Y.A.S. CONNECTION

May 2022



Project Connect Newsletter

Y.A.S. (You Are Seen) Connection is a Project Connect newsletter for students and families who do not have stable housing



Authorized under Federal law through the McKinney-Vento
Homeless Education Assistance Act, the Columbus City
Schools' Project Connect Program, provides services to
ensure that identified children and youth experiencing
homelessness, including those living with others or in
hotels/motels due to economic hardship or emergency, have
access to a free and appropriate public education by
removing barriers due to homelessness. As advocates for
educational rights, there are various services the program
provides to assist families in transition.



This newsletter is the final installment for the 2021-2022 Academic School Year. Project Connect wishes everyone a safe and fun summer and thank you for allowing us to serve you!

Keep Calm and Finish the School Year STRONG!

FINISH STRONG

CLICK ---->: Information / Calendars

May 1 School Prinicipal's Day

May 1-7

Teacher Appreciation Week
Public Service Recognition Week

May 6-12

Nurses Week

May 20 Deadline for the Summer Experience enrollment

May 30 Memorial Day | All Schools Closed

Month of May National Pet Month https://nationaltoday.com/national-pet-month/

June 2 Last Day for StudentsJune 3 Records Day | Students Not in Attendance

Aug 24 Fist Day of School for Students

2022 Kidslinked Summer Camp Guide

Find the best summer camps throughout Columbus and Central Ohio in our 2022 KidsLinked Summer Camp Guide presented by Buckeye Gymnastics by clicking here!

35 FREE Things to do with Kids this Summer in Columbus

Get out and experience all Columbus has to offer with your kids, click here for more details!

Experience Columbus

Click here for events, things to do, restaurants, & more, and enjoy your Summer Break to the fullest!

CBUS Today

Information rergarding summer camps, metro parks, sporting events and more can be found by clicking here!



Kevin Boehm (CCS District Homeless Liaison) with bike before delivering it to a 12th grade student's home. The bike will help the student get to and from work and stay on track for graduation. Donated by a CCS staff member from World Language Middle School and the Ohio German Language School.

How can the Project Connect Program help?

Project Connect works with students, parents, Columbus City Schools (CCS) employees, partner agencies, and other local school districts to provide assistance with:

- · school selection and enrollment
- school transportation
- wellness checks and on-going social and emotional support
- book bags and school supplies for students
- · assistance with high school graduation fees and expenses
- addressing barriers that affect school attendance and full participation
- obtaining necessary documents such as birth certificates, school records, and medical records

· dispute resolution regarding school choice and enrollment

Who may qualify for the Project Connect Program?

The term "children and youth experiencing homelessness" means individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate night-time residence. It includes those who are:

- sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of home, economic hardship, or similar reason
- living in motels or hotels
- staying in trailer parks or campgrounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations
- living in emergency or transitional shelters
- abandoned in hospitals
- living on their own, such as youth who have run away or have been put out of their home

Project Connect Contact Information

- Parents and students may call the Project Connect Office at 614-365-5140
- Email: ProjectConnect@columbus.k12.oh.us
- Contact a Project Connect Region Representative/Youth Academic Advocate assigned to your child's school. Click on the <u>Contact Us tab</u> for a list of Project Connect Staff.



Project Connect Staff Spotlight

Facebook @ColsCitySchools

Felisha Lyons, Executive Director, Department of Student Services

Hello!

My name is Felisha Lyons (pronounced Flashay). Decorating, my old rusty pick-up truck, and cooking are a few of my favorite things. I've been an employee of Columbus City Schools for nearly five years now and have had the pleasure of managing the Project Connect Program for four of those years. I hope you'll agree with me that the Project Connect Team is made up of some of the best people on earth!

Before coming to the District, I primarily worked in the medical field. I've worked with children and families overcoming HIV/AIDS and cancer. I've also worked in the private social service sector – with families and individuals who were overcoming addiction and mental health set-backs. While I had no idea that my path would lead me to a career in education, it is one of the best (and hopefully last) areas I'll work. I "blame" my kids for this blessing.

My kids attend(ed) Columbus City Schools. Because of my journey with them as a foster/adopt mom, I found my love for working with youth and families to ensure each child has the chance to achieve their greatest potential in and out of school. My girls were challenged to be successful in school and to overcome many of life's burdens but through the support at home and in their schools, they have been able to come out on top. My oldest has just finished up her first year in college and my youngest is finishing her sophomore year in high school. I'm proud of them and proud of every student I have the privilege of working with in the CCS District.

