



Helping children to achieve their potential is your job—helping you to be more organized and have more time to do it, is ours.

Imagine

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Partner

NACSA's Grant Program and AOIS

NACSA has established a grant program called The Fund for Authorizing Excellence (the Fund). The Fund was created to invest in high-quality authorizing environments that lead to quality public schools. NACSA strongly supports authorizers that are willing to improve their practices and is offering the Fund in order to finance these strategies.

A requirement of the Fund is that the grant activities align with NACSA's Principals and Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing. One of the principals located within the Ongoing Oversight and Evaluation section is Monitoring Compliance. AOIS aligns with this NACSA standard by effectively streamlining the collection of federal, state and local program documentation while protecting charter schools autonomy. AOIS allows NACSA authorizers to monitor compliance requirements that are legally mandated as well as those that fulfill and assist with the authorizer's public oversight responsibility.

The Fund grant amounts range from \$25,000 to \$500,000 or more. The first step to applying for a grant is to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) by January 15, 2010. In addition, the organization must be a current member of NACSA. Guidelines for the LOI and additional information can be found at: www.qualitycharters.org/thefund.

If you are interested in partnering with Corporate Computer free of charge to assist you with writing your LOI requesting to implement AOIS at your oversight organization and promote NACSA's principals and standards then please contact Larry Brannan at (616) 988-3202.

Please note that there is not much time before your LOI is due so please contact us today!

Warmest wishes for a joyous holiday season!



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Make this the year you "get it under control!"

If you want to start your next school year firmly in control of a proven oversight program that documents every compliance action, provides an easy-to-use user interface and has been audited by multiple State Auditor Generals and declared a "Gold Standard" call us now.

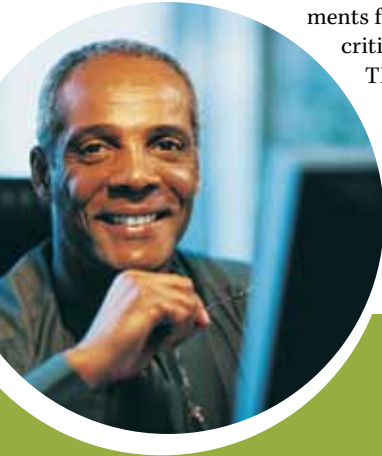
How many times have you heard State politicians call for "more charter school oversight"? It's easy to continually call for more oversight—it's much harder to prove your actions are consistent, measured and applied equally to all schools.

TBFF Accountability Report

On November 20, 2009, the Thomas B. Fordham Foundation (TBFF) published their 2008-2009 accountability report titled "Seeking Quality in the Face of Adversity." As a charter school sponsor in Ohio, Fordham is required to submit this report to the Ohio Department of Education every year. This report discusses their mission, the overall charter school environment in Ohio, how TBFF holds their schools accountable and an overview of their schools performance.

In Ohio, sponsors are required to monitor and evaluate their charter schools based on four components. These components include education, academic, financial and governance. The TBFF defines the governance component as "whether the school complied with laws, regulations, record keeping compliance and guidance from the Ohio Department of Education." TBFF uses AOIS for their record keeping compliance area. Their schools are given a rating depending on their percentage of reporting requirements fulfilled in AOIS. The reporting requirements are separated by two areas, critical and non-critical reporting requirements. AOIS makes it very easy for TBFF to see and monitor these two areas of record compliance.

To read Thomas B. Fordham Foundation's full accountability report, [click here](#).



New Service

In February 2009 we implemented the Common Documents Enhancement in AOIS. The Common Documents section allows clients to place common documents such as templates, forms, and resource documents for all schools to access and download. This has been a great addition to AOIS as users will refer to this section to find answers to their questions or download specific templates for required documentation.

We are now offering a new service to our clients by assisting them with creating templates and forms for their schools. This will help eliminate the time it takes a school to create their own document with the required information. Now the user can log into AOIS and download the template directly from the Common Documents section, fill it out, and then submit the document to AOIS. This keeps the information consistent across all schools and minimizes inaccurate documents from being submitted. Click on the following link to view a sample template <http://www.aois.us/downloads/Quarterly Report Template.xls>.

If you would like assistance in creating templates and forms for your schools please contact Stephanie Misner at (616) 988-3200 or Meghann Murphy at (616) 988-3215.

i3 Grant

The Investing in Innovation (i3) fund provides funding to support LEAs, and nonprofit organizations in partnership with one or more LEAs or a consortium of schools. The purpose of the program is to provide competitive grants to applicants with a record of improving student achievement as well as to promote school readiness, close achievement gaps, decrease dropout rates, increase high school graduation rates, and improve teacher and school leader effectiveness.

