

IN THIS ISSUE:

P2 / SPOTLIGHT

- Fall Great School Exposure
Events

P3 / SPOTLIGHT

- BayTech: Giving a Child a Second
Chance

Office of Charter Schools



OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT
Community Schools, Thriving Students

FEATURE

Newsletter

January 2016



Application Season: Charter School Legal Requirements

Charter schools must follow all non-discrimination laws in their admissions policies and preferences, including but not limited to requirements that “a charter school shall be nonsectarian in its programs, admission policies, employment practices, and all other operations, shall not charge tuition, and shall not discriminate against any pupil on the basis of ethnicity, national origin, gender, gender identity, gender expression, or disability.” (Education Code section 47607(d)(1).) **Therefore, charter school admissions applications should not seek any information regarding whether an applicant has ever received special education services, has a disability, or is/was under an Individualized Education Plan; or EL Status or Race. Nor should charter school applications, or admission packet materials, contain any parent contribution or volunteer requirements that would violate the prohibition against tuition.**

If you have any questions about the Guidelines for Admission Procedures and Preferences, please contact Silke (silke.bradford@ousd.org) and Leslie (leslie.jimenez@ousd.org).



Working Groups 2015-16

Working Groups are on hold as the District transitions to the District Charter Compact (Equity Pledge) Working Groups. We will keep you posted.



Please Take This Survey

Please complete the following Student Information System (SIS) survey by **Friday January 15, 2016**. This information will be used to inform the creation of an Office of Charter Schools database to support required charter school reporting (i.e. Fall Info Update).

To complete the survey, click on the following link: [Student Information System Survey](#).



Credential & Expulsion Compliance Requirements

Please review the **NEW** compliance requirements regarding credentialing and expulsions described in the links below. OCS staff will be making unannounced site visits throughout the Spring to review credential binders, so please be sure that office staff can point us to where the up-to-date binder is located.

Instructions for Sub Permits, as well as credential requests can be found under the [Credentials Tab](#) on our website. The CCTC has recently published two guides that are available there as well.

SPOTLIGHT



Fall Great School Exposure Events

Huge shout out to East Bay Innovation Academy, Vincent Academy, and Epic Middle School for hosting a Great School Exposure Event this fall at their school site. During these events, School Leaders from District-Run Schools had a chance to visit and observe these schools in action. If you are interested in hosting in the Spring, please e-mail Silke (silke.bradford@ousd.org) with a list of possible topics.



EBIA showing STEAM
in action



Team Photo at Vincent Academy



Epic showcasing
Makerspaces



Bay Tech: Giving A Child A Second Chance

Hayri Hatipoglu is the Principal of BayTech serving 6th-12th grade students. A new student attempted to enroll at BayTech after being expelled from another CMO charter school in a neighboring city. Hayri made the decision to provide this child a fresh start, instead of sending them to an alternative education setting. Below is a Q & A regarding his decision.

1) What info did you gather/ meetings did you have to determine whether to allow the student in your school?

We had first looked for our legal option for a better approach to the case and counseled our authorizing office for guidance. We got prompt, efficient and clear answers to what our options and rights were with such an issues. Then, after expediting an arranged meeting with parent and student, we tried get a clear explanation from the parent and also requested an academic record of the student from his previous school. We had a very lengthy and thorough meeting with the student and parent about all aspects of the situation.

2) How did you come to the decision to admit an expelled student?

We had initially discussed all intrinsic dimensions, in depth about the issue, and all the ramifications that come along with it with the parent and student. We explained that we will not be judging him on what he had done in the past, but rather what he would be doing in the future at BayTech. We realize such an infraction can be damaging so counseling sessions have been arranged twice a week to check on his status. The admin team and the school counselor had an assessment and evaluation meeting in the aftermath with all the input and information that had been gathered. It was definitely a team decision supported by the assurances of the parent and student. It was very clear and everyone was on the same page.

3) What are some of the plans/safeguards being put in place to ensure success of this student?

We have agreed with the parent and the student to work on a plan before enrolling the student. The plan will include an electronics use policy, periodic counseling session with the student and a check-in/check-out procedure for the student to follow daily. Furthermore, the student has also been asked to write a reflection essay stating how to prevent himself being in the same situation again. Subsequently, we will have guidelines for success drawn up, but meetings twice a week, homework checks, and mandatory parent involvement will improve his situation. A graduation to college timeline (checklist) will provide end goals and keep him engaged and on task. We will also allow him to get involved in extracurricular activities

4) Any general comments/recommendations for other leaders considering accepting expelled students?

At BayTech, we believe every student deserves a second chance and there is always a better environment for students who struggle in their current place. Coincidentally, one of our alumni was visiting us the same day who himself had gone through some hardship in high school and had enrolled to BayTech as a last option. He is now a junior at a four year college and expressed his gratitude to BayTech for not turning him down. As a recommendation: "Consult your leaders, have in depth discussions on all aspects of situation with all relevant parties and reach a clear, simple reconciliation/solution for everyone to follow."