One of my favorite quotes comes from Josh McDowell and he says "Rules without Relationship leads to Rebellion." Hopefully you can use this quote in your own relationships as you enter the summer. Enjoy family, friends and the relationship you have with yourself this season. Take care!

Felisha Lyons

Columbus City Schools

Department of Student Services

430 Claveland Avenue I Columbus OH 43215

main: 614.365.5640 | direct: 380.997.7334 | email:

flyons@columbus.k12.oh.us

Students and Families Experiencing Homelessness





Project Connect Announcements

Out of District Address - ACTION NEEDED

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

For the 2021-22 school year, you were able to enroll your child(ren) in Columbus City Schools District (CCSD) under the McKinney-Vento Act.

Both Ohio Law and Columbus City Schools Board policies require that students enroll in a school in their district of legal residence. Our records indicate that the address of residence for your child(ren) falls outside the boundaries of Columbus City Schools. Accordingly, your child(ren) will be withdrawn from CCSD **effective Monday**, **July 18**, **2022**. If the address on file for your student is correct, but your housing is <u>not</u> permanent, please complete and return the enclosed Student Housing Questionnaire to Project Connect, 430 Cleveland Ave, Columbus, OH 43215, by **July 18**, **2022**.

You must return the form for your student(s)' eligibility to be determined, for ongoing enrollment in Columbus City Schools under the McKinney-Vento Act. If the Housing Questionnaire is not completed and returned by **July 18**, **2022**, your child(ren) will be withdrawn from CCSD effective **July 18**, **2022**.

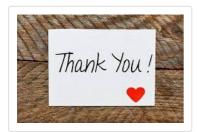
If you have moved and the address on file for your student is not accurate, parent/guardians can now update their home address through the Parent Portal by completing the Annual Update.

Families permanently residing out of the CCSD can request enrollment into Columbus City Schools by completing an Inter-District Open Enrollment Application under the school choice link on the parent portal. The last date to submit a lottery application for students who completed the 2020-21 school year with CCS is **July 18, 2022**.

If you have any questions or need additional assistance, it is vital that you immediately contact the Project Connect office.

Sincerely,

Project Connect projectconnect@columbus.k12.oh.us 614-365-5140



THANK YOU!

Project Connect would like to thank the agencies, organizations and individuals who help us serve students and families throughout the school year!



Columbus City Schools Updates

<u>CCS 2021-2022</u> School Year Hub! Find important links with relevant information.

<u>Health Hub</u> is the place to go for all COVID-19 information.



Columbus Zoo Hosting CCS Family Days in May

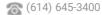
The Columbus Zoo & Aguarium and AEP have partnered to create free ticket opportunities for CCS students and families during May. The zoo will host "CCS Family Day" on May 21-22, and families can reserve two free tickets per student.

Each family day event includes a limited number of tickets and does not include parking. The zoo is partnering with **COTA** to provide transportation - and additional discounted tickets for families. Please share this exciting opportunity with our students and families. Reserve Tickets Here.

The zoo has also partnered with our Academic Services team to create a unique "Zooventure" photo scavenger hunt. Families are encouraged to explore and share photos from their zoo visits using the hashtag #CCSZooventure and tagging Columbus City Schools and the Columbus Zoo in their posts.



9 4850 Powell Rd, Powell, OH 43...





🜎 columbuszoo.org/home/disco...



REMINDERS

Summer Experience 2022

FREE to all Pre-K through 12 Columbus City Schools students.

Summer Experience dates: June 21 - July 28 (6 weeks in length)

This year's Summer Experience has expanded to include new and familiar project-based learning students and families were able to enjoy through our Pathway Express focuses: Entrepreneurship, Family & Consumer Sciences, Fine Arts, STEM, and World Languages & Cultures.

Summer Experience will also present students with an opportunity to accelerate their learning or engage in course recovery.

Website: <u>Summer Experience / Overview</u>

CCS 2022-2023 Pre-K

Columbus City Schools is offering our Pre-K program tuition free for the 2022-2023 school year.

