

February 2010

Florida's Charter Schools News

From the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services at FLDOE

This is the eighth in a series of monthly State Performance Plan (SPP) indicator resources to assist districts in identifying additional supports. This month, secondary transition Indicator 2 - Dropout is highlighted.

Students with and without disabilities who are at risk of dropping out of school show signs of being at risk as early as elementary school. Identifying and tracking dropout warning signs is one way of determining potential dropouts in order to provide additional student support. The National High School Center (NHSC) has developed an Early Warning System tool and support materials, which are available on its Web site. The Webinar, "What Matters for Staying On-Track and Graduating in Chicago Public Schools: A Focus on Students with Disabilities," was broadcast December 8, 2009, and the Webinar recording and presentation slides discuss research conducted in the Chicago Public Schools and use of the early warning system tool. An Early Warning System Tool and an issue brief that serves as a guide can be found at the following link: <http://www.betterhighschools.org/topics/DropoutWarningSigns.asp>. Additional support materials on this topic may be found at <http://www.betterhighschools.com/webinar/default.aspx>.

Contact: Joyce Lubbers, at joyce.lubbers@doe.org or via telephone at (850) 245-0478 for additional assistance.

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Call for Student Performances



Each year the Florida Charter Schools Conference showcases the talents of a variety of student performances from charter schools around the state. If you would like your school to be considered for the 2010 Charter School Conference, please send your performance on a VHS tape or a DVD by August 2, 2010, to the following address:

Florida Charter School Conference
 c/o Noelle Bonard
 325 West Gaines Street, Room 522
 Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Please include your name and contact information, along with a list of the songs your students would perform at the conference.

The Program Committee will review all submissions and select the performances for the conference. Selection notifications will be sent out by the end of August.

If you have any questions, please e-mail Noelle Bonard at Noelle.Bonard@fldoe.org.



FLORIDA'S
CHARTER
Schools

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Sweetwater Branch Academy's Science Olympiad Team

Sweetwater Branch Academy's (SWBA) Science Olympiad Team participated in the Invitational Science Olympiad Tournament held in Orlando on January 16, 2010. The team won third place and received 18 event placements. The SWBA Science Team will participate in the upcoming regional competition on February 27, 2010. Great job and much success in the upcoming competition!



Sweetwater Branch Academy's FIRST Lego League Team

On January 9, 2010, Sweetwater Branch Academy's first Lego League Team participated in a competition held in Ocala, Florida. There were four separate areas of judging: Robot Design, Robot Performance, Project Presentation and Teamwork. Sweetwater Branch Academy brought home the following scores:

- Technical score was the fifth (5th) highest of the 19 teams.
- Teamwork score was the eighth (8th) highest of the 19 teams.
- Project presentation was the 12th highest of the 19 teams.
- Robot performance was the third (3rd) highest score two times.

The team coached by Mr. Cinar and Mr. Gurcan consisted of Sahil Patel, Quennon Ewing, Jose Cuevas, Nate Selznick and Zephrin Green. SWBA's accountant, Mr. Cevik, and parents, Mr. Cuevas, Mr. DiPietro and Ms. Johnson, were there to support the team.



Submitted by Fethi Goktepe, M.S., Principal

Math Training Opportunity for Teachers

RtI Teaching Learning Connections (RtITLC) is pleased to announce upcoming professional developments for 2010. Algebra Success Keys (ASK) and Keys of Problem Solving (KoPS) are two math initiatives provided for teachers of mathematics in grades PreK-12. They are both focused on research-based strategies and resources that address algebraic thinking (ASK) and problem solving (KoPS) to support all students who struggle in learning higher order mathematics content and skills. Additionally, RtITLC, in conjunction with Dr. Anne Foegen, will be providing on-site training for the Algebra Assessment and Instruction-Meeting Standards (AAIMS) measures. The dates and locations have been set as follows:

- O AAIMS - March 22, 2010 (Largo, FL)
- O AAIMS - March 24, 2010 (Orlando, FL)
- O ASK - March 25-26, 2010 (Kissimmee, FL)
- O ASK - April 22-23, 2010 (Naples, FL)
- O KoPS - May 3-4, 2010 (Miami, FL)
- O ASK - May 13-14, 2010 (Reddick, FL)
- O AAIMS - May 27, 2010 (St. Augustine, FL)
- O ASK - July 15-16, 2010 (St. Petersburg, FL)

For registration, future announcements, resources, and more information about this project, visit the RtI TLC Web site at www.RtITLC.ucf.edu.

Coming Soon: From Muire's Cubicle



"From Muire's cubicle" is a new publication that will provide information for teachers, schools, and districts addressing various topics.

Dr. Chris Muire, Educational Policy Director, joined the Charter Schools staff in November 2009 and has an extensive background in education. He has pub-

lished numerous articles, presented at professional conferences, edited government reports/textbooks, and has directed, co-developed and evaluated many grant projects, etc.

Watch for the new publication!

Congratulations to Imagine School at South Lake!

