2010 Update for Schools

Sponsorship News

[Sponsorship Application Available](#)
[Buddy the Robot](#)

Extras

[Special Education Determination and Required Action](#)
[Caseload Ratio Project OEC](#)
[Testing for 2010-2011](#)

Policy News

[Ohio Report Card Analysis](#)

Upcoming Events, Deadlines and Trainings

[Dates & Deadlines](#)
[Trainings](#)

Sponsorship News

Sponsorship Application for 2011 Now Available

Know someone interested in starting a charter school in Ohio, or an existing charter school seeking a new sponsor? Fordham's sponsorship applications for new and existing schools have been updated and are available on the [sponsorship webpage](#). Note that the deadline for the Letter of Intent to apply is February 1, 2011 for new, start-up schools (including replications), and November 1, 2010 for existing schools seeking a new sponsor.

[Back to Top](#)

Buddy the Robot

In a previous newsletter we highlighted the work of the Phoenix Community Learning Center's robotics team with their robot, Buddy. Buddy, made of Legos, was built and programmed by the students to clean different environmental hazards through color sensors.

In March, Buddy was put to the test at a robotics competition hosted by the College of Applied Sciences at the University of Cincinnati. Buddy went head to head with other middle and high school teams from across the Cincinnati metro area and came out victorious, winning three first-place trophies (Total Points-Winner, Best Robot, and Creativity) and two second place trophies (Research Display and Oral Presentation).

To see Buddy in action, check out the new [video](#), and if you'd like to read more about Buddy visit our [Ohio Gadfly](#).

[Back to Top](#)

Policy News

Ohio Report Card Analysis

Fordham just released its [annual analysis of urban school performance](#) in Ohio, and found some dismal (though not wholly unsurprising) results: 26 percent of public school students in Ohio's Big 8 attended a school rated A or B in 2009-10, while a much larger percent – 47 – attended a school rated D or F. There are other interesting trends: [Cincinnati](#) reached the rating of Effective (B), while a number of schools in some cities (e.g., [Columbus](#) and [Akron](#)) aren't meeting one year of expected growth.

This Big 8 analysis includes rankings of individual schools in those cities and is worth checking out.

[Back to Top](#)

Extras

Special Education Determination and Required Action

By now, you've received your 2010 Special Education Determinations report from the Office of Exceptional Children (OEC), which is a report on your school's performance on IDEA part B. The 2010 determinations are based on data from the 2008-09 school year. The data itself comes from EMIS and other sources (including annual financial audits). The OEC reviews the data for compliance with specific indicators, which are: disproportionality due to inappropriate identification, completing evaluations within 60 days of parental consent, evidence of secondary transition planning, correction of non-compliance findings, and accuracy/timeliness of data submissions. Details for determining your school's final score, and any actions required, are included in your report.

A two-hour webinar will be offered on September 15 and 16 by OEC staff to provide additional explanation of determinations criteria, and to address any follow-up action required. Sessions are 9-11 a.m. or 2-4 p.m. To attend, visit the [Ohio Department of Education's \(ODE\) website](#). A recorded version will be posted after September 22.

[Back to Top](#)

Caseload Ratio Project

Don't you wish they'd ask you how that might work? Here's an opportunity for your special education staff to have the ear of the Office of Exceptional Children, by participating in the Caseload Ratio Project (CRP). The purpose of the CRP is to look at varied methods for calculating appropriate ratios for service while taking into consideration different approaches to providing intervention. Successful applicants who complete year one activities may be awarded a second year of funding. You may apply for up to \$35,000 for the first year of activities. All awardees will participate in a formal study of best approaches for determining service provider ratios conducted on behalf of OEC. The Request for Proposal, and additional information, is available on [ODE's website](#)

[Back to Top](#)

Testing for 2010-2011

Alternative Assessment Collection of Evidence (COE) for schools who have students participating in Alternative Assessment for Students With Disabilities (AASWD) may begin in September. A PowerPoint, available [ODE's website](#), may be used for AASWD staff training. You can find COE developer software at the [Region 5 State Support Team Website](#).

Test Administration for the 2011 OAA begins April 25. Note that the week of May 9 cannot be used for initial administration.

The OAA Writing and Social Studies Assessments Administration are suspended for the 2011 school year. The suspension includes alternate assessments in the writing and social studies areas.

Note also that exit criteria for Limited English Proficient students has been amended (Ohio Administrative Code § 3301-13-11). This applies to students based on their scores on the Spring 2010 OTELA.

[Back to Top](#)

Upcoming Events, Deadlines and Trainings

Deadlines

October 1: AOIS Submissions (Attendance Policy, Inventory, Missing Children Policy and Informational Packet, Privacy Law Policy, Wellness Policy).

October 8: AOIS Submissions (Child Find Documentation, Lead Poisoning Prevention, Truancy Documentation, Truancy Policy).

October 15: AOIS Submissions (Fixed Asset Policy, NCLB Parent Notification Letter for Public School Choice, NCLB Parent Notification of Teacher Information, Parental Involvement Policy, Purchasing Policy).

October 18: Columbus Collegiate Academy Board Meeting, Dayton Liberty Campuses Board Meeting.

October 21: Phoenix Community Learning Center Board Meeting.

October 22: AOIS Submissions (Anti-Harassment and Bullying Policy, Conduct of Academic Prevention and Intervention Services Policy); KIPP Journey Academy Board Meeting.

October 29: AOIS Submissions (Final Board Minutes for August, Fire Drill Log for August, Monthly Financial Report for August).

October 31: school annual reports due to Fordham. We'll be sending out specific guidance regarding annual reports over the next couple of weeks. Reports are due to the parents of all students enrolled, and to the Fordham Foundation, by October 31, 2010.

November 1: Entry of enrollment and Pre-ED files via Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) for Alternative Assessment begins. Enrollment ends December 2.

November 15: Entry Year Teacher Registration Deadline to register an entry year teacher, with their assigned mentor.

November 22: participating schools must have an ODE approved Scope of Work by November 22, 2010. Information and forms are available at www.rttt.education.ohio.gov.

[Back to Top](#)

Trainings

RTTT Regional Meetings will be held to review scope of work, and other required elements. Meeting times and locations are listed on [ODE's website](#).

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](#).

Know Your Accountability Data Training for community school administrators - analyzing and interpreting school and student performance data - is available, register via [STARS](#). Training will be held on September 20, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the State Library of Ohio in Columbus.

School Lunch Basic Training Workshops are conducted monthly from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Basement Lecture Hall at ODE. Workshop dates and registration information is available at [ODE's website](#).

Alternative Assessment Training on AASWD procedures and updates is available. Register via [STARS](#) (search phrase "Alternate Assessment"). There is a full day session for participants who are new to the process, and a half day session for participants who have received comprehensive training in the past.

[Back to Top](#)

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

Visit us on the web at www.edexcellence.net/index.cfm/our-charter-schools