June 2, 2022 - Last day of Pre-K classes

July 7, 2022 - New Pre-K wait-listed families will be notified if space is available

If you have any questions, please contact Alicia Maynard at 614-365-5134 or email eceenrollment@columbus.k12.oh.us.

CCS Lottery Application

Lottery Applications:

- The last date for the acceptance of late lottery applications for students who completed the 2021-22 school year with CCS is July 29, 2022.
- New students enrolling into Columbus City Schools can submit a lottery application for two weeks after their enrollment date until December 9, 2022.

Link for lottery applications -> Enrollment / School Choice Lottery Process

CCS Transportation Information

- For questions regarding the status of your students' bus route call Transportation at **614-365-5074**.
- Make sure to be at the assigned bus stop waiting for the bus (5) minutes before the scheduled pick up time.
- Make sure to check your <u>Columbus City Schools Parent Portal</u>. Through the Parent Portal, you'll be able to securely access valuable information on your student(s):
 - Update Contact Information (and update information if needed)
 - Transportation Information

For more information on the Parent Portal or to set up your account, please visit this page.

Bus Bulletin

Bus Bulletin is a website that allows staff from the District's Transportation Department to notify you with information regarding your child's bus. You have the choice to receive text messages, e-mails, or voice notifications on your cell or home phone. Typically, text messages are received within 30 seconds from the time they are sent. This means you know when it still matters, not after the fact. All students who are enrolled via IC are automatically enrolled in Bus Bulletin.

Bus FAQs

Q. If my student is late to school due to the bus being delayed, is this an excused absence?

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Q. If my student misses the school day because the bus didn't pick him/her up, is this an excused absence?

A. If a student misses the school day because a bus didn't pick them up, it's an excused absence—whether or not the bus ever came has to be verified with transportation. Parents should call their child's school to provide information.

Transportation / Overview

Seniors! Seniors! Seniors!







CCS Prom Dates 2022

Graduation / Prom Dates

CCS Graduation Dates 2022

<u>Upcoming Graduation Dates - 2022</u>

Columbus Promise

The Columbus Promise



Columbus Promise Fact Sheet.pdf





Scholarships.com

This website is the largest independent online source for free college scholarship searches. Find college scholarship money and financial aid. Their database allows students to search 2.7 million scholarships and grants worth over \$19 billion in aid.

Scholarships.com



FAFSA TIME!

Now is the time to complete the <u>Free Application for Federal</u> <u>Student Aid (FAFSA)</u> form. The form is **free** and it could help pay for college. The FAFSA form is the application for federal financial aid for college and post-secondary training. The form can help qualify for financial aid from the state of Ohio and the institution of your choice. Columbus City Schools is working with our long-standing partner, I Know I Can (IKIC) which has a college advisor assigned to every District high school. The IKIC college advisor can help fill out the FAFSA form. These college advising managers are available daily to help.

Students and families can <u>click here</u> to contact their college advisor at I Know I Can.

The FAFSA is also the key to unlocking state financial aid.

Did you know that you can apply for financial aid if you are going to school for a trade?

If you have not been accepted to a college or university, still complete the form. Completing the form can help decide which college makes the most sense based on the resources available.

To be considered for federal student aid for the 2021–22 award year, you must complete the FAFSA form **by June 30, 2022**. Don't wait until the last minute. The form is free, and it could save you thousands of dollars.



Federal Grant Programs.pdf





FSA Loan Programs Fact Sheet.pdf





FAFSA Mobile Unit workshops begin this week!
Learn more and register at: iknowican.org/fafsa-mobile-unit

COMMUNITY NEWS & RESOURCES

iknow iCan



High School Summer Pass | Planet **Fitness**

High schoolers can work out for free this summer at Planet Fitness, May 16-Aug. 31.

SCHOOL'S OUT - THE GYM IS IN

Teens can work out for free all summer with us. That's right! Sign up starts May 16—just enter your info by visiting this website Planet Fitness and we'll remind you.

High School Summer Pass is just for teens 14 - 19. Under 18? Sign up with a parent/guardian (online or in-club) from May 16 - August 31.



🜎 planetfitness.com/summerpa...



Kaleidoscope Youth Center (KYC) Other Prom

KYC is excited to announce the return of our annual event, Other Prom! Join LGBTQIA+ youth ages 12-20 from all over Ohio as we celebrate a night of dancing, fun, community, and queerness.

