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How to Use Federal Funds to Buy AOIS

During 2010, the United States Department of Education (ED) will award \$650 million in federal Investing in Innovation (I3) funds to support innovative efforts to strengthen school and student performance. These dollars will allow charter schools and their authorizers to zero in on their primary objective: school quality. The preliminary structure of the grant program allows applicants to obtain funds for innovations that:

- Improve student achievement or support growth for high-need students, or
- Promote school readiness, close achievement gaps, decrease dropout rates, increase graduation rates, and improve effectiveness among teachers and school leaders.

Three different types of awards will be made:

	“Development”	“Validation”	“Scale Up”
Est. funding available	Up to \$5M per award	Up to \$30M per award	Up to \$50M per award
Evidence Required	Reasonable research-based findings or theories	Moderate – either high internal validity and medium external validity, or vice versa	Strong – both high internal validity and high external validity
Scaling Required	Further develop and scale	Able to be scaled to regional or state level	Able to be scaled to national, regional or state level

*Source: US Department of Education

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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.

Charter schools and their authorizers are eligible to apply for federal innovation dollars, to the extent they are local education agencies (LEAs) or are working in partnership with a consortium of schools.

Applicants must concentrate their proposals on one grant type and demonstrate either 20% private sector matching funding or request a reduced matching level. An independent program evaluation also is required, as is cooperation with necessary technical assistance.



Corporate Computer will supply a five year quotation for your schools and include coverage for your projected growth. You can then add your own internal estimates for start-up program costs for the five year

period. This will provide the amount you need to request for

your grant. We can provide reference documentation validating scaling to the state level today in the following states: MI, OH, IN, IL, CO, FL, AZ, Washington DC, MO and PA. We are happy to work with your grant writer to help you document your expected research-based findings.

How will AOIS help...?

If you're looking for a scalable, proven innovation to help improve organizational effectiveness and boost student success, there is a solution. The Authorizers' Oversight Information System is a web-based application that automates and streamlines the compliance process, taking the guesswork out of compliance and adding accuracy, efficiency and on-time reporting to the process. AOIS is a sophisticated software product that efficiently organizes and manages vast amounts of information while remaining flexible and expandable. Key features include:

- Enhanced tracking of school performance
- Easy electronic filing
- Daily account of school's compliance status

Our professionals can support charter schools and authorizers as they work to put federal innovation funds to good use. We offer not only a proven innovation strategy that can support and strengthen any grant proposal, but also top-quality research, connections to private sector matching funds, and the tools to get the job done right.

See us at NACSA or call Meghann Murphy (616) 988-3215, Stephanie Misner (616) 988-3200 or Larry Brannan (616) 988-3202 to start your grant request.

FSUCSO Shining Star Awards

On October 2, 2009 the Ferris State University Charter Schools Office (FSUCSO) celebrated their annual Shining Star Awards Celebration. For the past 8 years, FSUCSO honors those academies who maintain a high level of compliance percentage in regards to AOIS. Their schools have the ability to receive \$5,000 for maintaining a 100% on time in addition to perfect compliance. This year, only schools with a percentage of 94% on time or higher were given a monetary award. A total of 17 out of their 22 schools sponsored received the award during this year's celebration.

FSUCSO continues to raise the bar every year as their schools' performance continues to improve. For next year's awards, they are now looking at specific academic performance goals as well as a 96% on time within AOIS for the schools to receive the monetary awards.

We want to personally thank the staff members at the FSUCSO for offering these awards to their schools and the overall motivation for continuous improvement. In addition, we want to congratulate those schools who had an outstanding year for maintaining FSUCSO's high level of oversight standards.

AOIS New Master Calendar Enhancement

Over the last 10 years Corporate Computer (CC) has continued to enhance AOIS for clients and all AOIS users, making it more efficient and user friendly. CC recently decided to enhance the Master Calendar on the Home Dashboard. Here are the changes that have been made:

Based on feedback from the AOIS community, CC has completed an enhancement to the AOIS Master Calendar on the Home Dashboard. The previous view of the Master Calendar displayed information about due dates in a general way. The new enhancement changed the Master Calendar to display the information that people need to know about due dates today! The Master Calendar has a cleaner look and there is now quick access to the Master Calendar Reports that provide even more information.

This enhancement is particularly beneficial for school staff users. The Home Dashboard is the first thing users see when they log into AOIS, the Master Calendar immediately displays the next compliance due dates they need to be aware of. Users do not need to scroll the display or select special options—the information is right there! If a document has already been received this will also show in the Master Calendar display along with the date it was received. If a document is due today, they will see Due Today! next to the requirement.

Clients have the option to change two set up parameters that control the Master Calendar display. The first is the number of days into the future for which due dates will be displayed. The default is 30 days but this can be changed. The second parameter causes missed due dates for the selected school to also display in the Master Calendar. When this option is used, any missed due dates are displayed at the top of the Master Calendar with the number of days late highlighted.

We hope that AOIS users find our continued support and enhancing of the system to be valuable. If you have any questions on this new enhancement please contact Meghann Murphy, AOIS Coach at (616) 988-3215.

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.

CC Upcoming Events

2009 NACSA Conference

Corporate Computer will be attending the 2009 NACSA Leadership Conference, October 19-21st in Salt Lake City, Utah. We will be located on the 2nd Floor of the Hilton Salt Lake City Center in the Sponsor Lounge. We would also like to invite you to attend our AOIS Users Group Breakfast on Tuesday, October 20th from 7:30 AM to 8:30 AM. If you are interested in attending the AOIS Users Group Breakfast please contact Meghann Murphy for additional information — (616) 988-3215. We look forward to seeing you in Salt Lake City!

2009 Florida Charter School Conference

Corporate Computer will also be attending the 2009 Florida Charter School Conference, November 16-18th in Orlando, Florida. We will be showcasing a new communications tool called Collaborate! and AOIS! Please stop by and see a live demo. We hope to see you in the Sunshine State!

2009 OAPCS Annual State Conference

Lastly, Corporate Computer will also be attending the OAPCS Annual State Conference, November 16th-17th in Columbus, Ohio. To schedule a time to meet with an AOIS representative at any of the conferences please call (616) 988-3215.



AOIS Users Speak Out

Renee Mayfield Charter School Liaison

EAST ST. LOUIS SCHOOL DISTRICT 189

Why did you buy AOIS?

We decided to purchase AOIS because of the increasing volume of work. I interface with the charter school administrators, the Superintendent of Schools and one of our attorneys. I also spend a good deal of time leveraging the expertise of District 189 professional staff. We believe AOIS will help School District 189 and its charter schools avoid the “pile ups” that occur when computer-driven data and processes meet their manually manipulated counterparts. Each year the Illinois State Board of Education seems to extrapolate more reports directly from data in a school district’s database. This change has led School District 189 to consider new systems to keep its database fluid. We also believe that AOIS will enable our charter schools to spend less time preparing, submitting, filing and retrieving data. We want them to devote more time to providing quality instruction.

What do you like best about using the tool?

We hope that using the AOIS system daily and having continual access to compliance requirements will foster greater confidence and independence among school administrators. I spend a good deal of time fielding queries that can now easily be answered using AOIS. We want administrators to turn first to AOIS to locate the policies and procedures.

What would you tell someone else about the tool?

We believe that AOIS will enable us to build a world-class infrastructure that will help us to meet our authorizer responsibilities. We authorize only two schools. Nevertheless, whether we authorize two or one school, we know that we cannot escape the multiple demands of computer-driven processes.



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