

Florida's Voluntary Public School Choice (VPSC) Grant Wrap-Up Meeting

Date/Location:

Wednesday, September 19, 2012 (8:30a – 4:30p)*
TradeWinds Island Grand Resort, 5500 Gulf Blvd., St. Pete Beach, FL

Primary Focus:

Florida's VPSC partners will share their experiences with implementing capacity-enhancing public school choice activities. Reporting will include project accomplishments, challenges, and learned lessons. School choice stakeholders will have opportunity to participate and learn more about the school choice models created to support school choice initiatives.

Panelists will address strategies for:

- how to create a network of Best Practices among school district leaders,
- how to effectively communicate to all parents about their choices, and
- how to advocate school choice initiatives.

Time	Agenda
8:30a – 9:15a	<p>DOE Welcome & Guest Speaker: <i>Betheny Gross, Center on Reinventing Public Education</i> Goal – as a national researcher in school choice, Ms. Gross will provide a national overview of school choice, and emphasize the importance of parent involvement.</p>
9:15a – 9:30a	<p>Overview of VPSC Five-year Grant Project</p>
9:30a – 10:15a	<p>Panel: Breaking the Barriers Choice Improvement Model Carolyn Bridges (Polk County), MYP Program (Susie or School Principal), Career Academies (Coalition District Rep), and Cross Mentorship (Choice Principal) Goal – Polk's VPSC model has created an online resource to serve educators ranging from teachers to district personnel. Access to best practices, resources to assist districts' with preparing key reports and applications, and a comprehensive, sequential model for the development and implementation of career academies and middle school pre academies are among the materials this inter-district model has created and shared among its parents in the past five years.</p>
10:15a – 11:00a	<p>Panel: VPSC Inter-district Models – Accomplishments, Challenges, and Sustainability Project Partners Report Sustainable Efforts: Palm Beach/Monroe – Culinary Career Academy Program (Liz Shapiro and Jeff Arnott), Hillsborough/Polk's AVID Program (School Principals), Osceola's Four Corners Charter School (Sonia Esposito), and Lake/Sumter (Maggie Teachout) Goal – VPSC district partners to showcase school choice models initiated through VPSC Grant.</p>
11:00a – 11:45a	<p>Panel: The PRC Model: Community-based PRCs Cindy Rathburn (Children's Champions), Stacy Ray (Escambia County), Glen Gilzean (Educate Today), Audrey Lewis (Gadsden County) Goal – learn about the PRC models created to assist parents in navigating the path to the right school choice opportunity for their child.</p>
11:45a – 12:15p	<p>Group Networking Cross Pollinating - group directed activity Goal – opportunity for school district personal, community-based organizations, and parent choice advocates to discuss school choice initiatives and possible collaborative partnerships among VPSC partners.</p>
12:15p – 1:30p	<p>Sponsored Lunch & Guest Speaker <i>Catherine Robinson, Regional Outreach Manager, Students First Organization</i> Goal – discussion of the organization's work with parents, teachers, administrators, and citizens across the country and how parent organizations here in Florida can make an impact on improving the quality of education at the state and national levels.</p>
1:30p – 2:15p	<p>Panel: School Choice Advocacy; Listening to the Parent Voice Bill Person (SCPAC Chair), Wendy Howard (Parent Advocate), Gary Bryan (Magnet Schools in Duval County), Susan Golden (Charter School Director in Duval County), and Steven Hicks (Private School Operator) Goal – The School Choice Parent Advisory Councils (SCPAC) to serve as "parent mentors" and leaders committed to educating other parents about Florida's wide array of educational options. Learn about strategies initiated by state and local council members.</p>
2:15p – 3:00p	<p>Panel: What the Data Shows Peter Usinger (bizIQ), Shelba Lawhon (OneSmartTeam), Pansy Houghton (Hillsborough County), Brian Warren (Polk County), and USF rep Goal - how is using data important for the establishment or expansion of public school choice initiatives?</p>
3:00p – 3:15p	-BREAK-
3:15p – 4:00p	<p>Panel: School Choice Education Policy / DOE Update Goal – opportunity for DOE leaders to report on the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Waiver and how a single accountability system will allow flexibility to ensure our students get the best education.</p>
4:00p – 4:30p	<p>VPSC Wrap Up <i>Betheny Gross, Center on Reinventing Public Education</i> Goal – to provide an abstract of the issues, questions, and comments presented during the VPSC Wrap-up event, prompting school district leaders, choice stakeholders, and parent volunteers with findings to consider as they move forward in their efforts supporting school choice.</p>

*September 20th, 9:00a – 11:00a = SCPAC & PRC Meetings
(Mandatory for state and local members only)