

Florida's Charter Schools News

Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice Welcomes Michael Kooi

The Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice would like to introduce Mike Kooi who recently assumed the position of Executive Director. Mr. Kooi is the former executive director for the Florida Consortium of Public Charter Schools. Prior to the Consortium, Mike worked for the Florida House of Representatives as Staff Director and as Policy Chief for the Schools and Learning Council.

Mike has been a longtime supporter of charter schools and choice programs in general. He has been instrumental in effecting legislative policy including the establishment of the Florida Schools of Excellence

Commission, revisions to the existing charter school statute, charter school capital outlay changes, as well as providing legal and technical assistance in the implementation and defense of various K-12 scholarship programs.

Mike has also served as the assistant general counsel with the Florida Department of Education and the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation, and was a commercial litigation attorney in Jacksonville for five years prior to moving to Tallahassee. He is a current board member and past president of the Tallahassee chapter of the Federalist Society, a national conservative lawyer's association. He is also a



member of the Board of Directors of CARE Tallahassee, Inc., a non-profit organization providing transition housing and employment assistance for rehabilitated ex-offenders.

Mike earned his bachelor's degree from Dordt College in Sioux Center, Iowa, and received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Florida College of Law.

Welcome aboard!

Inside this issue:

| | |
|----------------------------------------|---|
| Blue Ribbon Schools | 2 |
| Staff Spotlight | 2 |
| Choices In Learning Elementary Charter | 3 |
| National Charter School Clearinghouse | 4 |
| Conferences/ Workshops | 4 |
| 2007-08 Charter | 4 |
| Accountability Report | |

Reminder to Sign-up for Paperless Communication

In an effort to communicate with Florida's educational community in a timely and cost efficient manner, the Florida Department of Education (DOE) has developed the means of notifying interested parties when official correspondence is posted on the DOE Web site. By signing up and indicating your topics of interest, you will receive e-mail notices containing links to messages, reports, legislative updates, technical assistance papers and official memoranda issued by the Florida Department of Education. We encourage all charter schools to sign up for notices of funding opportunities. All messages will link to PDF files which may be viewed, downloaded to your computer, or printed at your discretion. For more information on the Florida Department of Education's paperless communication system, please visit the DOE Web site at <http://www.fldoe.org/Paperless/>.



FLORIDA'S
CHARTER
Schools

Congratulations to Florida's Two—2008 No Child Left Behind—Blue Ribbon Schools!



The Department of Education would like to congratulate the **Charter School of Excellence** and **Renaissance Elementary Charter School** for being chosen as 2008 No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon Schools.

The No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle and high schools that are either academically superior or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement to high levels. The schools are selected based on one of two criteria:

- Schools with at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds that dramatically improve student performance to high levels on state tests; or
- Schools whose students, regardless of background, achieve in the top 10 percent of their state on state tests or in the case of private schools in the top 10 percent of the nation on nationally-normed tests.

** Each state—not the federal government—sets its own academic standards and benchmark goals.*

Under No Child Left Behind, schools must make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), in reading (language arts) and mathematics.

Congratulations to the administrators, staff, and students on a job well done!



Staff Spotlight

Jacqueline Hitchcock, Special Programs Coordinator, in the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice (IEPC). Jacqueline has been in the IEPC Office since January 2004. She assists the charter school appeal commission and charter school review panel. In addition, she serves as the contact person in IEPC that is responsible for class size reduction and the Merit

Award Program (MAP). Jacqueline can be reached via telephone at 850-245-0502 or via email at Jacqueline.Hitchcock@fldoe.org.



Choices In Learning Elementary Charter School (CIL), Seminole County



MAKE THE CHOICE. SEE THE DIFFERENCE.

Celebrating continued achievement and success in Longwood, FL ...

