



Florida Charter Resource Round Up



October 20, 2023
Florida Charter School Conference

Free **expertise and resources** to help public charter schools thrive.



Today's Agenda

- Charter Support Unit
- Governing Board Recruitment
- Florida Charter Institute
- Florida Consortium of Public Charter Schools
- Florida Charter School Alliance





**CHARTER
SUPPORT
UNIT**

Florida's Charter Support Unit

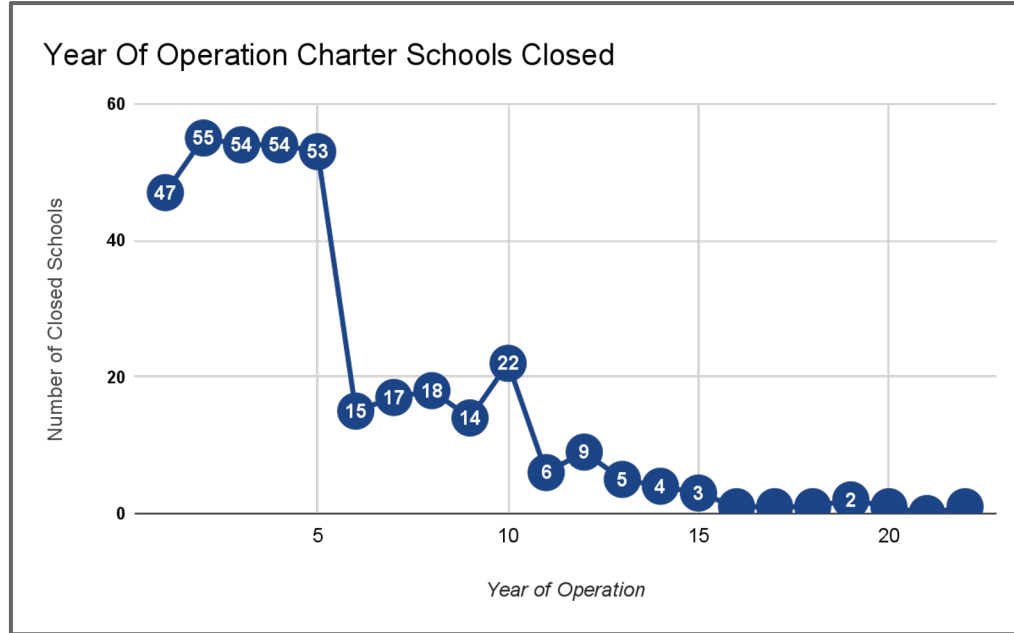


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**CHARTER
SUPPORT
UNIT**

Why the Support Unit Was Started



Source: State MSID Database data regarding closed public charter schools (October, 2018).

Support & Consultations



- **Support Hotline, Consultations, Document reviews**
- **Someone to help you think through your issues**
- **Strategic Planning**

Call Us If We Can Help: (888) 677-9250



Resource Library



- No need to recreate the wheel every time you need a resource
- Sample forms, documents and resources
- If you have a need, let us know and we can research to find/create additional resources



Document Review & Access

CSU is also able to provide a review of operational documents of charter schools in the first five years of operation, for example:

- Internal control documents
- Budgets
- Employee Handbooks
- Student / Family Handbooks
- Policy Manuals
- Job Descriptions
- Forms

Sometimes it helps to have a second set of eyes looking out.



Finance and Budgeting

- **Budget reviews for suggestions and comparison**
- **Budget templates**
- **Budget forecasts to assist with future planning**
- **Training on how to develop your financial plan**

Professional Development

- **Webinars**
- **Podcasts**
- **Online Learning Courses**
- **Collaborative Sessions for New Schools and Launch Year Schools**





Webinars

- Conduct regular webinars on topics of interest to charter schools
- We have a library of over 250 different presentations available on our website
- Topics cover a wide range of operational issues and programmatic topics



Sample Webinar Topics

- School Safety and Charter School Responsibilities and Requirements
- Mastering Crisis Communication
- Sample Policy Manual & How It Impacts Your School
- E-Rate - What to know
- Utilizing Artificial Intelligence to Reduce Workload
- Getting the Most Out of Strategic Planning
- Fundraising
- School Cybersecurity
- Planning a Strong School Leader Succession
- FLDOE-related topics: FEFP, SIA, Hiring Practices

