



Florida Charter
Institute

Access Slides:



fci.fyi/2024-11-lea

Becoming Your Own Local Education Agency

Florida Charter School Conference
November ____, 2024

Powered by Miami Dade College

The Presenters



Curtis Fuller
Chief Operating Officer
Florida Charter Institute



Carlos Capellan
District Director of Leadership Operations
Florida Charter Institute



Christy Noe
Deputy Director, Authorizing
Florida Charter Institute



**CHARTER
SUPPORT** *IS NOW*
UNIT



Florida Charter
Institute

Powered by Miami Dade College



Our Mission

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



Florida Charter
Institute

Today's Mission

Participants will leave the session with an understanding of what is an LEA how to become an LEA and the important factors to consider when deciding if it is in their best interest.



Today's Agenda

- Introduction and Framing (5 minutes)
- What is an LEA and Why Should It Be Considered? (30 minutes)
- LEA Leaders Panel (20 minutes)
- Closing (5 minutes)

What is an LEA?

Local Education Agency (LEA)

A Local Education Agency (LEA) is a public authority, often a school district or an equivalent entity, that provides services to or administers public elementary or secondary schools within a specific geographic region. LEAs are responsible for overseeing public education within a specific geographic area, ensuring compliance with state and federal education laws, and managing local public schools' funding, curriculum, and administration. They typically have their own governing boards and can include various types of educational institutions such as elementary, middle, and high schools.



Local Education Agency (LEA)

A Local Education Agency (LEA) is a public authority, often a school district or an equivalent entity, that provides services to or administers public elementary or secondary schools within a specific geographic region. LEAs are responsible for overseeing public education within a specific geographic area, ensuring compliance with state and federal education laws, and managing local public schools' funding, curriculum, and administration. They typically have their own governing boards and can include various types of educational institutions such as elementary, middle, and high schools.



Local Education Agency (LEA)

A **Local Education Agency (LEA)** is a public authority, often a school district or an equivalent entity, that operates local public primary and secondary schools in the United States. LEAs are responsible for **overseeing public education within a specific geographic area, ensuring compliance with state and federal education laws, and managing local public schools' funding, curriculum, and administration.** They typically have their own governing boards or councils and can include various types of educational institutions such as elementary, middle, and high schools.



Local Education Agency (LEA)

A **Local Education Agency (LEA)** is a public authority, often a school district or an equivalent entity, that operates local public primary and secondary schools in the United States. LEAs are responsible for overseeing public education within a specific geographic area, ensuring compliance with state and federal education laws, and managing local public schools' funding, curriculum, and administration. **They typically have their own governing boards or councils** and can include various types of educational institutions such as elementary, middle, and high schools.



Responsibilities

- **Implementation of Federal Programs**
- **Compliance and Reporting**
- **Funding and Resource Allocation**
- **Equity and Access**
- **Monitoring and Evaluation**
- **Support and Technical Assistance**
- **Collaboration and Advocacy**

- **Administration and Governance**
- **Curriculum and Instruction**
- **Budget and Finance**
- **Personnel Management**



Why Is Everyone Not Doing It?



School Size



**ESE
Services**



**Staffing
Capacity**



Uncertainty



Florida Charter
Institute

Why Should You Become an LEA?



Access to Funding



Services Available to Students



**Removal of District Limitations
or Boundaries on Funding**



Florida Charter
Institute

The Research



Florida Charter
Institute

The Research - Gratitude



MATER ACADEMY
ALMA MATER STUDIORUM



KIPP:MIAMI
SCHOOLS



Florida Charter
Institute

The Research

- ★ 2.5 Years of Research
- ★ Meetings with Current LEA Communities
- ★ Exploration of Statutes
- ★ Understanding of the Steps
- ★ Understanding the Implications
 - Community
 - Financial
 - Legal



Knowing the Statutes|Laws



Florida Charter
Institute

Section 1002.33



Section 1002.33 (25)



Florida Statute | Law

Desired Change

Current Conditions

Has all schools located in the same county.

Has a total enrollment exceeding the total enrollment of at least one school district in this state.

Has the same governing board.

Desired Condition
Schools under the same network can be in different counties and still be governed by same LEA.

XX

XX



Section 1002.33 (5)



Applying to be an LEA



Florida Charter
Institute

Applying to Become an LEA

Understand Your Communities
Capacity

Understand the Requirements

Understand the Services Your
Community Offers

Draft Letter of Intent



Florida Charter
Institute



Drafting a Letter

What Goes In the Letter?

