

Florida's Charter Schools News

Adam Miller

New Charter Schools Director for State of Florida



The Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice welcomes Adam Miller to its staff as the new director of charter schools. Mr. Miller, originally from New Jersey, has lived in Florida for the past 14 years. He received his Masters Degree in Education from Florida Atlantic University and has been active in the field of education for the past ten years. In 2003, he started a charter school in South Florida and served as Director for four years until moving to Tallahassee. Much of his work has centered on students with special needs, and upon arriving in Tallahassee, he worked for the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council. Adam will begin working with Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice on September 15th.

Inside this issue:

K-12 Educator Recruitment Services	2
Ethics in Education Act	2
Charter Good News Stories	3
Conferences/Workshops	3
Parent Testimony	3

Upcoming Deadline for Merit Award Program (MAP)

Charter schools that wish to participate in the Merit Award Program (1012.225, F.S) must submit their plans to the Commissioner by October 1, 2008. For schools with approved plans for the 2007-2008 only, the plan submitted was a two year plan which covers school years 2007-2008 and 2008-2009. The Commissioner will review the plans and request revisions as necessary by November 15, 2008. Technical assistance for MAP plans, as well as a list of relevant deadlines, are available at <http://www.fldoe.org/PerformancePay/pdfs/MeritAwardProgram.pdf>.

If you have any questions, please contact Jacqueline Hitchcock at 850-245-0502 or via e-mail at Jacqueline.Hitchcock@fldoe.org.

Class Size To Be Measured at School Level for the 2008-2009 School Year

Section 5 of House Bill 5083 amended Section 1003.03(2)(b), Florida Statutes, to continue the school level compliance measure for class size reduction for 2008-2009. Beginning in 2009-10, compliance will be measured at the classroom-level.



K-12 Educator Recruitment Service Available For Florida Charter Schools

TEACHERS-TEACHERS.COM[®]

Education's Premier Recruitment Service

Teachers-Teachers.com is a nationwide, web-based, K-12 educator recruitment service designed to help school systems overcome the challenges of finding the most qualified education personnel in all subject areas and recruiting them to our schools. This service is available free for all Florida school districts and charter schools to use in posting unlimited job openings, conducting unlimited resume searches for candidates from a pool of more than 20,000 certified candidates interested in teaching in Florida, and in sending e-mail blasts to targeted groups of candidates alerting them of job opportunities, incentive programs, and recruitment events.

The Florida Department of Education has issued the following memorandum regarding Teachers-Teachers.com being available for free for all Florida K-12 School Districts and Charter Schools. The memorandum may be viewed at: <http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-4531/k12-07-119memo.pdf>.

The Florida Department of Education has purchased a full membership for all Florida public school districts and charter schools to use this resource from July 1, 2007, to June 30, 2010. Those charter schools that are not currently registered with Teachers-Teacher.com should do so now by visiting the Florida Portal of Teachers-Teachers.com available at: www.teachers-teachers.com/florida. After completing your registration, the Teachers-Teachers.com Florida Recruitment Coordinator Dave Pfisterer will contact you to provide a phone overview of the service and training on its multiple uses.

If you need additional information concerning Teachers-Teachers.com in Florida, contact Dave Pfisterer at: dpfisterer@teachers-teachers.com or (877) 812-4071, ext. 78. If you have any questions concerning availability of membership with the Florida Department of Education, contact Ian Barker at ian.barker@fldoe.org or by phone at (850) 245-0435.

Ethics in Education Act

The Ethics in Education Act became effective on July 1, 2008. Each public school district, university lab school, charter school, private school that accepts McKay or Corporate Tax scholarship funds and the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind are required to implement the provisions of this Act.

The Ethics in Education Act Technical Assistance Paper can be viewed at the following Web-site: <http://www.fldoe.org/edstandards/pdfs/SB1712TAP.pdf>. Other Ethics in Education Resources can be found at the following Web-site: <http://www.fldoe.org/edstandards/eie.asp>.



Reminder!

Each charter school is encouraged to update its contact information on the charter school database as soon as changes occur. Paperless communication is our way of getting pertinent information to you in a timely fashion. Please help us to help you in keeping abreast of events and information vital to the success of each school. You can access the Web site at: https://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/CharterSchool/AccountabilityReport/report_login.aspx.



Charter Good News Stories

The Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice is highlighting Good News stories from charter schools on the School Choice Web site. Please share your school's Good News by sending your stories to Charterschools@fldoe.org.

Conferences/Workshops

Date(s)	Conference/ Workshop	Location	Contact Information
September 22-24, 2008	Florida Association for Staff Development Leadership	Tradewinds Island Grand Resort, St. Pete Beach	http://www.fasdonline.org
September 30 – October 1, 2008	2008 Florida Prevention Conference & Suicide Prevention Symposium	Caribe Royale All Suites-Resort, Orlando	http://www.meetingmasterminds.com/2008_suicide_prevention_symposium_brochure.pdf
October 23–25, 2008	2008 Annual Convention of the Florida School Counselor Association	Renaissance Orlando Resort at Seaworld, Orlando	http://www.fla-schoolcounselor.org/convention2008.htm
November 20-21, 2008	2008 Florida Charter School Conference	Doubletree Hotel at entrance to Universal Orlando	http://www.charterschoolconference.com/

Parent Testimony

My children and my family have been involved with charter schools for the past 5 years and I can only say they are a Godsend. Both of my children attended private schools and after making the difficult decision to place them into the public school system, charter schools were a great alternative. I was unaware that my son struggled in language because none of his teachers at the private school ever recognized a problem. At The Student Leadership Academy, not only did they recognize the problem but they gave him the help he needed; he is now excelling in high school. My daughter takes advanced classes and is also doing well.

Being at a charter school gives my children the one-on-one attention that they need and, since it is a smaller learning environment, gives me security knowing that my children are safe and closely monitored during this crucial time in their lives.

Thank you,

D. Mueller-Battaglia
proud mother of a 7th and 9th grader

The Student Leadership Academy
Venice, FL (Sarasota County)



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and Parental Choice**
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