Podcast Series and Monthly Newsletters

Coming in April...
Episode #1

GREAT LEADERS = GREAT SCHOOLS



Host: **Dana Vignale**
Charter Support Unit

Guest: **Jeannette Acevedo-Isenberg**
Downtown Doral Charter Schools

Discussions with Level 5 Leaders in
Charter School Education



The goal of the podcasts and newsletters is to bring to you **best practices, fresh ideas, and shared experiences** through highlighting Level-5 leaders and innovative schools.

VOL. 1 ISSUE 1 • MAR 2023

CSU CONNECT

Official Newsletter of the Charter Support Unit

Second Annual IMPACT Summit & Awards

The Building Hope IMPACT Summit & Awards brings together charter school leaders from across the nation to connect, collaborate, and best up education in a one-day interactive Summit, which tops off with a gala honoring charter school grant winners in Student Engagement, Educational Innovation, and Community Engagement.

The Awards
This year's Building Hope IMPACT Summit will be hosted at the Miami-Dade North Campus and the internationalist David M. Reid & A. The Charter Support Unit is a proud partner of the IMPACT Summit. For more information and a schedule of the evening events, click [HERE](#). It will be open to charter leaders from across the country, so please sign up to attend by clicking [HERE](#).

The awards
Over the past few months, charter schools across the nation shared inspiring stories of Student Engagement, Community Engagement, and Educational Innovation. Awards of excellent education shine to communities in every state, and the depth of their dedication to their students is inspiring.

This past week, Building Hope selected a short list of Finalists, who will be receiving grants and sharing their success story at the upcoming Summit. Top Florida charter schools applied this year and all are encouraged to join the two-day Summit to share, learn, and be inspired by all the things that are going right in education today.

Congratulations to the great Finalists from Florida:

- **Golden School for Gifted Learning** - Oryson - Sanford, FL - Student Engagement
- **True North Classical Academics** - Miami, FL - Model Charter

Spotlight School:
Gainesville School for Gifted Learning

Around of applause for these distinguished Florida schools:

- **Akademy at the Palm** - Palm City - Educational Innovation
- **South Florida Autism Charter School** - Honorable Mention

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Coming in May...
Episode #2

GREAT LEADERS = GREAT SCHOOLS



Host: **Dana Vignale**
Charter Support Unit

Guest: **Dr. Tamara Moodie**
South Florida Autism Charter School

Discussions with Level 5 Leaders in
Charter School Education



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Autism – Awareness, Acceptance, and Advocacy

April is Autism Awareness Month, a time dedicated to raising awareness and promoting acceptance of individuals on the autism spectrum. Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a developmental disorder that affects communication, social interaction, and behavior. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), approximately 1 in 36 children in the United States are diagnosed with ASD, and the number continues to increase.

Florida is home to four autism charter schools - the Hope Center of Autism in Martin County, Florida Autism Charter School in Willabrook County, Palm Beach School for Autism in Palm Beach County, and the South Florida Autism Charter School in Miami-Dade County. Whereas traditional public schools may have autism units within a larger general education population, these are schools dedicated solely to the education of students diagnosed with ASD, many who are on the more profound end of the spectrum - students who have communication deficits, behavioral difficulties, or require training in self-care skills. The development of these unique schools truly highlights the success of the charter school movement - creating schools that provide innovations in education that cannot be found in a traditional public school setting.

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Don't Miss Out!
UPCOMING CSU EVENTS
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CSU Learning

We are developing online courses with both curated and new content focused around key operational issues such as:

- Succession Planning
- Business Manager Bootcamp
- Teacher Recruitment & Retention... coming soon
- Safety & Security... coming soon

Courses will be available on demand and free of cost.

