



# INSIGHT

ONLINE

September 12, 2011

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## Notes from the CEO Bill Sims



So what's the future of public education in America?

Well, if I had a crystal ball that could accurately answer that question, I'd probably be beating down the doors of every venture capital firm in America. But I don't (have that crystal ball). However, no one needs a crystal ball to know with certainty that the Internet and related communications and information technology will play a huge role in the future of

American education.

Fact: Ohio has the highest percentage of charter school students enrolled full time in e-schools, a.k.a. "virtual schools."

My intention here is to make the point that Ohio is particularly well positioned for leadership in the e-Learning revolution that is unfolding internationally. The number of Ohio students enrolled in e-Learning environments is an obvious Ohio advantage. Ohio's large number of e-school enrollees wouldn't be where they are if the schools weren't functioning well. The three largest e-schools in the state are currently graded "continuous improvement," "effective" and "effective." Last year one was rated "excellent." Ohio also has the most experienced e-school management companies with well developed learning management systems and highly sophisticated research and product-marketing divisions.

So what must Ohio do to take advantage of this 21st century education "edge"? Cultivate this sector by making the e-Learning digital environment in Ohio conducive to innovation and growth. Policy makers have capped the growth of e-schools in Ohio. There's been a "moratorium" (read "cap") on new e-schools since 2006 and the moratorium continues under the new budget bill until 2013. The good news is that this paralysis ends, by statute, in 2013.

Which leads me to the question of "hybrid" schools. In the recent budget bill the initiative to authorize hybrid charter schools through legislation was quashed in the conference committee negotiations. The Ohio Alliance for

## Articles of Interest...

[Jury's out on Michigan's school-funding formula - Toledo Blade](#)

[Urban Charters Outstrip Performance of Nonurban, Study Finds](#)

[Area Charter Schools see big gains on state report cards](#)

## Contact Us

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Public Charter Schools strongly supports the authorization of hybrid schools. Why? Because in the next 10 years virtually every school in America will be a hybrid school making use of e-Learning opportunities as well as the traditional classroom. If Ohio wants to be a leader in 21st century education reform, it can't afford to drag its feet on the question of whether or not to recognize the hybrid (blended) school model. Clearly, this is one of those, "Lead, follow, or get out of the way" moments for Ohio educational leaders and policy makers. Let's lead.

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## Not to be Missed

### Don't allow doomed charter schools a 'zombie year'

Published: Tuesday, September 06, 2011, 4:05 AM  
Cleveland Plain Dealer

With regard to your editorial on "Charter school futility" (Wednesday) and the opinion that, "The state has to find a better and more timely way to put poorly performing charter schools out of business," we at the Ohio Alliance for Public Charter Schools agree.

In fact, we have come to refer to this vacant year as the "zombie year." Earlier access to the test scores for the relatively few schools on the "at risk" list should not be difficult, and the painful circumstances the zombie year creates for students, teachers and parents should spur the State Board of Education and the Ohio Department of Education to resolve this troubling predicament.

*Bill Sims, Columbus*

*Sims is president and CEO of the Ohio Alliance for Public Charter Schools.*

"The Ohio Department of Education said the percentage of charters rated in "Continuous Improvement" or above has steadily increased, from 42 percent in 2006-07 to 57 percent in 2010-11."

--Dayton Daily News September 7, 2011

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## Charter School Law Workshop



Workshop for Community School Leaders and Board Members

Are you aware of all of the recent changes to education and charter school law? Do your policies and procedures comply with existing regulations? Are you looking for a handbook that makes Ohio's charter school law more accessible and easier to understand?

Gain a better understanding of some of the most complex legal issues facing Ohio Community Schools from some of Columbus's expert charter school attorneys.

**Presenters will include:**

Julia Bauer, *Scott, Scriven, and Wahoff, LLP*

Amy Borman, *Eastman and Smith, LTD*

Edmund Brown, *Ulmer and Berne, LLP*

Jamie Callender and Diem Kaelber, *Buckley King, LPA*

Tim Clements, *Nicola, Gudbranson & Cooper, LLC*

Allen Jones, *Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Aronoff, LLP*

Sandra McIntosh, *Freund, Freeze, and Arnold, LPA*

Sarah Moore, *Roetzel and Andress, LPA*

Elizabeth Smith, *Vorys, Satyr, and Pease, LLP*

**When:**

Friday, September 16, from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Location: Capital University Law School 303 E. Broad Street Columbus, OH 43215 in Room 245

Cost (This includes lunch): \$100.00 OAPCS Members      \$200 Non-members

Please register by September 13th, 2011. [To register now, click here.](#)

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## 2011 Annual State Conference Awards



The Ohio Alliance for Public Charter Schools welcomes nominations for the 2011 Annual State Conference Awards. These awards are given to individuals of OAPCS member schools only. The awards recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the Alliance's mission to increase student achievement by supporting and expanding Ohio's quality public charter school movement.

Goals of the Annual Conference Awards:

- To recognize and honor annually individuals who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and excellence;
- To model best practices; and
- To communicate through these awards excellence in the charter

schools movement

This year, we will be notifying the top three candidates in each category prior to the conference. The finalists' names and profiles will be published in the Annual Conference Guide. The finalists will also be recognized during the award presentation ceremony. The winner in each category will be kept confidential until the conference when it will be announced. Winners must be present to receive the award.

This year, OAPCS is seeking online nominations in two categories:

- Teacher of the Year
- School Leader of the Year

The deadline to submit a nomination is **Friday, Oct 7, 2011**. No late applications will be accepted.

