

December 2009

Florida's Charter Schools News



Inside this issue:	
Greatest Teachers Honored	2
Charters in the News	3
2010 Conferences/Workshops	3
Available Resources	3
Technical Assistance Available	3

State Board Rule Updates

The State Board of Education adopted [Rule 6A-2.0020, F.A.C., related to Charter School Capital Outlay](#) at its meeting on November 11, 2009. The rule clarifies eligibility requirements for capital outlay funding by defining expanded feeder chain and the method for determining satisfactory student achievement. As a result of the rule adoption and recent legislative changes, the Department has revised the [Uses for Capital Outlay Funding TAP](#).

The State Board also adopted the amendments to [Rule 6A-6.0784, F.A.C., related to Charter School Gov-](#)

[ernance Training](#). The amended rule requires governing board members to complete an initial four hours of training upon appointment and a two hour refresher course once every three years thereafter. The rule also establishes procedures for the approval of charter school governance training by potential training providers.

Please visit the [Charter School Statutes and Rules](#) page for more information about current rules and additional rules under development.

CSP Grant Training Documents Posted Online

The Department of Education conducted a training workshop for CSP Planning and Implementation grant recipients on November 18, 2009, at the Florida Charter School Conference in Orlando. The purpose of the training was to review requirements, procedures, and best practices for successfully implementing the grant. There was an overwhelming turnout of 142 participants from 94 schools. The training PowerPoint presentations and corresponding handouts are available on the School Choice Web site at: http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/information/charter_schools/charter_general_info_and_forms.asp.



FLORIDA'S
CHARTER
Schools

GREATEST TEACHERS HONORED



Jeb Bush and the Foundation for Excellence in Education honored the recipients of the *2009 Excel Award*, which rewards teachers whose students made the most progress in reading or math from one year to the next according to annual standardized tests. Students of these exceptional educators learned at least 1.5 times, or 50 percent, more than the average student, based on Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test scores for the last three consecutive years.

"Great teachers produce great students. Study after study shows the quality of teaching is key in determining the destiny of a student's academic success." said Jeb Bush, Chairman of the Foundation for Excellence in Education. "This year, I am honored to recognize 81 extraordinary Florida teachers for their proven excellence in the classroom."

The *2009 Excel Award, "Celebration of Teaching,"* took place on Saturday, December 5, 2009, in Orlando, Florida. The evening ceremony featured Jeb Bush, former Florida Lt. Governor Toni Jennings, and educator and author Ron Clark. The *2009 Excel Award* winners received a package of prizes, including cash and a cruise provided by Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd.

During the event, the teachers participated in focus groups hosted by the University of Florida's Lastinger Center for Learning. Lastinger Center researchers will compile and analyze the data from the teachers. The teachers' knowledge and techniques will be used to validate and expand the *Secrets of Successful Teaching*, an online guide to the traits and tools of Florida's greatest teachers. The guide is available to educators, principals, parents, reformers and community and business leaders to improve the quality of teaching in American classrooms. To access the guide, please visit www.ExcelinEd.org/secrets.

The Foundation for Excellence in Education recognized the following charter school teachers at the *2009 Excel Awards* Ceremony:

2009 Excel Award Recipients: Reading

Teachers Achieving the Greatest Gains with Students who are Below Grade Level

Daniel Couillard, St. Petersburg Collegiate High School, Pinellas

Teachers Achieving the Greatest Gains with Students in Charter Schools

Ivette Blazquez, Mater Gardens Academy, Dade

Lisa Chesser, Archimedean Middle Conservatory, Dade

Tamara Graham, Bay Haven Charter Academy, Bay

Candise Teolis, Imagine Charter School/Weston, Broward

2009 Excel Award Recipients: Math

Teachers Achieving the Greatest Gains with Students who are Below Grade Level

Sandy Perez, Liza Jackson Preparatory School, Okaloosa *

Teachers Achieving the Greatest Gains with Students in Charter Schools

Harold Benoit, Florida International Academy Charter, Dade

Richard K. Clapper, Pinellas Preparatory Academy, Pinellas

Courtney Mills, Countryside Montessori Academy, Pasco

Sandy Perez, Liza Jackson Preparatory School, Okaloosa *

Milly Pierre, Florida International Academy Charter, Dade

Philipa Walker, BayHaven Charter Middle School, Bay

Note: *Teachers winning in two categories.



Charters in the News

Charters in the News is dedicated to charter schools in Florida doing great things for their students, staff and community. Links to articles found in different newspapers throughout the state will be featured in this section. Click on the links below to read about the following charter schools:

Ribbon cutting for new charter school holds special meaning for couple:

<http://www.myhometownnews.net/index.php?id=63962>.

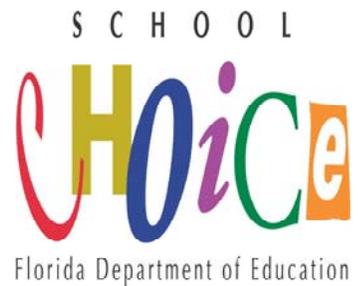
2010 Conferences/Workshops

Date(s)	Conference/Workshop	Location	Contact Information
1/6-9/2010	FL Music Educators Association Annual Clinic-Conference	Tampa Convention Center Tampa	Val Anderson @ conference@flmusiced.org
1/21-22/2010	FL Grants Developers Network K-12 Winter Conference	Ocala Hilton Ocala	http://www.fgdnk12.org
2/5-6/2010	FL Association of School Nurses 15th Annual Conference	Orlando Marriott Lake Mary	http://www.fasn.net/2010stateconference.html

Innovators in Education: Leading the Race to the Top – Registration for 2010 National Charter Schools Conference Open Now!

The 10th annual National Charter Schools Conference will take place in Chicago, Illinois on June 28 - July 1, 2010. Additional information on the conference can be found at the following link: http://www.nationalcharterconference.org/register_now.php.

Available Resources – The Rtl Teaching Learning Connections (RtlTLC) project provides professional development in the areas of literacy and mathematics to support the instructional components needed to intensify instruction for all learners. Web-based products and events related to Rtl awareness, literacy, mathematics, diverse learners, and differentiated instruction are available for access and/or download through RtlTLC at <http://rtitlc.ucf.edu/index.html>. You may contact RtlTLC via email at RtlTLC@mail.ucf.edu.



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 or assist with any questions you may have. If you need assistance, please contact staff via telephone at 850-245-0502 or via e-mail at Charterschools@fldoe.org.