

CMSD SponsorShip



A newsletter for CMSD-sponsored community schools

Contact CMSD

Please direct inquiries on CMSD sponsorship of community schools to:

Stephanie Klupinski, J.D.
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216.838.0179

In addition to Ms. Klupinski, please continue to contact other key CMSD staff members on these specific matters:

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Special education, ADA, ELL:
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More information on CMSD's community school sponsorship and other collaborative initiatives related to community schools in Cleveland is available on the CMSD website, ClevelandMetroSchools.org, by clicking on the "Schools" tab on the main menu and then on "CMSD/Charter School Collaboration."



Letter from the Executive Director

Hello! It's great to be back in the charter schools office. I could not resist including a recent picture of the reason I was out for so long. Arden is now three months old.

Huge thanks to Matt Rado for all the work he did while I was on maternity leave. Matt's been an integral part of the work of this office for over a year as a consultant, and I am thrilled that he is now a CMSD employee! With the additions this year of Matt and Shemekia, CMSD's charter school office is even better positioned to accomplish our goal of becoming more of a strategic partner to our sponsored schools. We look forward to deeper conversations with you over the upcoming summer on how we can make that happen.



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Upcoming Events

This list is not comprehensive but highlights some upcoming events, opportunities, deadlines, and other dates. Schools should continue to rely on other tools as well, especially Epicenter.

STUDY THE NETWORK WORKSHOP

May 17

8:00 am–4:30 pm

The School Performance Institute, a division of United Schools Network, presents a Study the Network workshop for school leaders.

1469 E. Main St., Columbus, OH

SchoolPerformanceInstitute.org/register/

Cost: \$500 per person

BLACK HISTORY SATURDAYS

May 26, June 23, July 21

1:00 pm–3:00 pm

East Cleveland Public Library

14101 Euclid Ave., East Cleveland, OH

calendarwiz.com/calendars/popup.php?op=view&id=120927603&crd=ecpl

Cost: Free

BOYS AND CLUB SUMMER PROGRAMS

Starts after CMSD school year ends

To sign up, contact your local Boys and Girls Club. For a list of clubs and hours go here:

CleveKids.org/find-a-club/club-locations-and-hours/

Cost: \$10 covers the entire summer membership; includes lunch

If it's springtime, it's sponsor evaluation time! Our office has two big deadlines (May 15 and June 30) approaching. As you know, this means that we will occasionally reach out to schools with an urgent request for a quick turnaround on a document, and for that, we are sorry. Our office is committed to doing everything we can to ensure that the disruption to schools is minimal. We thank you in advance for your cooperation!

There are a few important items we wanted to highlight:

- All board members and select school staff must complete public records and open meetings training by June 30.
- For the three schools undergoing the renewal process in 2018–19 (Village Preparatory School, Citizens Leadership Academy, and Near West Intergenerational), please send one staff member and one board member to the mandatory renewal meeting on May 21.
- As we did last year, CMSD's Charter School Office will host a back-to-school kickoff meeting prior to the start of the next school year. Stay tuned for details, and plan to send at least one board member and one staff member.
- Annual Opening Assurances will take place in July and early August. CMSD staff will schedule visits with school staff once this current school year has ended.

Finally, Matt and I are looking forward to attending the National Association of Public Charter Schools Annual Conference, which will be held in Austin from June 17-20. We hope to see some of you there!

Best wishes during this hectic time as the school year comes to a close, and have a wonderful summer!

Cheers,

—Stephanie

Stephanie Klupinski,
Executive Director of
Charter Schools,
CMSD



Dates to Remember

CAMP FORBES PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Weekdays

8:00 am–5:00 pm

Register at any Recreation Center:

city.cleveland.oh.us/CityofCleveland/Home/Government/CityAgencies/ParksRecreationandProperties/DivisionofRecreation/RecreationCentersandPools

Cost: Cleveland children between the ages of 9 and 13 can enjoy a free week of camp.

NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOLS CONFERENCE

June 17–20

Austin Convention Center

500 E. Cesar Chavez St., Austin, TX

ncsc.publiccharters.org/

Cost: \$690, through June 4



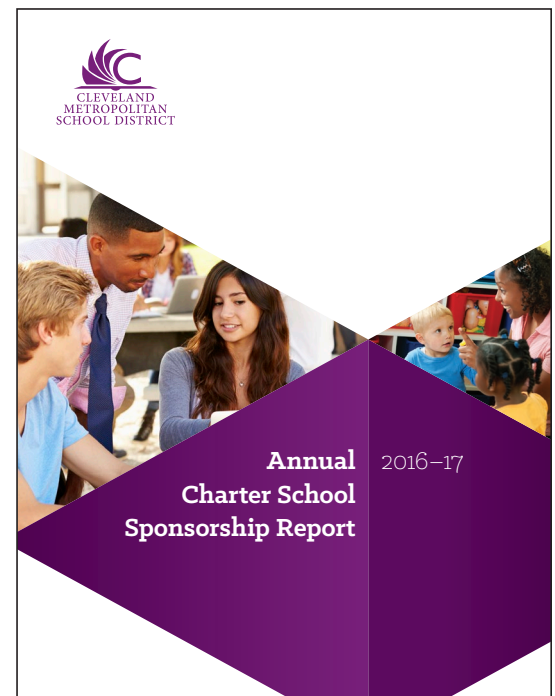
Policy Update: CMSD board approves three charter school policies

On May 1, the CMSD board unanimously approved three community school policies: Conflicts of Interest; Sponsorship, Monitoring, and Intervention; and Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Termination. These policies, which help ensure that CMSD’s practices align with state expectations, are located here: ClevelandMetroSchools.org/Page/6133.

