

CHARTER SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

October 2011

Charter School Conference Coming Soon!



The Florida Charter School Conference is scheduled for November 14-16, 2011 at the DoubleTree Hotel at the Entrance to Universal Orlando. The theme for this year is “**Stronger Communities through Quality Schools.**” Sessions are targeted to authorizers, administrators, educators, and charter school stakeholders.

Register by October 21 at <http://www.charterschoolconference.com/registration/index.php>, or you may register at the walk-in rate on site.

In the Know: Starting a Charter School

Do you know someone who wants to start a charter school but doesn’t know where to start? The Department will be hosting a pre-conference workshop on “**Starting a Charter School,**” Monday, November 14, from 9am – 12pm as part of the 2011 Florida Charter School Conference.

Adam Miller, DOE Charter Schools Director, will provide an overview of the process and requirements for starting a charter school in Florida. The workshop will also include a panel of charter school operators who have successfully navigated the application and approval process and are excited to share their experiences. More information about the workshop is available on the conference website at: http://www.charterschoolconference.com/2011/aux_events_detail.php?ID_apps=90.

Additional resources to assist prospective charter school developers are available at the Charter School Website at www.floridaschoolchoice.org/information/charter_schools.

- Our [How to Start a Charter School in Florida](#) booklet details the step by step process of charter school development from conception, through application, to preparation for opening and beyond.
- The [New Applicants](#) section of the website provides a description of the application process, deadline, and a link to the required Model Charter School Application form.
- Also in this section, we have posted a link to the recording of the [New Applicant Orientation Webinar](#) that was presented in July 2011.

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Response to Intervention Training: *Introduction to a Multi-Tiered System of Student Supports*

Last summer, the Department coordinated training for charter school operators on the Response to Intervention (RtI) model that included general information, rationale, and benefits of implementation. In an effort to continue educating charter school operators about this effective evidence-based process for supporting students with academic and behavioral needs, we have scheduled an **RtI pre-conference workshop** as part of the 2011 Charter School Conference.

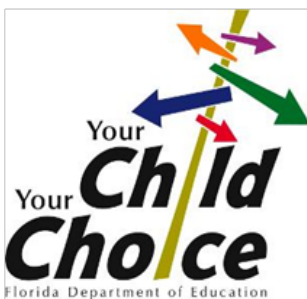
The pre-conference workshop will provide an introduction to a Multi-tiered System of Student Supports (MTSS). MTSS describes the integration of RtI for academics and behavior. The workshop will provide an overview of MTSS and ways to support one school-based problem-solving team that plans for, monitors, and evaluates implementation of multi-tiered services to address both academic and behavior needs among students. The workshop will discuss what core curriculum supports should be in place for all students, supplemental supports for some students, and intensive supports for a few students. Participants will also learn about resources available through districts to support the development and implementation of this multi-tiered system of support in their schools.

The workshop will take place on **Monday, November 14, from 1pm-4pm**. There is no charge for participation. However, we request that participants sign up through the conference website to guarantee a seat at: http://www.charterschoolconference.com/aux_events/index.php.

Program Reminders

- **Capital Outlay Plans** are now available. Plans are to be submitted online this year, and are due by October 28. Sponsors must review and provide the final submission by November 30. For further information, go to <http://www.fldoe.org/edfacil/oef/cs2012.asp>.
- **Charter School Accountability Report**—Look for e-mail notification in October. Schools will have until November 30 to submit the Report. The District portion must be submitted by January 31.
- **Weekly**—Visit our [Charter School News Feed](#) to find out what's new! More resources are added all the time, so check back frequently.
- **First year charter schools** may be eligible for Title I funding. For more information, go to the Department's [Title 1 Handbook for Charter Schools](#).

School Choice Expo set for November *"Carousel of Choice" offers families wide array of options*



The School Choice Office is hosting its second **School Choice Expo** on **November 16, 2011**, from 2:00-7:00 pm at the DoubleTree at the Entrance to Universal in Orlando. The Expo will offer families an interactive "Carousel of Choice" creating an informal atmosphere where parents can ask questions and communicate directly with state and district education leaders. Breakout sessions will include choice programs such as career academies, charters, magnets, scholarship programs, and virtual education. Featuring one-on-one choice consultations with Parent Resource Center liaisons, local school choice programs, and various educational exhibits, the Expo will provide families with a fun and valuable overview of Florida's wide array of school choice options. Expo admission and parking are free.

