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Office of Charter Schools



OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Community Schools, Thriving Students

FEATURE

Newsletter

September 2015

2015-16 Working Groups



As we roll into the new school year, the Office of Charter Schools will begin hosting a new round of Working Groups on **Common Enrollment** and **Special Education**.

These topics have been identified as key components in the drafting of a District Charter Compact* and charter leader input/participation is essential to their development.

Beginning in October, OCS will be holding regular Working Groups from **4:30-6pm** at our new office location on the **6th Floor of 1000 Broadway**.

-1st Mondays of the month– Special Education (beginning 10.05.15)

-1st Tuesdays of the month- Common Enrollment (beginning 10.19.15)

Please look for calendar invites from Kamala and note that parking validation is available for our garage, which can be accessed from 11th and Franklin.

*Look for more information on the District Charter Compact and opportunities to co-construct in our October newsletter.

SPOTLIGHT

Hellos & Goodbyes

Meet our new Deputy Director, Leslie Jimenez! She comes to us, most recently, from Rocketship Los Sueños in San Jose and will be involved in all aspects of the charter authorizing work of our office.



We're excited to welcome Paul Toribio, our 10-month Data Fellow Education Pioneer! He comes to our office from Teach for America in Boston and will be taking on the role of the office Data Analyst.

Kamala will be leaving OCS in mid-October to finish/publish her novel and try to become a Real Writer. If you know of qualified candidates who can manage a high level of communication and operations in our office, please get in touch with [Silke](#).



TECHCONNECT



Test Administration Training with OUSD

OUSD's Assessments team is offering charters the opportunity to join training sessions for state testing administration. For a fee, charter schools may send staff to a series of OUSD trainings for all state tests. For no fee, all schools can gain access to the state's training Moodle.

Please visit the [State & District Assessments](#) page for more info and sign up for training via the [OUSD State Training Request Form](#).

Teaching Books Reading Resource

This past May, OCS purchased a resource called Teaching Books.net, to give all of our charters access to this vast multimedia database. They provide an array of resources, meant to enhance the reading experiences of children's and young adult books, both fiction and non-fiction, that can be used in the K-12 environment.

All school sites may use the following login info.

Visit: <http://teachingbooks.net/home>

Enter your school email address, if prompted.

Username: ousd **Password:** ousd

For all schools interested in training, you are invited to register for the Teaching Books [Fall Webinar Series](#). You may also contact [Annette Smith](#), who will be happy to coordinate live virtual sessions, specifically for your school site.

In October, Teaching Books plans to launch streaming training videos, which will be available to users at any time.



CHARTERCHATTER



Great Schools Exposure Survey

OUSD has selected five schools that will receive intensive support for school redesign in 2016. A key component of this support is exposure to great schools with successful models and strategies.

The 2016 Design Teams are seeking opportunities to observe practices in specific areas (see “Observation Hosting Form” for a list) and OCS is asking charter schools to complete our Observation Hosting Form, to let us know which topics your schools are willing to host. Please become a pioneer in this collaborative exchange, in which district schools will also begin hosting visits for charters .

Fill out the [Observation Hosting Form](#).

New Petition Application & Renewal Handbook

Over the past two years, OCS has been researching and developing a New Petition Application. This project was prompted by an external review of OCS by the National Association of Charter School Authorizers, which identified an application as an area of growth—and we agreed that it was long overdue.

The application is directly aligned with the 16 Elements and provides new petitioners a clear guide to what information to address in order to fulfill each element. Our New Petition Evaluation Criteria is directly aligned to the application, bringing further transparency and cohesiveness to the important work of new petition creation and review. The [New Petition Application](#) will be required of all petitioners beginning in November 2015.

Additionally, we have an updated [Renewal Handbook for 2015-16](#). Both documents are available on our website.

Enrollment & Fall Info Update

Our office has updated our annual Fall Info Update to include an Enrollment Data & Board Info Spreadsheet, plus [a link to Google folders](#) by school, where we’re asking that schools upload three important documents. Both items are due on **Friday, October 2nd at 4pm**.

If you have questions or did not receive this request, please contact [Kamala](#).

Credentialing Updates

As always, we want to remind charter schools to please follow all of the instructions for requesting credential assistance from Stephanie Tomasi at the Alameda County Office of Education.

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.

SAVE THE DATE

Fall Info Update Due// Friday 10.02.15

Please complete our Charter Enrollment/Board Info Spreadsheet and email it to all of OCS ([Silke](#), [Leslie](#), [Kamala](#), [Minh](#) & [Mike](#)). Additionally, follow [this link to find the Google folder](#) for your school and update the three requested documents.

Working Groups 2015-16 // Mondays

Please join our working groups and contact us with questions:

- Charter SELPA work: First Mondays, starting 10.05.15
- Common Enrollment work: Third Mondays starting 10.19.15

All working group sessions will be held from 4:30-6pm in the Sierra Conference room adjacent to the Office of Charter Schools, at 1000 Broadway, Suite 639. Email [Kamala](#) to be added to the meeting makers.