

Florida Department of Education

Charter School District Report Orange County Public Schools Year 2

Background Information

- Orange County was granted Charter School District status on May 21, 2002, by the State Board of Education.
- The charter agreement expired on June 30, 2005, and was extended by the State Board of Education until August 16, 2005.
- The District has requested an extension of the existing contract until June 30, 2007, rather than submitting a new charter district renewal application.
- The original agreement has 15 Performance Goals and 14 initial waivers.
- The District has no plans to apply for any additional waivers.
- The District has approved only one additional waiver (Sec. 1003.43(j), F.S.) since the approval of the contract.

Commendations

- The District reports that the waiver process has been effective as a way to foster a spirit of positive change within schools and to allow schools to be more creative and aggressive in looking for ways to improve practices.
- District Performance Goals are specific and measurable and have become required objectives in *all* School Improvement Plans. Each school is expected to make a contribution to improved performance of the goals.
- Superintendent Blocker states, "Becoming a Charter School District has had a huge impact throughout the school district in terms of innovations and performance." (letter, May 6, 2005)
- The District continues to make progress closing the achievement gap between subgroups.

Observations

- The report includes :
Rationale for Academic Performance-Based Charter District Status
Overview of Waivers
Management Plan
Performance Goals
District Initiatives, including "League of Educational Excellence: Innovative High Schools Leading the Way" (2005 document)
Pupil Progression Plan for 2004-05
Urban Cohort Plan for 2003-04 with Action Plan Summary
- The 15 Performance Goals are all related to student achievement.
- For 2003-04, the District met 5 goals and part of 2 others (chart, p.3), made progress on 4 goals and part of one more (chart, p.4), and made no progress on 4 goals and part of one other (chart, p.4).

- For 2003-04, there was progress in student achievement but decreases in student learning gains in Reading and Mathematics for the following subgroups: White, Black, Hispanic, Limited English Proficient (LEP), Students With Disabilities (SWD), Females, Males.
- Data of particular concern:
 - School Grades of D and F increased from 6 to 18 schools
 - Graduation rates for Blacks and Hispanics decreased
 - 9th graders with Grade Point Averages (GPA) of 2.0 or above decreased by 16%
 - SWD receiving standard diplomas decreased by 8%
- Categories for disaggregated data are inconsistent from goal to goal, especially for ethnic groups (Note: may be attributed to the original data source, such as a testing company)
- Information provided in the report does not connect the waivers to the 15 performance goals; therefore, the impact of waivers on student achievement or progress toward performance goals cannot be determined.
- There are inconsistencies in data charts reported in the Gap Study and on Performance Goals' charts for FCAT Reading, Mathematics and Writing.
- Waiver #15 of Sec. 1003.43(j), F.S., General requirements for high school graduation, needs further explanation.

Recommendations

- Based on the progress made on more than 50% of the goals and a well-defined plan on areas of concern*, extend the existing Charter School District contract with Orange County Public Schools until June 30, 2007. All of Orange County high school principals have agreed to implement a framework of required and recommended best practices to assure rigorous, personalized academic study through the League of Educational Excellence. (attached) New updated goals for this extension are found on pages 5 and 6.

XII: CHARTER DISTRICT PERFORMANCE GOALS- CURRENT STATUS

The Charter School District Performance Goals (CSDPG) results have been updated for the 2003-04 school year. (Please see Charter School District Year 2 Report for complete details.)

The following tables categorize the Charter School District Performance Goals (CSDPG) by the progress of the district to date.

Charter School District Performance Goals Current Status 2003-04	
Areas where the district <u>has currently met</u> the Performance Goals	
CSDPG 1	The performance of identified subgroups will show improvement each year and will make progress toward closing the gap with the total OCPS population each year through July 2005. <i>The exceptions are graduation and drop out rates.</i>
CSDPG 5 (part1)	By July 2005, the percent of students scoring at performance level 4 or above on FCAT Writing will be above the state average. <i>The district exceeds the state by 1%.</i>
CSDPG 8	By July 2005, the graduation rate will be above the state average and the average for comparable districts. <i>The district exceeded the graduation rate of the state by 1.1% and the average of comparable districts by 2.6%.</i>
CSDPG 9	By July 2005, the drop-out rate will be below the state average and the average for comparable districts. <i>The district decreased the drop-out rate to fall below the state by 0.5% and comparable districts by 0.1%.</i>
CSDPG 10 (part1)	The percent of students taking advanced placement courses will increase each year. <i>The number of students taking AP courses increased by 864 students.</i>
CSDPG 12	The percent of students reading at or above grade level by age 9 will increase each year. <i>The district increased the percent of students every year on grade level in grade 3.</i>
CSDPG 15	The percent of post-secondary students earning at least one occupational completion point will increase each year. <i>The district made steady increases each year.</i>

