



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.

SIXTH EDITION

FEBRUARY 2012

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUSD Facilities Master Plan

OUSD is hosting a series of community meetings to gather views on the Facilities Master Plan. You are welcome to attend and bring the charter school perspective to the attention of District leadership. The meetings are organized by region, as follows:

- Region 1 West: March 6, 6 to 8 pm at McClymonds High and March 13, 6 to 8 pm at Oakland Tech
- Region 2 Central: February 28, 6 to 8 pm at Roosevelt Middle and March 27, 6 to 8 pm at Franklin Elementary
- Region 3 East: March 20, 6 to 8 pm at Madison Middle and April 3, 6 to 8 pm at Havenscourt Middle/High

More information about OUSD facilities and the master planning process is available at www.ousd.k12.ca.us/facilitiesplan.

Credentials

Santa Clara County Office of Education will be hosting the NCLB Teacher Quality Workshop on **Friday, March 9, 2012 at 10:00 am**. If you are interested in attending please register by emailing Maryjane_Roberts@sccoe.org or calling (408)453-6769. This is a great opportunity to get more information on the impact of NCLB on credential requirements for charter schools.

New OUSD Boundaries

The Oakland Board of Education has approved new boundaries for district schools. If you need this information for enrollment preferences or facilities reimbursement claims, you can find it on the District's website in the center column below the block regarding "Mutual Matching", or go directly to: <http://thrivingstudents.org/15/school-boundary-information> .

KQED American Graduate Teacher Town Hall

KQED will be holding a Teacher Town Hall at Laney College on March 13, 2012 from 5 to 8 pm. Some of the themes to be addressed will be best practices, youth empowerment and a teacher's role in helping students

stay in school. KQED's Yo Ann Martinez asks that you forward information about the event to the teachers in your school, and contact her with questions at (415)-553-2853 or ymartinez@kqed.org. Information on the event can be found at <http://www.kqed.org/americangraduate> and interested teachers can register at <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/2829891281>.

Congratulations to the Spelling Bee Winners and County Representatives:

1st place: Bryan Zheng, American Indian Public Charter School

County Representatives:

- Iliana Fraser, Oakland Military Institute
- Thandiewe Deal, Oakland Military Institute

KEY UPCOMING DATES

- February 15: Scheduling of Spring Site Visit Begins – look for an email from OCS Compliance Specialist Guadalupe Navarro with the date for our office's annual visit.
- March 1: Financial Report – Second interim for 2011-2012 school year due to Minh Co (2 signed copies plus emailed to Minh.Co@ousd.k12.ca.us). *Minh sent the template out via email on February 10th with more specific instructions.*
- March 1: Proposition 39 – Charter school's response to preliminary offer letter due to OCS by 5 pm
- March 8: Attendance Month 7 due to Minh Co (signed)
- Other Upcoming Events:
 - *Facilities Master Plan Meetings (by region) throughout the month of March (information at www.ousd.k12.ca.us/facilities plan).*
 - *Independent Auditor Selection form for your 2011-2012 audit will be due to Minh Co in March. Expect an email from Minh with more information.*
 - *Measurable Pupil Outcomes will be due to Guadalupe 10 business days prior to Spring Site Visits, which begin in March.*

PEOPLE NEWS

Welcome to the new principal of Education for Change's Achieve Academy, Stephen Cilono.

POLICY ALERTS

A couple of items from the CDE...

Update Regarding Students with Disabilities and the CAHSEE

The CDE will be taking regulations to the State Board in March that would extend the current exemption from the CAHSEE for students with disabilities through December 31, 2012. The State Superintendent is also sponsoring legislation to extend the date of the CAHSEE alternatives to July 1, 2015. For more information on the CAHSEE exemption, see <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/hs/cahseefaqexempt.asp>.

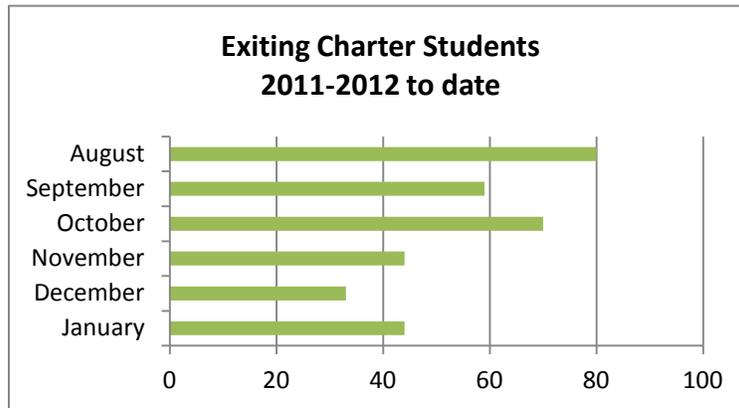
2012 Early Assessment Program

CDE sent out information about the 2012 Early Assessment Program at the beginning of February, asking schools to distribute letters to students and teachers to help them better understand the purpose and importance of the EAP. CDE's request, and links to the letters, can be found at:

http://www.calstate.edu/eap/documents/letters/EAPLetter_Superintendents.pdf.

CHARTER DATA SNAPSHOT – STUDENT EXIT

Student Exit Forms received between August 2011-February 7, 2012	381
Number of charter schools submitting student exit forms	23
Number of charter schools submitting NO student exit forms	7



RESOURCES

Students Rising Above Scholarships

Now is the time of year that Students Rising Above begins identifying qualified students for their award-winning, comprehensive scholarship/mentoring program. Applicants must be highly motivated current high school juniors graduating high school in the spring of 2013 who have been succeeding academically in spite of serious personal and familial hardship. High school counselors, teachers and administrators are asked to recommend students for the program. The Students Rising Above application deadline is earlier than in previous years: **March 4, 2012**. Information on qualifications and process can be found at:

<https://scholareselect.com/scholarships/2169-students-rising-above-program#>. Or contact Vicky Friedman, Oakland Outreach Volunteer, at vickyfriedman@yahoo.com or by phone at 510-506-4698.

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.