

April 2010

# Florida's Charter Schools News

## 2010 Florida Charter School Conference



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## Charter School Training Needs Assessment

Reminder! The annual Charter School Training Needs Assessment was distributed earlier this month. We have received great feedback so far and would like to hear from all of our charter schools **and** sponsors. There are only five sections in the survey and it should take 10-15 minutes to complete. If you have not submitted a survey, please follow the link and submit the survey today! The deadline for submission is April 30, 2010.

[Click here to take the survey.](#)

We greatly appreciate your feedback.



FLORIDA'S  
**CHARTER**  
*Schools*

## SWBA hosted famous rap and hip hop star Trina on March 8, 2010

The students sat in anticipation, watching and waiting for the moment she would arrive. They had been anticipating this day for weeks and it was finally here; the day rap and hip hop star Trina would come.

Besides the obvious excitement for the native Floridian hip hop star, the students were also aware of what they had done to deserve this visit. A few weeks prior to this happening, a local radio station sponsored a county-wide competition for the schools in Alachua County to raise pennies for the victims who had been involved in the tragic natural disaster in Haiti.

Despite the smallness of our school and student population, these caring students came together and emptied their pockets, scoured their parents' houses, cleaned out their couches and cars, and collected pennies with little hope of winning the contest. They knew they were competing with much bigger schools, but that didn't matter. They knew they were helping others, and that was all that did matter. But, despite the odds, SWBA's heart won out in the end and it was our students who tallied together and earned the opportunity to be recognized by one of America's music artists, Trina.

Her visit was short, but will be remembered for a long time by our students. She was introduced by the 99.5 DJs, as the students were showing their excitement for her visit. She was presented with flowers by our student council, and also enjoyed a performance by our own SWBA's step team, better known as the Sweet J's. There were many hugs, pictures and just sheer enjoyment to be had by all during this exciting visit. Great job SWBA!



## Lake Wales Charter to present at national conference

The Lake Wales Charter Schools system will make a national presentation about its very innovative Kindergarten Support Program.

Superintendent **Jesse Jackson** and other LWCS leaders received the invitation March 8, 2010 to make the presentation during the 2010 National Charter Schools Conference in Chicago this summer.



**LAKE WALES**  
**CHARTER SCHOOLS**

"We are excited to share our story about Kindergarten Support," said Jackson. "This is a powerful instructional program that can be replicated in other charter schools around the country."

The presentation is entitled "One Two Buckle My Shoe: Kindergarten Support Program closes at-risk gap with targeted instruction." LWCS presenters will be Jackson; Hillcrest Elementary Assistant Principal **Debbie Hunt**, who helps coordinate the K Support Program; Hillcrest K Support teacher **Lynda Norton**; and **Gary Loar**, accountability coordinator.

All four elementary schools in the LWCS system have a privately funded Kindergarten Support Program that provides additional staff and intensive, targeted instruction for students.

The LWCS system is waiting to hear if another conference proposal will be accepted. Hillcrest Elementary submitted information about its community outreach effort, Project Learn Learn Learn. The presentation is entitled "Closing the Gap: Here is Our Map" and details how Hillcrest reaches out into the surrounding community with educational resources for families, particularly hands-on materials and books for young children.

"On Monday, conference organizers told us that Project Learn, Learn, Learn was still being considered," said Jackson. "We are pleased to have one, and possibly two, programs that will receive national attention this year."

Submitted by Frances McMichael, Community Outreach Coordinator  
 Lake Wales Charter Schools

## Recently Adopted State Board Rules Affecting Charter Schools

Rules [6A-6.0785](#) and [6A-1.0081](#), Florida Administrative Code, were recently adopted by the State Board of Education. As a result, the Department has scheduled several webinars to introduce and explain the new requirements established by each rule. We encourage both charter school administrators and sponsors to participate.

The webinars will be presented using WebEx software through the inter-

net and our toll-free conference call number for the audio portion. We have scheduled three separate meetings to choose from for your convenience:

Tuesday, April 27: 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 28: 11:00 a.m.

Please visit our [DOE School Choice Meeting Room](#) and click "Show All Meetings" to view the available dates

and times. Click the "Register" link to register for the meeting that works best with your schedule. If you have any questions, please contact Tera Teders at [tera.teders@fldoe.org](mailto:tera.teders@fldoe.org) or (850) 245-0871.





## Staff Spotlight: Kay Caster

Kay Caster is a director in the Office of Grants Management (DOE) that oversees the grants processing for the Charter School Program.

Working with experienced and capable grants specialists, Kay is responsible for processing and awarding educational projects that support exceptional student education, reading programs, school health, early

learning, student service learning, charter schools, school choice and more. Kay first became involved with state grants in the Department of Community Affairs (highway safety grants) and the Department of Law Enforcement (technology contracts). Her service with the Department of Education began in 2000 as a grants specialist in the K-12 Public Schools division.