What: Other Prom is a safe, alcohol-free and drug-free event for youth ages 12-20

When: Saturday, May 21, 2022 8pm-11pm

Where: Center of Science and Innovation (COSI), 333 W. Broad St., Columbus, OH, 43215

Attire: Dress to Express, Not to Impress! This year's prom theme is "Masquerade at the End of the Rainbow". You don't have to participate in the theme, but you're welcome to use it to add some creativity to your clothing or costume! *Please note: COVID-prevention face masks are required, and full head masks (anything that obscures your whole face and eyes) are prohibited.*

Cost: Free, including parking - all attendees must register for a ticket and must have proof of age and name upon arrival at the event. (Proof of age and name can include government issued ID, school ID with grade level, report card, etc. Can be hard copy or digital copy.)



💡 333 West Broad Street, Colum...









Neighborhood Social Worker

Benefits and Resources with Columbus Public Health

Tuesday, June 07 12:00pm - 5:30pm Karl Road - Conference Room 2

A social worker from Columbus Public Health will be available to provide information on social services in the community and to answer questions.

Neighborhood Social Worker - Columbus Metropolitan Library

Monday, June 13 12:00pm - 5:00pm <u>Martin Luther King</u> - *Study Room 1*

Neighborhood Social Worker - Columbus Metropolitan Library

Open Shelter - 40th Anniversary Open House

When

Thursday, June 23rd, 4-7pm

Where

1037 Parsons Avenue Columbus, OH

More information

The <u>Open Shelter</u> is having a 40th Anniversary Open House on Thursday, June 23 from 4 PM to 7 PM.

Brightview and Vertava Community Event

When

Thursday, July 14th, 2-6pm

Where

303 West Broad Street Columbus, OH

More information

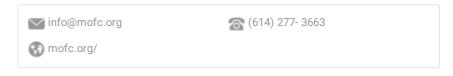
<u>Brightview</u> and <u>Vertava</u> are joining together to host a community event on July 14th at **Genoa Park** downtown from 2 PM to 6 PM. They will provide food trucks, music, and supplies for people who are homeless and low income.



Mid-Ohio Market | Mid-Ohio Food Collective



The Mid-Ohio Food Collective, a local nonprofit that fights hunger, opened the Mid-Ohio Market on Norton Road. This free food market offers fresh produce, groceries, and other healthy food options





Stone Village Church

State ID Ministry

Those in need of an Ohio Identification Card can receive a voucher from Stone Village Church on Tuesday morning at 8:30 am.

Birth Certificate Ministry

Persons in need an Ohio Birth Certificate can receive a voucher from Stone Village Church on Tuesday mornings at 8:30 am.

We Have Your Back

Stone Village's ministry, "We Have Your Back" seeks to provide essential items (water, socks, snacks, bus passes, deodorant, Chapstick, etc.) to those who live in the margins of homelessness and poverty.

Brown Bag Lunch Ministry

On the third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm, Stone Village's community gathers and packs lunches to feed those who hunger. We invite you to join us.

Homeless Ministry

Inspired by the needs of those who are homeless, each month Stone Village's community will collect one item, different each month, to be delivered to the church on Sunday mornings.

May Item: Sunscreen



💡 139 East 2nd Avenue, Columbu...



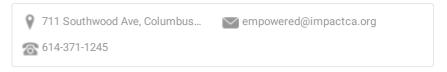
锅 stonevillagechurch.org/outrea...



Empowered! Young Adult Jobs Program | IMPACT

In partnership with the City of Columbus, IMPACT's Empowered! program is designed to provide career exploration opportunities and on-the-job training for City of Columbus residents ages 18 to 24. The focus of the program is to highlight the "clean jobs" industry and provide a pathway to opportunities for employment, apprenticeships or additional training within the clean energy industries. The first cohort will begin on June 21st and it will be held from 8:30 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Friday, at IMPACT Community Action. All participants are eligible to receive a weekly participation stipend, as well as paid on-the-job training and comprehensive supportive services from an IMPACT Self-Sufficiency Coordinator.

Empowered Application Link





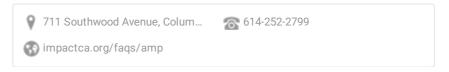
Achieve More & Prosper (A.M.P.) Program | IMPACT

Achieve More & Prosper (A.M.P.) Program for In-School Youth (ISY) or Out-of School Youth (OSY) is a new initiative designed for young adults, ages 16-24.