- **Academics:** Every year that CIL has been eligible for **School Report Card** grades, the school has made **Adequate Yearly Progress** according to the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act.
- Congratulations are in order for the students, parents, and staff as CIL earned an "A" for its **School Report Card** grade for the 2007-08 school year.
- Seminole County's Superintendent, Dr. Bill Vogel, will visit CIL to congratulate the staff and students for increasing their **School Report Card** grade points by an incredible 114!
- **School Awards:** For the first time, CIL earned the **5 STAR School** award for the 2007-08 school year! The school also received its first **Golden School** award this past May.
- **National Board Certifications:** Mrs. Jolicoeur, a second grade teacher, completed and submitted her NBCT package at the culmination of the school year.
- **Art:** Mrs. McCarty helped her art students participate in National Junior Duck Stamp Contest - a contest to promote awareness for the need of wildlife conservation. National winners' art is printed on US postage stamps. State winners were recognized at a ceremony in Sanibel, Florida and received certificates/ribbons. CIL had three state winners this year!

Community Service: Many of our students participated in service activities throughout the year. One second grade class collected donations for a local pet facility and our P.E. coach, Mr. Bogue, supported *Jump Rope for Heart* with the students. CIL also participated in The Sharing Center of Longwood's annual *Walk-A-Thon*. This year, the school will participate in *Relay for Life* in Longwood, FL.

For more information about Choices In Learning Elementary Charter School, please visit the school Web site at <http://choicesinlearning.org>.

Merit Award Program (MAP)

Merit Award Program compliance reports are due no later than November 1, 2008. Please mail all compliance reports to: Jacqueline Hitchcock, Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice, 325 West Gaines Street, Suite 522, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400 or e-mail the reports to: Jacqueline.Hitchcock@fldoe.org.



National Charter School Clearinghouse (NCSC) Grant Sightings



Charter schools are encouraged to visit <http://www.ncsc.info/subscribe.htm> and sign up to receive NCSC updates which include different grants that are available. The Web site lists pertinent information for those wishing to apply for the grants.

Conferences/Workshops

| Date(s) | Conference/ Workshop | Location | Contact Information |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| October 23–25, 2008 | 2008 Annual Convention of the Florida School Counselor Association | Renaissance Orlando Resort at Seaworld, Orlando | http://www.flaschoolcounselor.org/convention2008.htm |
| November 20-21, 2008 | 2008 Florida Charter School Conference | Doubletree Hotel at entrance to Universal Orlando | http://www.charterschoolconference.com/ |

Quote from New IEPC Director

"I am excited about the opportunity that Commissioner Smith has provided to me to carry on my work on education reform in the area of charter schools. I consider it a privilege to be involved in the maintenance and growth of the charter school movement in Florida and look forward to continuing this work in my new role as Executive Director for the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice."

Michael Kooi

2007-2008 Charter School Annual Accountability Report

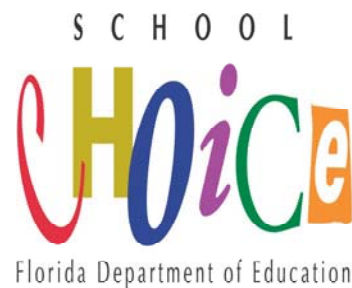
Access to the 2007-2008 Charter School Annual Accountability Report became available on our Web site October 10, 2008. The deadline date for schools to submit the report online is no later than 11:59 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, November 10, 2008. The deadline date for final submission by districts is no later than 11:59 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, December 19, 2008. As required by law, the Department of Education will include in its compilation a notation if a school failed to file its report by the established deadline.

Section 1002.33 (9) (I), Florida Statutes, requires every operating charter school to coordinate with its sponsoring district in submitting an annual accountability report to the Florida Department of Education.

Charter schools that operated during the 2007-2008 academic year must complete the annual accountability report and attach a copy of their Independent Financial Audit Report, Fire Code, and Safety Inspection to the report. Schools that closed during the school year do not have to complete a report, but must be identified by the district.

Charter school administrators should contact their district charter school contact to determine other specific reporting requirements that the district may have established. The school district is responsible for submitting the reports online to the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice after they have reviewed the Annual Accountability Report submitted by the schools online and added any additional information.

If technical assistance is needed, please contact LaCrest McCary at (850) 245-0502 or e-mail CharterSchools@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