For more information on Conference Awards or to submit a nomination, please visit our website [www.oapcs.org](http://www.oapcs.org).

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## ODE Anti-Bullying Webinar: October 5th, 2011



The Ohio Department of Education has launched a year-long series of webinars offered by the Ohio Anti-Harassment, Anti-Intimidation and Anti-Bullying (Anti-HIB) Initiative. School professionals, parents and community support personnel are encouraged to participate in each session, which will be presented by content experts from each Anti-HIB agency. The next one-hour session will be offered October 5, 2011. Each webinar is open to the first 100 participants, with registration beginning 30 minutes before each scheduled program. Previously completed webinars are available for viewing (Anti-HIB Policy on August 3rd and Policy Supports on September 7th) [by clicking here](#). Additional questions may be directed to Jill Jackson, [jill.jackson@ode.state.oh.us](mailto:jill.jackson@ode.state.oh.us) or 614-466-9540.

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## FREE Regional Value-Added Workshops for Community Schools this Fall

Don't miss these informative sessions! If you serve grades any of grades 4-8, value added data impacts your school in many ways:

- the ranking system (increase one designation for overall "Above," decrease one designation with two consecutive overall "Belows"),

- charter school closure,
- and, increasingly, teacher and principal evaluations (mandated as 50% of teacher effectiveness ratings for RttT participating schools).

New this year, students' historical data now travels across LEA's - meaning that ALL charter school students (in grades 4-8), will have value added data (if they have previous data from Ohio schools). By fall of 2013, math and reading teachers for grades 4–8 will receive teacher-level value-added reports.

OAPCS' VP of School Performance and Accountability, Marianne Lombardo, has been selected, along with Lenny Schafer and Sue Newell of Ohio Council of Community Schools, to assist Batelle in assuring that Community School value added issues and needs are addressed. They will be participating in the 2-day Community School Value-Added workshops to be held:

- September 22 & 23: Columbus
- October 10 & 11: Akron
- October 14 & 15: Cincinnati
- October 20 & 21: Toledo
- October 24 & 25: Columbus

These workshops are open to ALL charter schools - NOT just those participating in Race to the Top, and are geared to schools serving any of grades 4-8. Registration is through STARS, and requires a DVAL Selection form. School Leaders should select a Value Added Leader from their staff that has a 1) willingness to lead the charge in their school to make value-added information a diagnostic tool for instructional improvement, 2) a willingness to build others' capacity to use value-added reports, 3) strong relationship-building skills, 4) an understanding of educational improvement and change leadership, and 5) strong experience using multiple data sources to inform instructional improvement.

The responsibilities of the Community Value-Added Leader will be: 1) attend a Community School Value-Added Leader Workshop in the fall, 2) work directly with VALs, 3) partner with building administrators to co-facilitate information sharing and training on how to use value-added data with staff members, 4) build the capacity of building-level teams and teacher based teams to use value-added reports for diagnostic purposes, 5) arrange EVAAS® access for appropriate stakeholders, 6) deliver updates to staff members, and 7) assist with the collection of participant feedback.

School leaders should submit a Selection Form by September 2, 2011, via Fax to (614) 481-8997 or E-mail to [OhioRttT@BattelleforKids.org](mailto:OhioRttT@BattelleforKids.org). Please feel free to contact Marianne if any questions (614) 744-2266 ext. 201 or [mlombardo@oapcs.org](mailto:mlombardo@oapcs.org). We look forward to seeing you there!

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## **First New Tech Coordinators' Symposium**

eTech Ohio is hosting its first-ever New Technology Coordinators Symposium on Friday, September 23. This all-day event will feature panels designed to

share information with attendees about the interconnectivity of Ohio's educational network. The day will also be an opportunity for seasoned colleagues to share useful tips, resources, and ideas with those who are new to their roles. Attendees will be able to take part in Q&A sessions and meet and greets. To learn more, or to register, visit the [eTech Ohio Application](#)

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## Technology Planning Tools



Don't forget that the Technology Planning Tool (TPT) and the OSFC Technology Toolkit are available to create and update your district's Technology Plans. The TPT and the Toolkit can be found online at [www.etech.ohio.gov/technology-planning](http://www.etech.ohio.gov/technology-planning), along with additional resources to help technology staff make the most of the tech planning process. eTech Ohio will also release the Biennial Educational Technology Assessment (BETA) 10-11 data this fall, which allows districts to understand better how their teachers and students are using technology in the classroom.

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## Tools for Teachers



Equip educators and students for the 2011-12 school year with tools available through eTech Ohio! Licenses for Atomic Learning (an online professional development solution) are available for public school districts and community schools at no cost, as funds remain available. To learn more, or to begin an application for services, visit [www.etech.ohio.gov/online-learning](http://www.etech.ohio.gov/online-learning). Educators and school staff can also access Computer Aided Design and GIS mapping tools for the classroom, as well as technology training solutions through eTech Ohio's programs and services. To learn more, contact Jim Harvey at [james.harvey@etech.ohio.gov](mailto:james.harvey@etech.ohio.gov).

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## Join Disney's Planet Challenge



**Imagine your students embracing science. Imagine them identifying a real-life issue and creating a plan of action. Imagine your students taking ownership of their world.**

Disney's Planet Challenge can help make this vision a reality. This project-based learning competition for grades 3-8 inspires kids to explore and achieve, to become stewards of the environment and to make a difference at school, at home, and in their local communities—all while meeting national and state curriculum standards!

Enrollment is now open. It's free and comes with online tools to help teachers meet their goals while empowering students.

Learn more at: <http://disney.go.com/planetchallenge/>

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