The program consists of comprehensive case management which will assist program participants in the area of paid work experiences, career-specific certifications, work readiness training, computer literacy, financial literacy, life skills, educational support, access to post-secondary education opportunities, and employability coaching.

How do I apply for AMP?

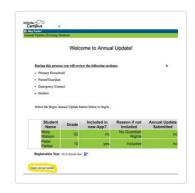
Call a team member at 614-252-2799 - ext. 1808
Email a team member at Amp@impactca.org
Fill out the interest form here
Drop in to IMPACT for an Orientation every Monday at 4pm or Thursday at 10am.



STAY CONNECTED







CCS - Project Connect

Project Connect providing news you can use!!!

Columbus City School's Project
Connect Program is housed
under the Department of
Student Services to serve
students and families
experiencing barriers to housing
while ensuring academic
success is maintained.

Columbus City Schools / Homepage Project Connect

Columbus City Schools Parent Portal

Need to update your address, request a school change or check the status of a bus route....all of this and more can be done via the Parent Portal. Your one-stop shop to ensure your student's educational needs are met.

<u>Infinite Campus (Student and Parent Portal) / CCS Parent</u>
Portal

Columbus City Schools Annual Update

Need to update your address? You can do so by accessing your Parent Portal via Infinite Campus.

Parent Letter Parent Portal and Annual Information Update

Infinite Campus (Student and Parent Portal) / CCS Parent Portal

Parent Portal Instructional Video

Click **HERE** to view the video



Campus Portal Login

campus.columbus.k12.oh.us

Project Connect Website

What is the Project Connect Program? How can the Project Connect Program help? Who may qualify for the Project Connect Program? How do families access Project Connect services through CCS?

Check Out Our Virtual Family Engagement Sessions!

2021-2022 School Year / Virtual Family Engagement Sessions

Honoring Black Lives Virtual Picture Book Library

Click on book covers for copyright compliant read alouds!

Community Shelter Board

20 agencies across Columbus and Franklin County, Ohio work together as a cohesive system for change; providing the following services: homelessness prevention, shelter, street outreach, rapid re-housing, and permanent supportive housing.

New Life Community Outreach

Breakfast-to-go - served every Sunday morning between 7 and 8 am | Clothing - Open Hours: 7:00 - 8:00 a.m. Sunday Mornings & 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Wednesday Mornings | Health and Wellness Center - every other Sunday Morning 7:00 - 8:00 a.m.

St. Stephen's Community House

Serves Greater Linden Community in Columbus, OH | Childare | Family Services | Senior Services | Youth Services | Neighborhood Services | Urban Farm

The Center for Family Safety and Healing

Fully addresses all aspects of family violence, including child abuse and neglect, teen dating abuse, domestic violence and elder abuse. CLICK for more details.

HEAP Application

Ohio's Energy Assistance Programs can help income eligible Ohioans manage their utility bills. The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), and emergency HEAP provide the benefit directly to a customer's utility bill. CLICK here for more details.

PIPP Application

The Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) helps eligible Ohioans manage their energy bills year-round. Payments are based on a percentage of household income and are consistent year-round. CLICK here for more details.

Lutheran Social Services (LSS 211)

LSS 211 Central Ohio, formerly HandsOn Central Ohio, connects people, local resources and service organizations to opportunity.

Columbus Coalition for the Homeless Street Card

Click to access the STREET CARD and find resources for housing, food, clothing etc.

CAP4Kids Resource Hub

One stop shop for community resources & information

2021-2022 Community Resource Guide - KIPP Columbus

Food, Housing, Utility Assistance and more Resource Guide

Coats | Clothing | School Supplies

In need of coats, clothing or other resources, or know someone who is? CLICK here for a list of free clothing closets, furniture banks and school supplies locations in Franklin County and Columbus Ohio.

Franklin County Re-Entry Crisis Quick Guide

Franklin County Re-Entry Crisis Quick Guide | For Case-by-Case Information, Call 614.733.4348 or 614.525.4104 (M-F: 9:00-3:00)

Homeless Hotline

Homeless? Need shelter? Call the homeless hotline, open 24 hours a day, 1-614-274-7000

Contact Us

Project Connect Staff

Important Numbers

Have questions, or school related issues or concerns, refer to the link for contact numbers to address them.

