



# 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.

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

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ***Training Opportunities for Charter Leaders Coming!***

The Office of Charter Schools is working with other groups within Oakland Unified School District and the federal Office of Civil Rights to provide additional training opportunities for charter leaders in the coming school year. Dates and times are not yet confirmed, but we'll communicate the information as soon as we have it. Check your email and June newsletter. Among the offerings will be:

- Rehabilitation Act Section 504: OUSD's 504 coordinator has offered to include charter leaders in the District's annual training for principals.
- Special Education: OUSD's Programs for Exceptional Children will again invite leaders of charter schools within the OUSD SELPA to join District principals for annual training.
- Teacher Credentials: OCS is working with OUSD's Human Resource Department to offer training on teacher credentials specifically for Oakland charter leaders.
- McKinney-Vento and Bullying Prevention: The federal Office of Civil Rights has offered to present a training session on charter school obligations to homeless children and families, as well as information on the prevention of bullying in schools.

### ***Job Posting: Charter School Compliance Specialist***

As previously announced, Paige Abramson Hirsch is not returning to the Office of Charter Schools from maternity leave. Paige is irreplaceable, but we must carry on, so we have posted her position on EdJoin. We are particularly hoping to find someone with classroom experience and familiarity with charter schools. If you know anyone who might fit the bill, please refer them to EdJoin.

## KEY UPCOMING DATES

- **Spring Site Visits:** Annual spring site visits are underway and will continue into June. If you have not confirmed your date with Guadalupe, please do so. For those of you who have dates set, remember that your Measurable Pupil Outcomes will be due to Guadalupe 10 business days prior to your visit.
- **Mid-May (TBD):** 2012-2013 Charter Schools Annual General Information and Funding Survey (CDE on-line) **CDE HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE RELEASE OF THE FUNDING SURVEY HAS BEEN**

### **DELAYED – NEW DATE: JUNE 15TH.**

- **May 31:** Attendance Month 10 due to Minh Co (signed)
- **Early June (TBD):** Student National Origin Report (SNOR) data due online to CDE
- **June 15:** Budget Adoption for 2012-2013 and Multi-Year Projection due to Minh Co (2 signed copies plus emailed to [Minh.Co@ousd.k12.ca.us](mailto:Minh.Co@ousd.k12.ca.us)).
- **June 15:** New date for the Charter Schools Annual General Information and Funding Survey (now available on the CDE website)
- **June 27:** Attendance Month 11 (P-Annual) due to Minh Co (signed)
- **June 30:** Special Education Encroachment Contribution – FINAL installment due to OUSD/OCS

## **PEOPLE NEWS**

- Susan Sperber, long-time principal of Education for Change World Academy (and formerly OUSD's Hawthorne Elementary) is retiring. We'll miss her passion and humor, but wish her all the best.

## **POLICY ALERTS**

### ***From the State Superintendent: Whooping Cough***

State Superintendent Torlakson is encouraging parents of students entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade to vaccinate their children against whooping cough, as required by California law. More information on pertussis and the Tdap vaccination, visit the California Department of Education's webpage and California Department of Public Health's Shots for School webpage.

### ***Changes to the EAP Exam***

California State Universities have announced changes to the way in which results on the English component of the Early Assessment Program exam will be reported. Beginning with the 2012 administration of the EAP, students will receive one of four (4) in English: 1) ready for CSU; 2) ready for CSU – conditional; 3) not yet demonstrating readiness; and 4) incomplete. For more information on the new result "conditional", check: [www.calstate.edu/eap/letters.shtml](http://www.calstate.edu/eap/letters.shtml)

### ***Finance News from Sacramento***

The news from Sacramento continues to create uncertainty. April tax receipts were \$2 billion below the Governor's budgeted projections. As a result, the May Revise now shows the deficit increasing to \$16 billion from a \$9 billion January projection. While May Revise holds promise for flat K-14 funding if the Governor's initiative passes, State cash flow projections are forcing the Legislature to defer school funding even more. On May 15th, legislation deferring \$3.5 billion in payments to schools during the 2012-13 fiscal year was introduced. Charter school leaders are encouraged to review their 2012/13 cash flow projections to ensure there is adequate cash for the school year.

## **RESOURCES**

### ***CDE Unveils New California Career Center for Middle and High School Students***

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson has unveiled the new California Career Center Web portal to help middle school and high school students explore their options and plan their next steps toward productive careers. Students can use the free interactive Web site to build a personalized account that allows them to save critical information, or simply use the left-hand navigation bar as a tool to help them through the exploration process. Under the "Middle & High School" link, users can learn how to get the most out of their middle and high school experiences. Through the "Career Options" link, users can match their interests and skills with potential careers. The "Education & Training" link tells users what education or training is needed for certain careers. The "Getting a Job" link offers tips on job searching, internships, résumé writing, and job interviews. The "Challenges" section is designed for students who may have special needs, such as physical or learning disabilities, or are foster youth, undocumented youth, and youth from juvenile court programs. The

“Money Management” link offers information on financial literacy and how to make smart financial decisions. Finally, videos produced by students and teachers are posted on the Web portal to help students explore career and college options. There are also Educator and Parent/Guardian sections with content unique to those users. The site is found at: [www.calcareercenter.org](http://www.calcareercenter.org)

## 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.