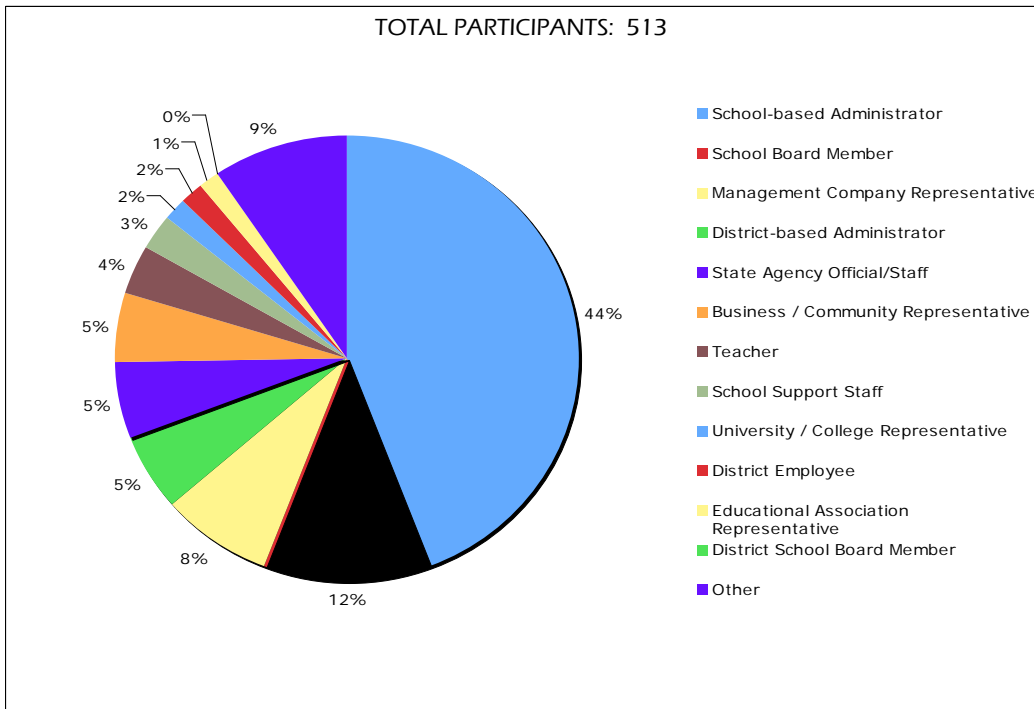


January 2010

Florida's Charter Schools News

Florida Charter School Conference

The 2009 Florida Charter School Conference was held November 16-18, 2009, at the DoubleTree Hotel at the Entrance to Universal in Orlando, Florida. **Charters – Not Just Another Public School!** was the theme of the conference. Participants had an opportunity to network with other charter school representatives, obtain information on issues affecting charter schools, learn different strategies for helping students, and receive encouragement for the task of educating Florida's students. Students from charter schools provided the entertainment for the opening session and during the reception. The conference was well attended and diverse as shown in the following chart:



Visit the Florida Charter School Conference Web site for presentations and other information from the conference. The Web address is <http://charterschoolconference.com/>.

Thank you to all conference participants!

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FLORIDA'S
CHARTER
Schools

Resources

K-12 Interdisciplinary Curriculum Resource

Looking for some new ideas to jump start learning in the New Year? Have you heard of Project WET?

Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) is an interdisciplinary water education program that is interactive, hands-on, easy to use, and FREE. Since 1984, the project has dedicated itself to the mission of reaching children, parents, teachers, and community members of the world with water education.

Project WET workshops are available for teachers and other educators

working with young people in grades K–12. The goal of Project WET is to facilitate and promote awareness, appreciation, knowledge and stewardship of water resources. Project WET curriculum integrates Florida's Sunshine State Standards and can be easily incorporated into the existing curricula of a school, museum, or community organization.

For more information on utilizing this curriculum resource for your school, contact the [provider for your area](#).

The main contact for WET in Florida

is Eileen Tramontana at the St. Johns River Water Mgmt. District: <http://sjr.state.fl.us/education/projectwet/index.html>.

The Southwest FL Water Mgmt. District also offers workshops: <http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/education/projectwet/>

The FL Department of Environmental Protection offers WET workshops in the panhandle: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/secretary/ed/profdev/wet.htm>

A Parent's Guide to Understanding RtI

The RtI model is a multi-tiered approach to providing high quality instruction and intervention matched to student needs, using learning rate over time and level of performance to inform instructional decisions. RtI involves the systematic use of assessment data to most efficiently allocate resources in order to improve learning for all students.

The RtI model provides:

- Multiple tiers of evidence-based instruction service delivery.
- A problem-solving method designed to inform the development of interventions.
- An integrated data collection/assessment system to inform decisions at each tier of service delivery.

Parents are encouraged to visit http://fldoe.org/schools/schoolmap/flash/district_list.asp for further information on contacting your District School Board Office. Additional information on RtI can be found at <http://www.florida-rti.org/>

Partnership eNews



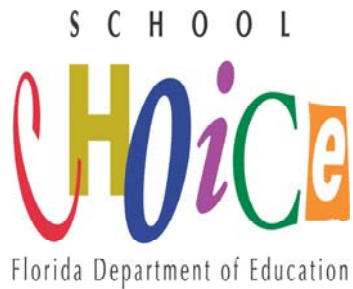
eNews is a monthly summary of notable actions, events and resources

taken from the [LATEST NEWS](#) section of the web site.

The IDEA Partnership reflects the collaborative work of more than 50 national organizations, technical assistance providers, and organizations and agencies at the state and local level. Together with the Office of Special Education Programs ([OSEP](#)), the [Partner Organizations](#) form a com-

munity with the potential to transform the way we work and improve outcomes for students and youth with disabilities.

All charter schools are encouraged to register for the monthly *eNEWS* at <http://ideapartnership.org/> in an effort to keep current with the issues involving IDEA.



**Office of Independent
Education and Parental
Choice**

Phone: 850-245-0502
Fax: 850-245-0875

School Choice Hotline:
1-800-447-1636

www.floridaschoolchoice.org

Reminder

The application deadline for submitting the 2010-13 Planning and Implementation Grant is **January 29, 2010**.

If you have any questions related to the Planning and Implementation Grant, please contact Helen Giraitis, Charter Schools Program Grant Director at (850) 245-0502.

Technical Assistance is Available

Charter school staff is available to provide technical assistance or assist with any questions you may have. If you need assistance, please contact staff via telephone at 850-245-0502 or via e-mail at Charterschools@fldoe.org.

2010 Conferences/Workshops

Date(s)	Conference/Workshop	Location	Contact Information
1/21-22/2010	FL Grants Developers Network K-12 Winter Conference	Ocala Hilton Ocala	http://www.fgdnk12.org
1/22-24/2010	Florida Future Educator's of America Conference	Caribe Royale Hotel Orlando	http://www.fldoe.org/profdev/conference.asp
1/24-26/2010	47th Annual Junior Science, Engineering and Humanities Symposium	University of Florida Gainesville	http://www.cpet.ufl.edu/jsehs
2/5-6/2010	FL Association of School Nurses 15th Annual Conference	Orlando Marriott Lake Mary	http://www.fasn.net/2010stateconference.html
3/5-10/2010	National Conference on Transporting Students with	Doubletree Hotel at the Entrance to Universal	http://www.eduprogroup.com
6/28- 7/1/2010	10th annual National Charter Schools Conference	Chicago, Illinois	http://www.nationalcharterconference.org/register_now.php