



OCS Update

From the Office of Charter Schools, Oakland Unified School District



The mission of the Office of Charter Schools (OCS) is to first, fulfill the obligations of a quality authorizer ensuring high quality schools are the established norm for Oakland's charter schools by protecting their autonomy in exchange for strong accountability and second, act as a vehicle by which charter school lessons have a positive impact on the entire public school system.

THIRD EDITION

DECEMBER 2011

If you have feedback on the format or content, please let us know (gail.greely@ousd.k12.ca.us).

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

OCS's Limited Role in Processing Teacher Credentials

This school year, Lupe has experienced a steep increase in the number of calls she's received from charter schools seeking specific, detailed information regarding credentials for their teachers. ***Please understand that our primary role is oversight and monitoring.*** We cannot provide technical assistance because to do so would compromise our ability to hold schools accountable for credential compliance, operations, and performance in general. We are able to assist with receiving and forwarding credential applications, checking only for their completeness, but cannot provide assistance or guidance to charter schools as to how to advise their teachers about which credentials they should apply for. Charter law gives schools the autonomy to operate separate from the district, with independent responsibility for legal compliance. This includes the requirement that charter schools employ teachers with the same credentials as teachers in other public schools. We therefore expect charter schools to have sufficient knowledge of credentials within their organization, or to use charter support organizations, to ensure compliance with this section of charter law. Lupe will continue to receive ***complete*** credential applications and forward them to the Alameda County Office of Education for processing. But schools need to develop their own expertise in this area. We have posted CCTC's "New Analyst Guide" from the February 2011 New Analyst Training to the OCS website (www.ousdcharters.net/resources.html) as a starting point for those schools currently without this expertise in-house.

KEY UPCOMING DATES

- December 14: Attendance Month 4 (P-1), Federal Poverty Income Guideline Eligibility Students Count, and ELL students - due to Minh Co (**signed**) Also arrange to sign final P1 report a few days subsequent to submission
- December 15: **Locally-funded charter schools only:** Copy of Single Plan for Student Achievement (“SPSA”) and Federal Expenditures Report (OMB Circular A-133 Compliance) – OUSD Excel template will be sent out prior to deadline - Due to Minh Co (**Signed**)
- December 15: Audit Report: Final audit for 2010-2011 FY **due to ACOE/SCO and State Dept. of Education (1 copy to each office)**
- January 3: Prop. 39 charter school response to objections to ADA projections due to OCS by 5 pm
- January 12: Attendance Month 5 due to Minh Co (signed)
- January 15: Special Education Encroachment Contribution – first installment due to OUSD/OCS

REMINDER: School Accountability Report Cards for the 2010-2011 school year will be due to the Office of Charter Schools by **February 1, 2012**. OCS has already sent out the school-specific templates, with pre-populated data for your school. Please contact Lupe (Guadalupe.navarro@ousd.k12.ca.us) if you have questions or concerns.

PEOPLE NEWS

OCS Program Analyst, Paige Abramson Hirsch, will be on family leave from the first of the new year (baby due on January 10th). A temporary staffing plan is still in development and we'll let you all know who to contact about projects in Paige's "portfolio".

Winter Break for OCS: Tilden Education Center and the OCS office will be closed from December 23rd through January 2nd. Gail and Lupe will be off from December 22nd until January 3rd; Paige will be working from home starting the 23rd. The best way to reach us with an urgent matter during this period will be via email.

POLICY ALERTS

State Superintendent Torlakson has announced the appointment of Julie Baltazar, who most recently was an Education Administrator in CDE's Improvement and Accountability Division, to serve as Director of the Charter Schools Division of CDE. Baltazar, who has more than 30 years of professional and project management experience with the State of California, including a total of nearly 10 years with the CDE, received Bachelor and Master degrees from California State University, Sacramento.

In another announcement, the State Superintendent noted release of new guidance on indirect costs for child nutrition programs. His message encouraged charter school administrators to work with their food service providers regarding compliance with the new guidance to avoid negative impacts on cost reimbursement. More information is available at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/ac/ic/>

CHARTER DATA SNAPSHOT – BOARD DISTRICTS

If you attend or watch the live web stream of OUSD Board of Education meetings, you probably have heard Directors make reference to the number of charter schools in their board districts. Of

the 30 charter schools currently authorized by OUSD, here's the breakdown:

District 1 - Jody London	5
District 2 - David Kakishiba	2
District 3 - Jumoke Hinton-Hodge	4
District 4 - Gary Yee	3
District 5 - Noel Gallo	5
District 6 - Christopher Dobbins	5
District 7 - Alice Spearman	6

RESOURCES

The Alameda County Office of Education's 5th Annual English Learner Conference will be held January 21, 2012 from 8:30 am to 3 pm at Cal State East Bay's New Student Union. Kate Kinsella, Teacher Educator and School Consultant, SFSU, will be the keynote speaker for the event. Registration is \$155. More information is available at:

<http://www.acoe.org/acoe/EdServices/ProgramsandServices/EnglishLanguageLearners/ELConference>

OUR GOALS 2011-2012

- ✓ OUSD-authorized charter schools will achieve measurable improvement in student achievement.
- ✓ OUSD-authorized charter schools will show improved compliance with federal, state and local requirements.
- ✓ OCS will develop a clear, comprehensive, rigorous set of standards and procedures for its charter authorizing work.
- ✓ OCS will pilot an on-line database containing current information regarding the operation and performance of charter schools in Oakland.
- ✓ OCS will improve communication with OUSD Departments on charter school issues impacting the District.
- ✓ OCS will facilitate the exchange of best practices among OUSD-authorized charter schools through events, communication and coordination with charter organizations.