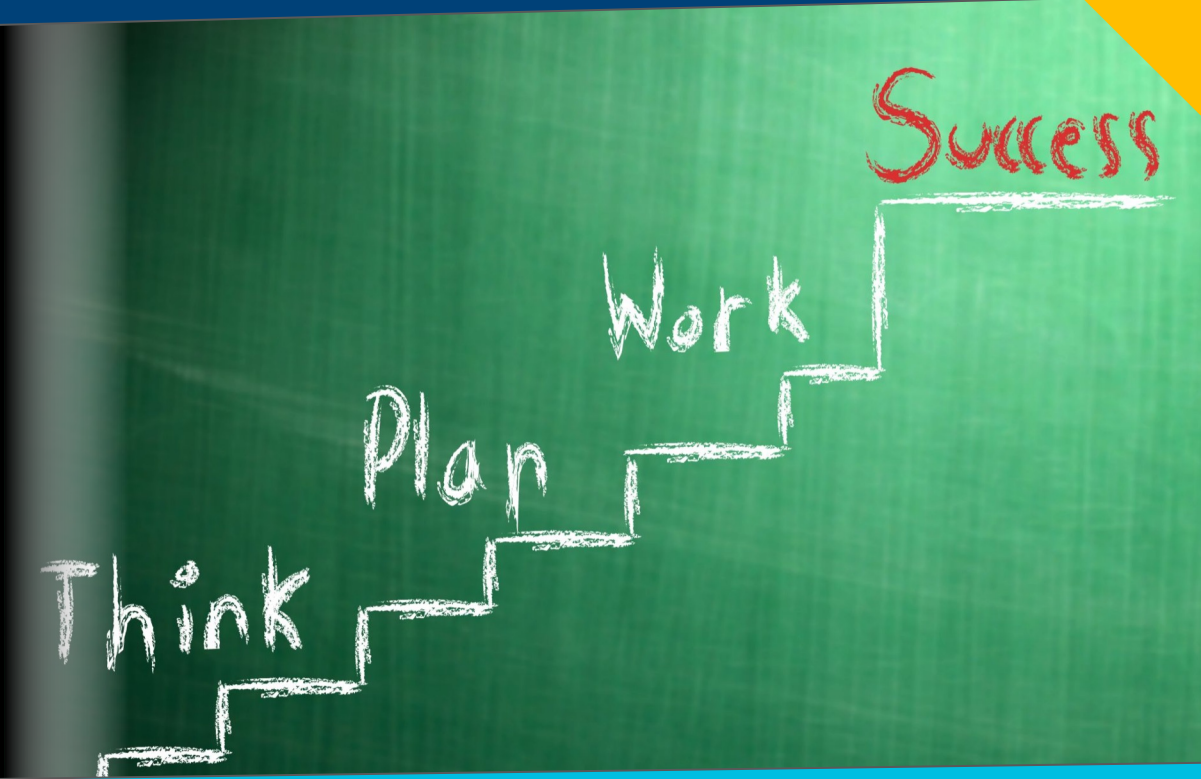


Planning & Launching

Application Training

Launch Year Training

First Year Support



School Launch Support



Launch Year Trainings:

- Virtual courses with pre-recorded modules
- Live topical lessons and collaborative sessions held virtually each month
- Time-sensitive materials that the operators should be thinking about or working on at each phase of opening the school



Boards and Governance



- **Training on best practices**
- **Start up training**
- **Board support and guidance**



Governance Conference

- Industry expert as presenters
- Multiple breakout sessions with varied webinar content:
 - Operations
 - Financial
 - Legal Concerns
 - Community partnerships
- Attendees pick areas of interests and tailor their day based on professional growth needs
- **Usually scheduled in beginning of September**



Charter.Link Compliance Tool



- Charter.Link is a free online compliance tool
- Assists Authorizers and Charter Schools collect and organize their materials
- Facilitates effective communication between charter schools and authorizers
- Currently servicing 8 districts and 198 charters
- Provides training to charter schools on utilization of the platform

Governance Board Program



LEAD - SERVE - INSPIRE

Governance Board Recruitment



Free **expertise and resources** to help public charter schools thrive.



Governance Is Essential

- The ability of the charter school to carry out its mission and vision depends on its organizational foundation, beginning with the governing board.
- The board of the school carries the mission of the school into the community and brings the views of the community into the schools.