Areas where the district is improving and <u>making progress toward</u> meeting the Performance Goals	
CSDPG 3	By July 2005, the percent of students scoring at Performance Level 3 or above on FCAT Reading will be above the state average and the average for comparable districts. <i>The district must increase the percent of students at 3 and above by 5% more than the state to meet this goal.</i>
CSDPG 4	By July 2005, the percent of students scoring at Performance Level 3 or above on FCAT Math will be above the state average and the average for comparable districts. <i>The district must increase the percent of students at 3 and above by 4% more than the state to meet this goal.</i>
CSDPG 5 (part2)	By July 2005, the percent of students scoring at performance level 4 or above on FCAT Writing will be above the average for comparable districts. <i>The district must increase the percent of students at 4 and above by 3% in grade 8 and 1% in grade 10 more than comparable districts to meet this goal.</i>
CSDPG 6	By July 2005, students taking the SAT and ACT will score above the national average. <i>The district must increase ACT scores by 0.4 points more than the national change and SAT scores by 33 points more than the national change.</i>
CSDPG 7	By July 2005, the percent of students showing annual learning gains on FCAT will be above the state average. <i>The district must increase by at least 1% more than the state in reading and math.</i>
Areas where the district has not made progress toward meeting the Performance Goals	
CSDPG 2	By July 2005, all schools will receive a grade of C or higher. <i>The district increased the number/percent of schools receiving grades of D and F from the 2003 school grades.</i>
CSDPG 10 (part2)	The percent of students scoring a 3 or above on AP exams will increase each year. <i>The percent of students scoring at 3 and above decreased by 0.7%.</i>
CSDPG 11	The percent of high school students achieving a grade point average of 2.0 or higher will increase each year. <i>The percent of ninth graders at 2.0 and higher declined by 15%.</i>
CSDPG 13	The percent of ESE students who graduate with a standard diploma will increase each year. <i>The district increased the number of students but the completion rate decreased by 8%.</i>
CSDPG 14	The number of secondary students earning post-secondary credit through Tech Prep courses will increase each year. <i>The local passing rates decreased by 1%.</i>

XIII: REVISED CHARTER DISTRICT PERFORMANCE GOALS

1. The performance of identified subgroups will show improvement each year and will make progress toward closing the academic achievement gap with the total OCPS population each year.

Analyses will be applied to all performance goals in which disaggregated data are available.

Identified subgroups will include the following groups:

- ESE students
- LEP students
- African-American students
- Hispanic students
- Gender of students
- Lowest 25% in Reading
- Students receiving free or reduced price lunch

2. By July 2007, all schools will receive a grade of “C” or higher.
3. By July 2007, the percent of students scoring at Performance Level 3 or higher on FCAT Reading will be above the state average and the average for comparable districts.
4. By July 2007, the percent of students scoring at Performance Level 3 or higher on FCAT Math will be above the state average and the average for comparable districts.
5. By July 2007, the percent of students scoring at Performance Level 4 or higher on FCAT Writing will be above the state average and average for comparable districts.
6. By July 2007, students taking the SAT and ACT will score above the national average.
7. By July 2007, the percent of students showing annual learning gains on FCAT will be above the state average and average for comparable districts.
8. By July 2007, the graduation rate will be above the state average and the average for comparable districts and will continue to improve each year.

9. By July 2007, the drop-out rate will be below the state average and the average for comparable districts and will continue to improve each year.
10. The percent of students taking advanced placement courses and the percent of students scoring a 3 or above will increase each year.
11. The percent of high school students achieving a grade point average of 2.0 or higher will increase each year.
12. The percent of students reading at or above level by age 9 (Reading by 9) will increase each year.
13. The percent of ESE students who graduate with a standard diploma will increase each year.
14. The number of secondary students earning post-secondary credit through Tech Prep courses will increase each year.
15. The percent of post-secondary students earning at least one Occupational Completion Point will increase each year.

See attachments:
League of Educational Excellence
Orange Coun