- ★ The letter should clearly state the intent to become an LEA.
- ★ Include information about the school or district, such as its name, address, and contact information.
- ★ Provide a rationale for seeking LEA status and outline the capacity to fulfill LEA responsibilities.





Drafting a Letter

Where do I send the Letter?

Address the letter to the appropriate division within the Florida Charter School Office. Attention should be noted to the Charter Schools Director.



Florida Charter
Institute

Exceptional Student Education



Florida Charter
Institute

Serving ESE Students



Local education agencies (LEA) must ensure that:

- ★ A **free appropriate public education** (FAPE) is made available to all students with disabilities; and
- ★ To the maximum extent appropriate, students with disabilities are educated with their nondisable peers (i.e., in the **least restrictive environment** (LRE)).



FAPE in the LRE

A student's individual educational plan (IEP) team identifies:

- ★ Annual goals designed to meet the student's needs resulting from the disability (academic, behavioral, functional);
 - ★ ESE services and supports necessary for the student to achieve the annual goals
 - ★ The most appropriate LRE based on the student's unique needs and circumstances
-



Continuum of Placements



A continuum of alternative placements must be available to meet the needs of its students with disabilities. Placements include:

- ★ All ESE services provided in the regular educational setting
- ★ Student removed from the regular setting for some or all ESE services (e.g., ESE resource room for math; counseling; speech therapy)
- ★ Majority of the day in the ESE classroom (e.g., self-contained or separate class)



ESE Services and Supports

Specially
Designed
Instruction

Transition
Planning
and
Services

Classroom/
Instructional
Accommod
ations

Assessment
Accommod
ations

Speech
and
Language
Therapy

Occupational
Therapy

Physical
Therapy

Behavioral
Support
Services

Assistive
Technology

Para-
professional
Support

Counseling
Services

Adaptive
Physical
Education

Extended
School
Year (ESY)
Services

Social Skills
Training

Health
Services



LEA Obligations

Ensure there is a multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS), including general education interventions for struggling students (academic, behavioral)

Provide for evaluations of students who may have a disability under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) or Section 504, or be gifted under State Board Rules, and determine eligibility

Develop and implement IEPs or Section 504 Plans for students with disabilities and education plans (EPs) for gifted students

Implement hospital/homebound program for eligible students



Funding An LEA

Sources of Funding

**Title I, Part A:
Improving the
Academic
Achievement of
the
Disadvantaged**

**Title I, Part D,
Subpart 2:
Neglected and
Delinquent
Youth**

Medicaid

**Title I, Part C:
Education of
Migratory
Children**

**Title III, Part A:
English
Language
Acquisition,
Language
Enhancement,
and Academic
Achievement**

**Unified School
Improvement
Grant (UniSIG)**

**Title II, Part A:
Supporting
Effective
Instruction**

IDEA

**Title IV, Part A:
Student
Support and
Academic
Enrichment**

**Title V, Part B:
Rural and Low
Income Schools**



**Florida Charter
Institute**

LEA Leader Panel

Meet The Panelists



Dr. Ilene E. Wilkins
President and CEO
UCP of Central Florida/UCP Charter Schools



Lilliana L. Salazar
National Director for Special Education and Student Support
Academica



Carla Lovett
Executive Director
SouthTech Academy



What's Ahead From FCI?



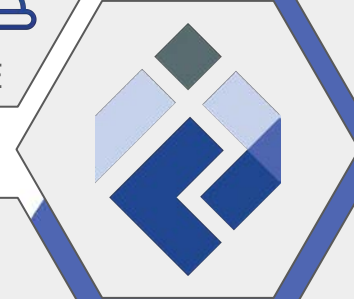
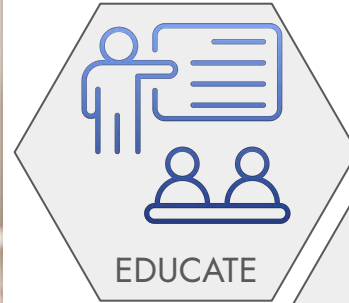
Florida Charter
Institute



FCI "At a glance"

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

FCI "At a glance"



Florida Charter
Institute

Leadership Offerings

- 3 day Professional Learning Workshop, in Miami AND Orlando
- **Monitor the Learning:** instructional coaching that supports teachers in student work analysis to transform learning
- New and improved videos, featuring top Florida charter leaders
- New Day 3 focused on developing an implementation plan
- HEAVILY SUBSIDIZED, thanks to generous state funding. \$400!