These grants will allow eligible entities to expand and develop their work so that their work can serve as models of best practices, allow eligible entities to work in partnership with the private sector and the philanthropic community, and identify and document best practices that can be shared and taken to scale based on demonstrated success.

Charter schools of course are defined as LEAs and charter school sponsors are nonprofit organizations working with a consortium of LEAs.

AOIS has a known track record of best practices in measuring school compliance and authorizer oversight. We have over eight years of experience in this area. Today, 334 schools with over 135,000 students are using AOIS to promote school readiness and school leader effectiveness.

Find out more today about partnering with us as your private sector partner to write a grant application for the i3 fund. Contact Larry Brannan at lbrannan@corpcomp.com or phone (616) 988-3202.

Why AOIS?

Compliance

AOIS tracks the compliance status of each school authorized, and reports this instantly in a graphical interface that is easy to use.

Electronic Filing

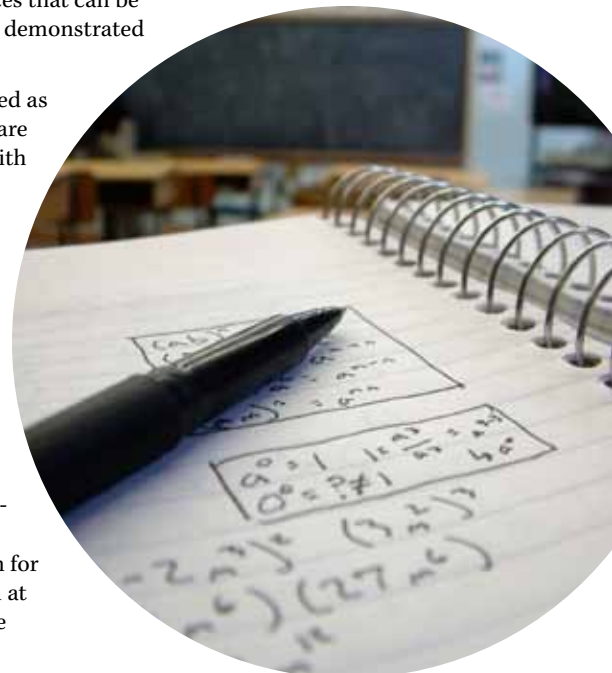
AOIS is also an electronic filing system, so every document associated with schools is immediately available and can be accessed from any location.

Workflow

AOIS also incorporates a workflow system that informs employees when it is time to perform a specific task, and flows documents from employee to employee electronically, ensuring the work is done consistently among all schools.

Performance

AOIS also includes a performance module that tracks and reports student and school achievement.



Data Warehouse “Gotchas”

Recently we had the opportunity to research current literature concerning how organizations justify and assess the value of a data warehouse. We found a survey of forty Michigan Intermediate School Districts that provided some excellent best practices recommendations. We also found an article by a data warehouse consultant that identified eighteen “gotchas” that most organizations encounter when implementing a data warehouse. But the most interesting article we found was called “Oracle hackers horror stories” by an Oracle security consultant. Oracle or Microsoft SQL, these horror stories have happened and we can all learn from them. If you would like to see this presentation, please contact Larry Brannan at lbrannan@corpcomp.com. Have your calendar ready and we’ll set a date and 45 minute time slot. This is a non-technical general educational background for anyone who has or is considering a data warehouse investment.



AOIS Users Speak Out

Mindy Britton Compliance Auditor/Board Liaison
FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY CHARTER SCHOOLS OFFICE

Why did you buy AOIS?

Prior to AOIS, the Ferris State University Charter Schools Office (CSO) used a manual system of three ring binders to track each school. This system was not adequate in making sure that each FSU authorized academy was timely in fulfilling the requirements of application laws and regulations.

What do you like best about using the tool?

There are several advantages to doing oversight with AOIS, both monetary and operational:

Monetarily:

- Reduce travel
- Reduce cost of oversight supplies
- Reduce need for storage space
- Reduce phone and FAX contact regarding compliance
- No additional staff required for oversight

Operational:

- No FSU technical resources required
- Secure historical archives
- Improved data access
- Improved report generating ability
- CSO knows the status of each academy’s compliance on a daily basis
- Each academy knows its compliance status on a daily basis

What would you tell someone else about the tool?

The positives about AOIS are the at-a-glance compliance dashboards and the document submission tool — all of the information an authorizer or school needs is right there.



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