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Federal Startup Grants and AOIS

The Public Charter Schools Program offers grant money for the planning, development and initial implementation of charter schools. These grants range from \$500,000 to \$8 million if given directly to a State Education Agency and \$10,000 to \$150,000 if given directly to a charter school developer.

This grant money allows organizers to plan and staff a new school prior to beginning classes and obtaining state financing. Also, an article in the Denver Post (2/25/2010) states the Administration proposes to increase federal financing for charter schools to \$490 million in 2011, up from \$256 million in 2010.

In order to establish accountability in administering these grants, there are various required documents that a grant receiver must submit. For example, the Colorado Department of Education, which awarded \$7,066,611 in 2008-2009, requires documentation to apply for the grant. In addition, grantees are required to submit data to the DOE after receiving the awards. AOIS can be used by a State Education Agency to administer all of the required documentation for each grantee. AOIS can automate and streamline the entire document collection process and keep all of your Federal Startup Grant information in one centralized location.

If you manage these grants, please call Larry Brannan at (866) 732-3234. We would like your input concerning reporting requirements.



Corporate Computer provides charter school oversight solutions for Authorizers/Sponsors and Educational Management Organizations nationwide. AOIS is the leading oversight software and was jointly developed with The Center for Charter Schools at Central Michigan University

Our Feature Presentation

Presentations can produce great results, but doing them well can be very challenging.

After long consideration of how we present AOIS to interested parties, we have come up with a new and improved presentation. Our new feature presentation—we're calling it our AOIS Value-Added Presentation—is more interactive than its predecessor, and we've made it easier to adjust its content to be more relevant to the various audiences that view it.

In the presentation, we share the history of AOIS, identifying the challenges our clients have faced and how we have worked together to overcome them. We focus on the most important

features of AOIS, and we answer the most common questions we have received over the past ten years from authorizers, schools, and educational management organizations. Our ultimate goal is to effectively communicate our message while keeping our listeners interest.

If you are interested in seeing our new feature presentation, please contact Meghann Murphy at (866) 732-3234 or email mmurphy@corpcomp.com.



New AOIS Enhancement!

On April 5th, we installed a PDF compressor application in AOIS. When a user submits a PDF document to AOIS, the software automatically compresses the document to a smaller size. For example, a 30 MB PDF file can be compressed to just over 1MB. The benefit of installing this software, at no cost to our clients, is that the time it takes to download and print a PDF document from AOIS is greatly decreased. The smaller the document, the faster the speed! AOIS still accepts PDF documents up to 60 MB in size, but once the document goes through the compression software, the smaller file is placed in AOIS.

We hope that our 1,000+ users find this enhancement to be beneficial. For more information regarding this enhancement, please contact Stephanie Misner at smisner@corpcomp.com.

The Invisible Thread

A recent IBM ad stated that “By next year, the average car will require over 100 million lines of software code, and a commercial airplane, over 1 billion lines of code.” What makes these manufactured products unique is the underlying software—the invisible thread—that infuses them with intelligence. The ad goes on to state that in the past year alone, 66% of newly developed products included embedded software.

Today, software is a core strategic business asset. For us, “business” mean authorizers/sponsors, charter schools, EMOs, CMOs and State Departments of Education. The neat thing about AOIS is that we offer high added value coupled with high leverage. Our customers get the proven benefits of a software package that has over 200,000 lines of code for about 1% of the development costs, making it a proven product that you need at a 99% discount from the cost of doing it yourself. No wonder our phone is ringing off the hook!

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.



› *Best Practices Webinar Reminder!*

There is still time to register for our “Best Practices from the Best in the Business” Webinar being held April 15th, 2010 at 10AM and 2PM EDT. We encourage anyone who is involved or interested in charter school oversight to attend the webinar. To register for the webinar, please follow these instructions:

Step 1: Go to <https://aois.webex.com>

Step 2: Select Register on the left hand side

Step 3: If you don't see the webinar displayed, you can either search for it by typing in “Best Practices” or selecting the calendar icon in the upper right hand corner and choosing April 15th.

Step 4: Select either the 10AM or 2PM EDT webinar and click on the Register button in the lower right hand corner. Once you have registered for the webinar, you will receive an email confirmation containing further instructions.

Please contact Meghann Murphy at mmurphy@corpcomp.com or Stephanie Misner at smisner@corpcomp.com for more information.



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AOIS Users Speak Out

Brie Nelson *Director of Governance and Oversight*
MISSOURI BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

Why did you buy AOIS?

We were faced with a way to streamline and adequately maintain the data submitted by the schools. The previous year, we ended up not being able to document items that were submitted on time or past due and ended up not tracking all required data. The product was enticing since it was user friendly both on the set-up side and on the input user side. It is easy for the schools to submit required documentation/data and know when the deadline is prior to submittal. There is also a section for document feedback and document description. These two areas are crucial for the schools.

What do you like best about using the tool?

We are now using this as an electronic housing system for all data needed in the semi-annual evaluations. This allows our office to know which schools have their data and to what degree prior to the two year evaluation.

What would you tell someone else about the tool?

It allows us to analyze where the schools are at academically and financially more efficiently and quickly than before. The entire team can know where each building and charter stands instead of one person holding the knowledge and waiting for a meeting to disseminate. This has allowed more cohesiveness in achieving our sponsor requirements.

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