The Golden Rule Foundation named Imagine School at South Lake a Character Education Partnership 2010 Florida School of Character. The award recognizes schools that excel in academic achievement, self-esteem and the value of community service. This award allows Imagine School at South Lake a chance to compete for the National Schools of Character award this year.

The recent award recognizes the service learning projects conducted by the school in 2009 that are tied to the character traits of responsibility and caring. The two are part of the six traits the school focuses on throughout the year. The other four are fairness, citizenship, trustworthiness and respectfulness.



Proposed State Board Rules

The Department of Education has continued to develop State Board Rules to implement and clarify statutory requirements for charter schools and sponsors. The rules listed below have been proposed for adoption next month. Charter schools and sponsors must comply with the procedures established by each rule; therefore, it is important to become familiar with the new requirements. The Department will also provide technical assistance following the adoption of the rules.

Rules currently proposed for adoption:

6A-1.0081 Charter School Financial Conditions – This rule establishes procedures for developing financial recovery and corrective action plans, defines and establishes procedures for determining a deteriorating financial condition, and adopts a standard format for the monthly financial statement a charter school must submit to its sponsor. The proposed text of the rule is available in the January 15, 2010, edition of the [Florida Administrative Weekly](#).

6A-6.0785 Charter School Training Standards – This rule codifies the department's training standards, establishes a procedure by which sponsors may require charter applicants to attend training provided by the sponsor in lieu of the training provided by the department, and establishes notification requirements regarding the required training. The proposed text of the rule is available on the [School Choice Web site](#).

6A-6.0788 Notice Requirements for Charter School Performance Data – This rule establishes notice requirements for certain charter schools who must report student performance data on their Web site and to the public at large. The proposed text of the rule is available on the [School Choice Web site](#).

The State Board of Education will vote to adopt these proposed rules on March 16, 2010. More information about this meeting is available at <http://www.fldoe.org/board/meetings/>.

Congratulations!



Logan Hudson, a sixth grader at Wakulla Coast Charter School, took top honors in a national art contest sponsored by Artsonia, BingMaps and Microsoft. Miss

Hudson's drawing of a rocket was chosen as the middle-school winner in the national 10,000 Rockets contest. The drawing was chosen because of scientific accuracy. Logan labeled the parts the same as those used by NASA.

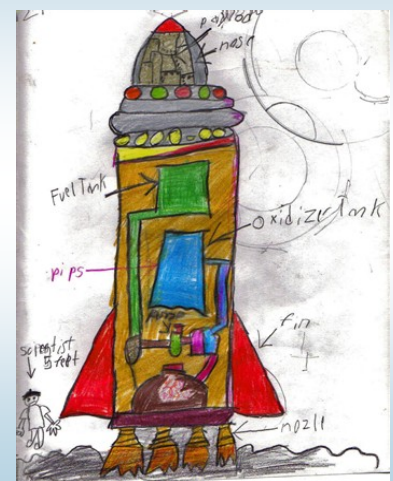
The contest was held to celebrate the launching of the Delta II rocket with the WorldView-II satellite that will capture images for BingMaps.

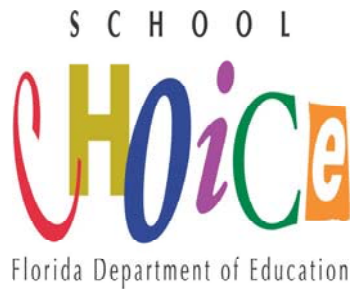
"We are very proud of Logan and extremely pleased with Wakulla Coast Charter School" said Layne Davis, Logan's guardian.

Mrs. Kelly Tidwell, art teacher, motivated all the students to enter the contest and has made the art program exceptional

since joining COAST Charter School several years ago.

Great Job!!





**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

Technical Assistance is Available

Charter School staff is available to provide technical assistance. If you need assistance, please contact staff via telephone at 850-245-0502 or via e-mail at Charter-schools@fldoe.org

2010 Conferences/Workshops

Date(s)	Conference/Workshop	Location	Contact Information
2/24-26/2010	Black, Brown and College Bound: Meeting the Challenge of Higher Education	Renaissance Hotel International Plaza Tampa	http://www.BlackBrownCollegeBound.com
3/5-10/2010	National Conference on Transporting Students with Disabilities and Preschoolers	Doubletree Hotel at the Entrance to Universal Orlando	http://www.eduprogroup.com
3/17-20/2010	7th Annual Addressing Challenging Behavior Conference	Sheraton Sand Key Resort Clearwater Beach	http://www.addressingchallengingbehavior.org
4/16-17/2010	University of Central Florida Book Festival	University of Central Florida Arena, Orlando	http://www.bookfestival.ucf.edu
4/19-20/2010	Florida Association of Staff Development Spring Forum	Crowne Plaza Melbourne Oceanfront	http://www.fasdonline.org
6/13-17/2010	Plant Camp 2010	University of Florida Gainesville	http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/education/plantcamp/indx.html
6/28-7/1/2010	10th annual National Charter Schools Conference	Chicago, Illinois	http://www.nationalcharterconference.org/