For more information about the Expo and how to participate or register as an exhibitor, please visit the event website at www.floridaschoolchoiceexpo.com or contact lauriewlevine@gmail.com.

Charters in the News

A round-up of local and national charter stories

Academie Students Finish 500 Hours of Reading

- FROM DUNEDIN.PATCH.COM BY [KATIE DOLAC](#) SEPTEMBER 30, 2011

[Academie Da Vinci Charter School](#) students celebrate 500 hours in a reading incentive program that will help buy food for villages in need around the world. The Dunedin Rotary Club is awarding the school \$500, on Oct. 4, that they will in turn use to buy an animal(s) for hungry people in villages and countries to be chosen later by the student council. Academie Da Vinci students finished 500 reading hours in 11 days, according to the Rotary Club.

Imagine school is recognized for instruction

- FROM BRADENTON.COM BY ANGELINE TAYLOR - ATAYLOR@BRADENTON.COM

BRADENTON -- A Manatee County charter school has been recognized as an "exemplary" site for student instruction by the Institute for School Innovation in Tallahassee. Imagine School North Manatee Campus was recognized as an exemplary CHILD visitation site -- Changing How Instruction for Learning is Delivered. Only one CHILD visitation site was recognized in Florida.

Under the CHILD methods, children stay with a core teacher for at least three years instead of going to various teachers for different subjects, Imagine Principal Jennifer Lucas said. Teachers at the elementary-school levels have specialty areas., and they use collaborative, hands-on projects in cooperation with lectures. [More....](#)

Scott turns attention to parent-driven charter schools

- FROM WFSU BY LYNN HATTER (2011-09-30)

Florida Governor Rick Scott is looking at changing the rules for converting public schools into charters. Lynn Hatter reports the governor is floating the idea in a draft report of his 2012 legislative priorities.

Florida law allows 51-percent of teachers in a failing public school to vote on whether they want that school converted into a charter. Scott is looking to enact a Parent-Trigger, which would give the same authority to parents. The idea was supported last session by Michelle Rhee, the controversial former chancellor of the Washington, D.C. school system and education advisor to Scott. [More...](#)

A StateImpact Florida Series: Do Charter Schools Work?

- FROM STATEIMPACTFLORIDA BY JOHN O'CONNOR SEPTEMBER 26, 2011 | 3:09 PM

For 15 years Florida has conducted an [experiment](#) in public education. The goal was to improve the entire education system by granting charter schools more leeway to innovate.

Welcome to [StateImpact Florida's](#) Charter Schools 101 series examining the effect those schools have had on students, teachers, parents and communities — and what comes next.

One in every 17 Florida students [attends a charter school](#) and enrollment has tripled over the past decade. Independently managed but publicly funded, charter schools are a key alternative for parents or students unhappy with their neighborhood district public school. More 154,000 students attended 459 charter schools during the past school year, according to Department of Education Statistics. [More....](#)

ADDITIONAL STORIES IN THE STATEIMPACT CHARTER SCHOOLS 101 SERIES:

- [Three Types of Charter Schools](#)
- [From Minnesota to Miami: The History of Florida Charter Schools](#)
- [Five Misconceptions About Charter Schools](#)
- [Q & A: Charter Schools USA CEO Jonathon Hage](#)
- [So You Want To Send Your Kid To A Charter School...](#)

Perspectives:

Setting Higher Standards for our Students



From [Commissioner Robinson's Blog](#)

Posted on [October 7, 2011](#) by [Florida Department of Education](#)

I released a [statement](#) today to let people know of the FCAT 2.0 standard setting process currently underway in Florida. In it I highlighted the fact that committees of teachers, superintendents and business leaders have spent numerous hours over the past several weeks providing feedback on how Florida should report Achievement Levels for our students' performance on statewide assessments. They offered their feedback; now we are looking for yours.

You have the opportunity to provide your thoughts on what each grade level's test scores for expected achievement should be as we continue our work together to improve educational outcomes for all students. To participate in this rule development process, please visit our webpage at <https://app1.fldoe.org/rules/default.aspx>. Once the feedback period concludes, our next step is to present a recommended rule to the Florida State Board of Education in December for their approval.

Establishment of these new Achievement Level cut scores is essential in our work to raise expectations for our students and adequately prepare them for the jobs of today. We look forward to hearing from you!

