



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).

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

School Accountability Report Cards for the 2010-2011 school year will be due to the Office of Charter Schools by **February 1, 2012**. Information about the restoration of the CDE web tool for ensuring correct data in your SARC is below in the Policy Alerts section of this newsletter. Follow the links for a copy of the CDE's sample template for the 2010-2011 SARC. OCS will send out the school-specific templates, with pre-populated data for your school, by the end of the month.

OUSD's Annual Spelling Bee will be held on Thursday, **February 9, 2012** at the Tilden Campus Auditorium, starting at 5 pm for upper elementary (grades 4-5) and approximately 6:30 pm for middle school (6-8). For more information on participating, contact Pam Bovyer via email at pam.bovyer@ousd.k12.ca.us

KEY UPCOMING DATES

- November 17: Attendance Month 3 due to Minh Co (**signed**)
- December 1: Financial Report: First Interim for 2011-2012 school year due to Minh Co (**2 signed copies** plus emailed to Minh.Co@ousd.k12.ca.us)
- December 1: Audit Report: Final audit for 2010-2011 FY due to OUSD/OCS (**2 hard copies**)
- December 1: Facility Fees (Prop 39) – second installment due to OUSD/OCS
- December 1: OUSD Objections to Projections Letter due to charter schools requesting facilities under Prop 39
- 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)**

PEOPLE NEWS

Welcome to the new leader at American Indian Public Charter Schools II: Kaytena Beckford.

POLICY ALERTS

The State Board of Education has approved new regulations for charter renewal, effective November 23rd. Among the changes and clarifications are:

- Charter renewal petitions are no longer required to include parent or teacher signatures expressing their interest in the school.
- Petitions are required to include a comprehensive description of how the charter school has met all new charter school requirements enacted into law after the charter was originally granted.
- Districts are to take into consideration a school's plans for improvement, when deciding on renewal.
- Failure of the district to make findings of fact within the statutory timeline (60 days from submission, or up to 90 days if extended by agreement) will be deemed a decision to renew.

More information and the text of the regulations can be found on the SBE website at:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/lr/rr/charrenewal.asp>

State Superintendent Torlakson announced earlier this month that CDE has restored the Web tool that pre-populates the state-mandated School Accountability Report Card (SARC) and makes it much easier to complete this document. More information is available at:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/nr/ne/yr11/yr11rel85.asp>

Our credential reminder of the month concerns teaching high school with a multiple subject credential. The California Commission on Teacher Credentialing is clear that an individual with a multiple subject credential is not authorized to teach in departmentalized classes, which are “ones in which the teacher is assigned to instruct groups of students in a specific subject matter area or areas”. More information about credential requirements can be found at:

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/materials.html>

CHARTER DATA SNAPSHOT – FALL INFORMATION UPDATE

One of OCS's goals for the year is improving charter school compliance (see Goals, below). We're not off to a great start with the Fall Information Update, as the date below suggests. Help us figure out how to make it easier to gather this data. All reasonable (and polite) suggestions

welcome!

Number of charter schools fully completing the Fall Information Update on time	3
Number of charter schools fully completing the FIU within 2 weeks of the deadline	1
Number of charter schools with FIU items outstanding as of November 18th	26

RESOURCES

The Bay Area Urban Debate League (BAUDL), launched in August 2008, has helped dozens of young people in the public schools of Oakland take part in passionate discussions on key issues of the day while gaining the tools they need to succeed in college and become leaders in their communities. If you're interested in offering this program to students in your charter school, please contact Dmitri Seals at dseals@baudl.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.