



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.

EIGHTH EDITION

APRIL 2012

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

CONTENTS

Announcements	1
Key Upcoming Dates	1
People News	2
Policy Alerts.....	2
Charter Data Snapshot – Some National Data	2
Resources	3
Our Goals 2011-2012	3

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Common Core Workshop Opportunity

The Alameda County Office of Education is offering two workshops on Common Core State Standards, available to district and charter school personnel. The two sessions will each be offered twice in May, with sign-up available on-line through <http://pdp.acoe.org>.

The purpose of the sessions is to provide district and charter teams with an understanding of the basic design of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in 6th – 12th grade English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects and the CCSS in K-5 English Language Arts and K-12 Mathematics.

More information on this opportunity will be sent to OUSD charter leaders via email.

OUSD Calendar for 2012-2013 Now Available

You can find the OUSD calendar for 2012-2013, in multiple formats and languages, on the District's public website at: <http://publicportal.ousd.k12.ca.us/19941056182251307/site/default.asp?1994Nav=|&NodeID=121>

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.
- **May 1:** Proposition 39 – charter schools send acceptance of final offer to OCS by 5 pm
- **May 3:** Attendance Month 9 due to Minh Co (signed)
- **Mid-May (TBD):** 2012-2013 Charter Schools Annual General Information and Funding Survey (CDE on-line)

PEOPLE NEWS

- OCS Program Analyst Paige Abramson Hirsch, on maternity leave since January, will not be returning to the team, but has joined Alpha Public Schools in San Jose to support the start-up of their first middle school. We'll miss her terribly, but wish her well in this new venture.

POLICY ALERTS

New Publication from State Superintendent: Family Engagement Framework

Earlier this month, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson released a new, free publication, *Family Engagement Framework, a Tool for California School Districts*, to help school districts engage families in their children's education. Many of the ideas in the document are applicable to charter schools as well. The *Framework* describes 18 principles that are essential for family and community involvement. These principles are grouped into five action areas to: (1) help school districts build the skills and confidence of parents, (2) demonstrate leadership, (3) use resources, (4) monitor progress, and (5) ensure access and equity for everyone. Specific actions to engage families and the community are described for each principle, ranging from basic to progressive to innovative. The document can be downloaded at:

http://www.wested.org/online_pubs/cpei/family-engagement-framework.pdf

CHARTER DATA SNAPSHOT – SOME NATIONAL DATA

Information on charter school numbers and enrollment nationwide from The Center for Education Reform's December 2011 report "The State of Charter Schools: What We Know – and What We Do Not – About Performance and Accountability".

State	Operating in 2010–2011	Open in 2011–2012	Total Operating	Total Estimated Enrollment
Alaska	28	0	28	5,613
Arizona	506	33	539	135,930
Arkansas	33	4	37	11,605
California	907	101	1,008	410,157
Colorado	171	14	185	79,963
Connecticut	23	0	23	4,810
Delaware	19	3	22	9,816
DC	96	11	107	35,224
Florida	445	72	517	179,254
Georgia	109	16	125	61,821
Hawaii	31	0	31	8,798
Idaho	39	4	43	16,304
Illinois	99	6	105	48,233
Indiana	62	1	63	20,372
Iowa	8	0	8	1,179
Kansas	19	0	19	3,066
Louisiana	97	16	113	38,671
Maryland	40	6	46	11,549
Massachusetts	66	10	76	29,141
Michigan	291	25	316	118,702
Minnesota	156	6	162	32,967
Mississippi	0	0	0	0
Missouri	45	7	52	19,573
Nevada	27	7	34	12,962
New Hampshire	10	1	11	2,431
New Jersey	78	9	87	23,399
New Mexico	82	3	85	15,815
New York	185	16	201	54,681

North Carolina	104	1	105	37,407
Ohio	336	32	368	122,660
Oklahoma	17	2	19	6,576
Oregon	107	9	116	19,255
Pennsylvania	155	15	170	98,108
Rhode Island	16	1	17	3,817
South Carolina	45	3	48	18,171
Tennessee	27	8	35	7,210
Texas	413	31	444	149,348
Utah	80	5	85	38,643
Virginia	4	0	4	354
Wisconsin	217	39	256	47,352
Wyoming	3	1	4	894
TOTAL	5,196	518	5,714	1,941,831

RESOURCES

Resources from FCMAT Workshop on Charter School Finance

Minh Co and Guadalupe Navarro of OCS attended the Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team's Workshop on Charter School Fiscal Management in late March and have a few links to pass along:

- PowerPoints from the workshop can be found at: [http://www.fcmat.org/stories/storyReader\\$18780](http://www.fcmat.org/stories/storyReader$18780)
- FCMAT's Budget Explorer Software for Charter Schools (available for 2012-2013 SY) is currently in the planning and development stage. Features:
 - Web-based, free of charge
 - Easy to use, improves planning/decision-making
 - Upload data from DAT file, Excel or manual input
 - Check out the school district version of BE at: [http://www.fcmat.org/stories/storyReader\\$1254](http://www.fcmat.org/stories/storyReader$1254)
- For information on common charter reporting problems with CALPADS: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sp/cl/charterschools.asp>

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.