Green Ribbon Schools Initiative



The nation's Blue Ribbon Schools award program now has an environmentally-friendly counterpart. **The Green Ribbon Schools Initiative**, according to Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, will encourage schools and communities to commit to healthier, more sustainable facilities and to provide environmental awareness education to their students. Developed jointly with the Environmental Protection Agency and the White House Council for Environmental Quality, the program identifies and praises schools for reducing the environmental impact of schools, building a healthy environment for staff and students, and having an education component that supports those goals.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, a broad range of stakeholders have been consulted to create a program that:

- Implements energy conservation measures that pave the way for reduced environmental impact, cost savings and job creation;
- Undertakes environmental and behavioral changes in schools that ensure the health, wellness and productivity of students, teachers, and staff; and
- Promotes environmental education that supports students' strong civic skills, environmental stewardship and workforce preparedness.

To learn more about the Green Ribbon Schools initiative, including how schools can qualify and be nominated, go to <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/green-ribbon-schools>.

Project Learning Tree
Professional Development Workshops
November 4-5, 2011
Riverside Retreat at 7305 CR 78, Labelle, FL
Meets Sunshine State Standards
Register now online at:
<http://plt2011conf.eventbrite.com>
Be eligible for Green Works grants up to
\$5000

Professional Development Resources

Original and Free Online Multimedia Resources in Science Education

Three award-winning multimedia series for educators and students can now be accessed online.

- **National Science Foundation (NSF)**, located at: http://www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/
- **NBC Learn**, located at: <http://www.nbclearn.com/portal/site/learn>
- **Science360**, located at: <http://www.science360.gov/files/>.

These original multimedia resources are super examples of the application of science in our world today and they're FREE. Please check them out.

"**Chemistry Now!**" consists of 32 weekly learning packages that break down the chemistry behind things such as cheeseburgers, chocolate, soap, and plastics. Each learning package contains short video stories that illustrate real-world applications of chemistry, current events, and archival news stories and lesson plans.

From the tropics to the Arctic Ocean, "**Changing Planet**" explores the impact that climate change is having on our planet. Each of the 15 videos, 3–5 minutes long, follows scientists in the field who are studying the dramatic effects of rising temperatures in the air, in the water, and on land. Designed specifically for classroom use, each report has a lesson plan and activities.

A fast-paced and informative 10-part video series, the "**Science of NFL Football**" explores the physics, engineering, materials science, math, and more behind America's popular sport. The series uses the universal appeal of football to drive an understanding of complicated scientific concepts in 3–5 minute videos with lesson plans.



Shining Stars

Three Lake Wales High graduates earn national Early Childhood Certification

Three 2011 graduates of Lake Wales High School have earned national Child Development Associate (CDA) certification for early childhood educators.

Chelsea Herman, Tasha Medlock and Anna Rodriguez were students in the LWHS Early Childhood & Teacher Education Career Academy.

"It is a wonderful accomplishment for these students! We are the only school in Polk County with students earning this certification. The CDA is a highly recognized national certification for early childhood educators," said Lisa Davis, the academy director.

"These students have 480 hours working with young children. They have passing scores on six DCF (Department of Children and Families) certification exams. They submitted six written competency statements, sat through a personal one-on-one interview with a council representative, and passed the CDA Exam," said Davis.

This year, nearly 170 students are enrolled in the LWHS Early Childhood and Teacher Education Career Academy. They take classes while assisting in the operation of the Little Highlander Academy, an

on-site preschool for infants and children to age five.

The Little Highlander Academy uses a developmentally appropriate curriculum in a hands-on learning environment. As part of their own course work, LWHS students intern with the preschool's professional staff of experienced teachers who hold CDA credentials, director's licenses and/or bachelor degrees in Family and Consumer Science.

To see more **Shining Stars**, go to the Charter Schools website: http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/information/Charter_Schools/Success_Stories.asp

Share the accomplishments of your **ShiningStars!**

Please send submissions via e-mail to our newsletter editor at charterschools@fldoe.org.

- Indicate "Charter School Shining Stars" in the subject line.
 - Limit the story to 3-4 paragraphs or no more than 500 words.
 - Proofread and ensure story is ready for publication.
 - Include a contact person or web link for more information.
 - Include up to 2 photos, with captions (optional).
- Stories may appear in the newsletter, the website, or both.



**Improving K-12 Educational
Choice Options**

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