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## AOIS Accountability Statistics

“Accountability” is a central theme that permeates the charter school world. Policymakers stress that charter schools are to be accountable in two respects: first, they are accountable to the families of students who attend the schools.

As schools of choice, funding and even survival depends on the school’s ability to keep and attract students. As a result, the schools need to be responsive to student needs and provide the necessary tools for academic success. Second, charter schools are accountable to the public body that oversees school operations and establishes the specific legal and academic requirements that the schools — under the threat of closure — must meet. Since charter schools are public schools, they are responsible for complying with a wide range of laws and regulations.

In addition to using AOIS to make sure their schools are in compliance with all the state, federal, and contractual document requirements, many of our AOIS oversight organizations are now using the statistics available in AOIS to measure and reward school performance. For example, Ferris State University’s Charter Schools Office holds an annual “Shinning Stars” Awards banquet where monetary awards are given to schools based on the school’s ranking for on-time, accurate, and complete percentages with regard to AOIS document submissions. Other AOIS oversight organizations are using the statistical information in AOIS to set standards that are included in the authorization or sponsorship contract as well as in the annual accountability plans. AOIS generates both real-time and historical data for such criteria as the percentage of documents submitted on-time, the total number of late documents, and the number of documents that are deemed “not accurate” and/or “not complete.” Gathering and presenting this information is easily accomplished through the use of the various Compliance Reports available in AOIS.

We are excited to see how AOIS oversight organizations are using the statistical information stored in AOIS as a tool for quality oversight and recognition of charter school performance.



*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*



# The Center's James Goenner Inducted into the NAPCS Hall of Fame

In June of 2010, James Goenner, Executive Director at The Center for Charter Schools at Central Michigan University, was inducted into the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools (NAPCS) Hall of Fame. During the 2010 National Charter School Conference in Chicago, the NAPCS cited Goenner for his pioneering efforts in developing charter schools in Michigan as well as his involvement and leadership in several state

and national charter school organizations. Click [here](#) to read The Center's press release, and click [here](#) to view the video that was shown at the induction ceremony.

We congratulate Mr. Goenner on this great achievement!



## Who pays for AOIS, the school or the authorizer?

AOIS has evolved during the past eight years into the leading compliance and oversight tool for both charter schools and charter school authorizers. Today it is used by over 1,000 users in 400 schools located in eight states plus the District of Columbia. During the past eight years, authorizers have paid to have all of their schools use AOIS. This has enabled them to establish standards for documents and actions for proper oversight of their schools — but this may be changing.

An emerging trend among State Education Agencies (SEAs) that authorize charter schools involves letting the school make the decision to use AOIS. One reason for this is that the cost for AOIS is paid directly by the school. SEAs oversight fees average 1.7%, half the average rate of other authorizing entities. Therefore, leveraging the cost to the school can be an option. In addition, when we demonstrate AOIS to the school, they “get it” and most opt to use the tool. The benefit for the SEA is no impact on their budget, but all of the advantages of electronic reporting and off-site document storage. SEAs that would like to discuss this can call Larry Brannan at (616) 988-3202.



## New Service Becomes Popular

In the AOIS Documents dashboard, there is a section titled “Common Documents”. Oversight organizations can use this feature to store items such as templates, forms, resource guides, or other documents that all AOIS users can view or download to their computer. As a service to our customers, we here at Corporate Computer have been providing assistance with the creation of forms or templates that can be stored within this area. For example, we have worked with a number of clients to create an affidavit stating that a certain action was completed (as in, for instance, completing an on-line DOE Student Enrollment Report that does not produce a document); the school then submits the affidavit to AOIS, providing the necessary names, dates and signatures. This action provides proof that the requirement was completed.

In addition, we have created attendance and enrollment templates as well as monthly compliance checklist forms. Corporate Computer team members are able to create these forms and templates using the knowledge they have gained with working with oversight organizations and charter schools for ten years. If you are interested in learning more about this service, whether or not you are currently using AOIS, please contact Stephanie Misner via email at [smisner@corpcomp.com](mailto:smisner@corpcomp.com).

## 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.

The 10th National Charter School Conference was held in Chicago in June, 2010, attracting a crowd of over 3,000 charter school leaders and advocates. Our team enjoyed meeting with current AOIS clients and was able to start the beginning of new relationships with school leaders and service providers.

We want to personally thank everyone who stopped by our booth and took interest in our products. Corporate Computer is looking forward to taking part in next year's conference in Atlanta; we hope to see you there!



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## 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.