The Conflict of Interest policy ratified existing practice and adds more specificity to actions the district will take in the event a conflict is found. The Sponsorship, Monitoring, and Intervention Policy memorializes practices charter schools sponsored by CMSD are already familiar with, as they are addressed in our sponsorship application and contracts.

The, Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Termination policy made important modifications to the policy initially adopted by the CMSD board in October 2016 by adding important language related to school closures. The policy emphasizes the importance of avoiding, if possible, mid-year closure. It also notes that schools and sponsors should expedite closure procedures to facilitate mid-year transitions of students to new schools and protect public assets.

Please contact the charter school office if you have questions about any of these policies. As always, we will continue to keep you informed regarding other important legal and policy updates as they happen.



Legislative update: Bill encourages PBIS over suspension, expulsion

As briefly reported earlier this year, legislation has been introduced to promote the use of the Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) framework in lieu of suspending or expelling younger students.

Senate Bill 246—co-sponsored by Senate Education Committee Chair Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) and committee member Sen. Gail Manning (R-N. Ridgeville)—would prohibit out-of-school suspensions and expulsions of students in grades pre-K through three for minor offenses with implementation phased in over a three-year period.

Also known as the Supporting Alternatives for Education—or SAFE—Act, **S.B. 246** would require schools to annually report out-of-school suspensions and expulsions of young students, categorized by type of offense, during the tiered implementation period.

The Ohio Department of Education would be required, by Oct. 1 of each of the three years of implementation, to submit a report containing both a summary of the best practices of a PBIS framework and the total number of out-of-school suspensions and expulsions issued.

The bill would require schools to permit suspended students to complete missed assignments and specifies that in-school suspensions must be served in a supervised learning environment.

The Senate Finance Committee, to which the bill has been assigned, has heard testimony from a number of expert witnesses, including Amy Bush Stevens of the Health Policy Institute of Ohio (HPIO).

A recent HPIO policy brief outlines the impact of suspensions and expulsions on young students, including increased risk of academic failure, grade retention, and negative attitudes toward school—as well as being 10 times more likely to drop out.

The legislation would codify existing regulations requiring all schools to implement PBIS frameworks. PBIS instruction would be required for all teacher preparation programs and any teachers not receiving it would be required to complete a professional development course within three years.

The similarity between the students who create the persistent achievement gap and those impacted by exclusionary discipline policies is not coincidental.

—Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering),
Senate Education Committee Chair

The SAFE Act would also reduce from three school days to one the time within which a hearing must be held on a student's emergency removal for posing a continuing danger to persons or property or an ongoing threat of disruption. It also specifies that pre-K to three students may be removed under those provisions only for the remainder of the school day unless the student commits an offense warranting suspension or expulsion under the bill's provisions.

"The similarity between the students who create the persistent achievement gap and those impacted by exclusionary discipline policies is not coincidental," Sen. Lehner testified. "In fact, research is clear that one of the factors contributing to the achievement gap is the considerable amount of time that struggling students spend out of the classroom."

The bill also provides for an appropriation for competitive grants for implementation of PBIS frameworks, evidence- or researched-based social and emotional learning initiatives, or both, in schools that serve any of grades kindergarten through five.

Interview with Jessica Baldwin, Executive Director of Intervention Services



How long have you been at CMSD?

Almost five years.

Where did you work before CMSD?

I worked in DC Public Schools from 1999–2006 as a teacher. Then I moved into teaching and leadership roles (sometimes both at the same time!) in the charter school sector in Washington, DC.

Are you from Cleveland?

No—I came here specifically because I believe in the Cleveland Plan. Not all urban school districts take a collaborative approach to school reform; many environments are highly competitive, which leads to dysfunction. The Cleveland Plan states that we all have a stake and a role in improving educational outcomes for kids, regardless of the type of school. In addition, the team doing the work in CMSD is one of the best in the country, in my opinion. I have become part of the community here. The work is tough but highly rewarding.

Did you have any experience with charter schools prior to taking this role?

Yes—I was a special education coordinator/director in two different charter schools. I also did curriculum development and instructional coaching. I spent a total of nine years in the charter sector in DC serving on leadership teams.

What are some of the projects you've helped on?

I have assisted with the development of our sponsor performance framework. I have been on review committees for sponsorship and partnership. Most recently, I have conducted special education site visits for our 11 sponsored charter schools twice per year. I also serve on the Executive Board of the Cleveland Education Compact and as co-chair of its Student Support Committee.

What are some of your goals for helping the Portfolio Office improve?

It has become clear that ODE expects the charter authorizer to actively engage in special education oversight and support for its sponsored schools. I have also learned that charter schools in Cleveland do not always have outside special education support like public school districts do. I would like to develop a structure in the Charter Schools office of CMSD that will allow for technical support and professional development for special education in our sponsored charters. With the help of the frameworks developed by the National Center for Special Education in Charter Schools, we can become better at this function.

Tell us a bit about yourself.

I currently live in Cleveland, in the Flats area. It has been a pleasure watching the growth and redevelopment of this area over the past five years. I enjoy the outdoor options that Cleveland has to offer—the Metroparks, the lakeshore, the Erie and Ohio Trail, and the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. I also enjoy the food scene! In my spare time, I like to travel and engage in personal and professional development.