### 2010 National Charter School Week Invitation to Participate!

National Charter School Week is May 2-8, 2010. This year's theme is *Promoting Innovation & Excellence*.

To highlight this important theme, we are inviting charter schools to submit:

- Your planned Charter School Week activities,
- Good news stories highlighting your school
- Parent testimonials
- Display board marketing your school.

The good news stories will be featured in the May issue of *Florida's Charter Schools News*. Please submit by Monday, April 26.

Display boards should be received by April 29, 2010, and will be on display during **National Charter School Week** at the Department of Education's Turlington Building in Tallahassee. Space is limited! We can only accept the first 20 schools that respond to this request.

Help us to share the uniqueness of

charter schools and make the public more aware of the diversity of charter school offerings. Most importantly, your participation will allow us to showcase the reason Florida is a leader in charter school reform.

To participate, please contact LaCrest McCary at [Lacrest.Mccary@fldoe.org](mailto:Lacrest.Mccary@fldoe.org).

#### Send display boards to:

Florida Department of Education  
IEPC, Attn: LaCrest McCary  
325 W. Gaines Street, Room 522  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400

## Governance Trainer Approval Application Due May 1

State Board Rule 6A-6.0784, Florida Administrative Code (FAC) is a revised rule to improve the process by which charter school governance training plans are approved by the Department and to ensure consistency with Section 1002.33(9)(k), F. S.

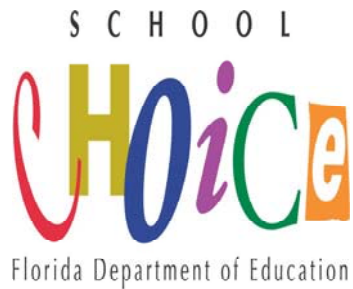
The Department will conduct two review periods for applications, with deadlines for submitting applications on or before October 1 and on or before May 1. Forms for submitting training plans are posted at: <http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/>

[Information/Charter Schools/](http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/Information/Charter_Schools/). A training provider seeking approval must submit the original and three (3) copies of the form, or an original and an electronic copy on a CD saved as a PDF file, to the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice.

Each approval shall be granted for up to two years from date of approval. No earlier than six (6) months prior to the expiration of approval, a training provider may submit a request for renewal of an approved

training plan by completing and submitting Form IEPC-10, Charter School Governance Training Application to Renew an Approved Training Plan. Form IEPC-10 is posted at: [http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/Information/Charter\\_Schools/](http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/Information/Charter_Schools/).

If additional assistance is needed, please contact LaCrest McCary at (850) 245-0502 or via e-mail at [CharterSchools@fldoe.org](mailto:CharterSchools@fldoe.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](mailto:Charter-schools@fldoe.org)

#### 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](http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org)

## Next SCPAC Town Hall Meeting Announced

*Avoid the 'Summer Slide' – Keep Children Learning all Summer Long* is the topic for our next School Choice Parent Advisory Council (SCPAC) Parent Town Hall Meeting.

Meetings will be held on Tuesday, April 27<sup>th</sup> from 5:45 – 8:00 p.m. at five Florida locations in Quincy, Jacksonville, Orlando, Miami, and Tampa.

Summer is fast approaching, and throughout the state, parents are concerned their children may lose the skills they worked so hard to learn during the school year. Parents are invited to join us to find out how to "Avoid the Summer Slide" and about summer learning activities in your area.

Parents will hear ideas on keeping young minds active and growing throughout the summer with strategies and tips, as well as information about local summer programs and events. Members of Florida's Statewide School Choice Parent Advisory Council, in coordination with school district representatives and staff from School Choice Parent Resource Centers, will be conducting the meetings and will be available for individual assistance and questions.

For further information about the Parent Town Hall Meetings and about the School Choice Parent Advisory Council, please visit <http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/Information/vpsc/>.

Join us and make summer a time for active learning!

## 2010 Conferences/Workshops

Date(s)	Conference/Workshop	Location	Contact Information
4/19-20/2010	Florida Association of Staff Development Spring Forum	Crowne Plaza Melbourne Oceanfront	<a href="http://www.fasdonline.org">http://www.fasdonline.org</a>
5/5-7/2010	2010 Florida Literacy Conference	South Seas Island Resort Captiva	<a href="http://www.floridaliteracy.org/floridaliteracyconference.html">http://www.floridaliteracy.org/floridaliteracyconference.html</a>
6/13-17/2010	Plant Camp 2010	University of Florida Gainesville	<a href="http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/education/plantcamp/index.html">http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/education/plantcamp/index.html</a>
6/28-7/1/2010	10th Annual National Charter Schools Conference	Chicago, Illinois	<a href="http://www.nationalcharterconference.org/">http://www.nationalcharterconference.org/</a>