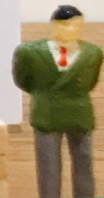


Consider What Skills You Want On Your Board

- The composition of your board should include individuals with various strengths and backgrounds.
- Start by doing an analysis of your current members to determine skills needed
- Examples of board member skills:

- ACCOUNTING
- EDUCATION
(TEACHING OR LEADERSHIP)
- FUND RAISING
- LEGAL
- HUMAN RESOURCES
- MARKETING

S K I L L S



Schools Who Are Interested

Schools who are
within their first
contract period



Complete
Interest
Application



Begins the process of
governing board member
recruiting and matching

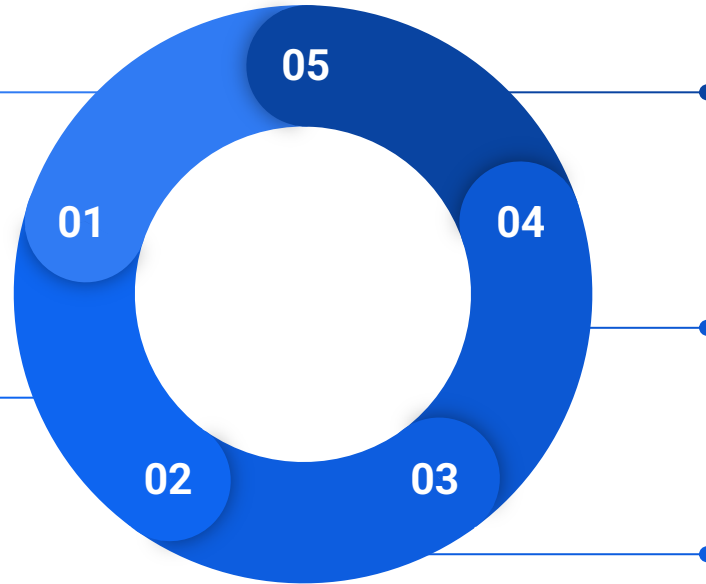


Connect with us at: <http://csu.li/gov> or scan the QR code

Board Member Pipeline Process

Attend board meeting

Determine board
readiness and needs.



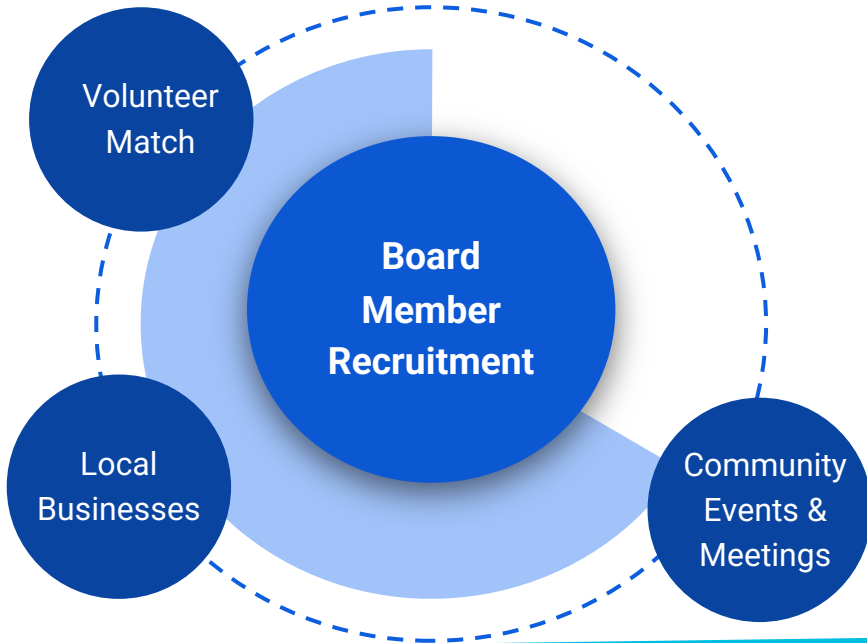
After match is made
provide follow up and
support as needed for
the first year

Facilitate meetings of
possible board member
matches

Provide training to
prospective board
members

How We Are Recruiting

We are currently recruiting dynamic community members throughout the state:



Interest Survey for prospective board members





Florida Charter
Institute



Florida
Charter
Institute



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Created In Florida Statute

1004.88 Florida Institute for Charter School Innovation.—

- (1) The Florida Institute for Charter School Innovation is established at Miami Dade College, subject to appropriation, for the purpose of improving charter school authorizing practices in this state.
- (2) The institute shall do all of the following:
 - (a) Analyze charter school applications, identify best practices, and create a state resource for developing and reviewing charter school applications.
 - (b) Provide charter school sponsors with training, technical assistance, and support in reviewing initial and renewal charter applications.
 - (c) Conduct applied research on policy and practices related to charter schools.
 - (d) Conduct or compile basic research on the status of educational choice, charter authorizing, and charter school performance in this state, and other topics related to charter schools.
 - (e) Collaborate with the Department of Education in developing the sponsor evaluation framework under s. 1002.33(5)(c).
 - (f) Disseminate information regarding research-based charter school teaching practices to teacher educators in this state.
 - (g) Host research workshops and conferences that allow charter school sponsors, charter school operators, students, and parents to engage in topics related to charter schools.
- (3) The institute may apply for and receive federal, state, or local agency grants for the purposes of this section.
- (4) The District Board of Trustees of Miami Dade College shall establish policies for the supervision, administration, and governance of the institute.

Planning Team



Michael Bileca

Chair, Miami Dade College District Board of Trustees



Fermin Vazquez

North Campus President, Miami Dade College



Susie Miller Carello

Executive Director



Curtis Fuller

EDD Support and LEA



Jenna Hodgens

EDD Authorizing



Kathryn Perkins

EDD Teaching, Learning and Leadership



Christy Noe

President, Collaborative Educational Network



Paul Powell

Executive Dir., True North Classical Academies



Miami Dade
College



Florida Charter
Institute

Teaching, Learning and Leading

- Drives implementation of instructional and leadership best practices in charters across the state by delivering training and resources.
- Work with schools to improve instructional practices

Support

- Conducts research and offers technical assistance
- Provides ongoing coaching to Florida charter schools and authorizers on operational, governance, financial, and legal requirements

Authorizing

- Oversees the charter application process
- Analyzes and recommends new charters
- Manages charter contracting, monitoring, and renewal

Local Education Agency

- Monitors compliance with regulatory responsibilities designated to LEAs in FL
- Offers oversight of special programs at schools authorized by FCI.
- Provides the functions typically provided by a School District.

To serve as Florida's premier hub for charter excellence and insight by providing research-based best practices, resources, and support.



Authorizing



Training



Researching

Analyzing all charter applications submitted in the last 5 years.

Looking at how districts evaluated those applications.

Researching the nation's top authorizing practices

Applying to become an Authorizer in Miami-Dade County

Evaluating the Renewal Processes Statewide

**June • Leverage Leadership
July • Teach Like A Champion
September • Science of Reading**

Currently Forming Working Groups

Teams will meet regularly throughout the year to develop core instructional skills aligned to your role and experience, as well as to build cohort with fellow charter school teachers and leaders.

Upcoming:

- Special Education Practices
- and more...

Financial data analysis of all Florida charter schools

LEA responsibilities for independent LEAs & colleges

Instructional best practices at the top performing schools

Initial analysis of employment practices & teacher pipeline



Florida Charter School Alliance



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Alliance



The Alliance is a membership organization

They offer:

- School Leaders Fellowship
- Media and Crisis Support and Training
- State-approved Professional Learning System
- Staff Evaluation Tool
- State & Federal Advocacy & Training
- Weekly newsletter
- District/Authorizer Mediation
- FCSA Marketplace



FLORIDA CONSORTIUM *of*
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

Florida's Charter Support Organization Since 1999

Florida Consortium of Public Charter Schools



Free **expertise and resources** to help public charter schools thrive.



Consortium

The Consortium is a membership organization

They offer:

- Online Resource Library
- Weekly Newsletters and Industry News
- Professional Development Courses with inservice points
- Webinars
- Governance Training
- Staff Evaluation Instruments
- Awards Program
- Preferred Partners Program with discounted purchasing