ORLANDO:



MIAMI:



EDUCATE
Florida Charter Institute

Teaching Offerings

- 2 Professional Learning Workshops, spanning 3 days. Live in Miami AND Orlando
- **Building Strong Classroom Culture, High Ratio Instruction**
- Ideal Participants: Teams of 4-10/school, spanning range of roles (admin, culture-carrying teachers, dept. leads...)
- HEAVILY SUBSIDIZED, thanks to generous state funding. \$150/day (typically: \$500-1000/day)



EDUCATE

Florida Charter Institute

FCInsight - Our Monthly Blog

- Monthly blog on leadership practice
- Includes linked research-backed, clinically-proven coaching resources
- Released in our Monthly and available at:

flcharterinstitute.org/fcinsights/

Learn More:



RECENT POSTS



USING DATA IN BEGINNING OF YEAR OBSERVATIONS

We're excited to dive into our second installment on developing school leaders as instructional coaches. Last month, we focused on establishing coaching foundations; today, we'll center the conversation around observation and feedback practice – and specifically, what that can look like at the beginning of a school year. Read on

[READ MORE](#)



LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR INSTRUCTIONAL COACHING

At FCI Educate, we are passionate about educator development. We believe that all members of a school community – students, teachers, and leaders – should feel they are on an intentional growth trajectory and have smart coaches and loud cheerleaders behind them every step of the way. Often, school leaders

[READ MORE](#)



EDUCATE

Florida Charter Institute

FCI Support Provides



Technical Assistance

Hotline
Consultations
Site Visits
Resource Library



Professional Learning

Webinars
Podcasts
Presentations & Trainings
Online Courses



Menu of Services

School Review
Strategic Planning
Governing Board Recruitment & Training
Document Review



**CHARTER
SUPPORT
UNIT**

IS NOW PART OF



**Florida Charter
Institute**

New Options For Charter Applications

- FCI provides support to the Charter School Review Commission.

Upcoming application deadlines:

- November 26, 2024 - to be considered on February 26, 2025
 - February 25, 2024 - to be considered on May 28, 2025
 - May 27, 2025 - to be considered August 27, 2025
-
- FCI is approved to be a Charter Sponsor in Miami Dade.
Watch for more information coming soon!



Join Our Team!

FCI's Director of Finance

SUMMARY:

The Director of Finance, Florida Charter Institute is responsible for the fiscal oversight of schools authorized by the Florida Charter Institute (FCI). The position works with the Florida Department of Education, MDC's finance department, authorized schools and the FCI to lead the development, management, and reporting requirements associated with FCI's budget.

Learn More:



Florida Charter
Institute

Sign Up For Our Mailing List

- Weekly emails about upcoming webinars, training opportunities and support resources.
- Monthly newsletter.
- Sign up at on our website.

-- OR --

Sign up at our Booth for a chance to win free tickets to an upcoming FCI Educate professional development workshop!

FEATURED ARTICLES

ESSENTIAL DOCUMENTS FOR SCHOOL LEADERS: YOUR SEASONAL GUIDE FROM THE FCI LIBRARY
Linda Chambers October 10, 2024
As school leaders, staying organized and prepared is key to a successful school year. To help you navigate the demands of the season, we've curated a list of must-have documents from the Florida Charter Institute (FCI) Library. Whether you're tackling governance, compliance, or everyday school operations, these resources are designed to support your leadership and keep your school on track....
[READ MORE »](#)

OBSERVING TO MONITOR THE LEARNING
Kathryn Perkins November 3, 2024
In our last post on developing leaders as instructional coaches, we dove into the foundations of classroom observation, focusing on effective beginning-of-year practices. Once classroom foundations are set for the teachers we coach, it's time to shift our observation eye to ensuring student learning is happening. In today's post, we'll outline a framework for just that and offer a concrete example of...
[READ MORE »](#)

FCI TEAM MEMBER HIGHLIGHT: KATHRYN PERKINS
Linda Chambers November 7, 2024
Introducing the FCI Team: Embracing Change and Leading with Purpose Change is a constant in education, and it is how we navigate it that defines our impact. At the Florida Charter Institute (FCI), merging with the Charter Support Unit (CSU) isn't just about combining organizations—it's about uniting our strengths, experiences, and visions to build something even greater. Three Questions for...
[READ MORE »](#)

GOVERNANCE RESOURCE HIGHLIGHT: UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF CHARTER SCHOOL GOVERNING BOARDS THROUGH PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Christina Morla November 1, 2024

EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION HIGHLIGHT: INNOVATIVE PRACTICES IN FLORIDA CHARTER SCHOOLS: INSIGHTS FROM CASE STUDIES ON EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT SERVICES
Linda Chambers November 7, 2024

EMBRACING GRATITUDE AND CONNECTION: A THANKSGIVING MESSAGE FOR SCHOOL LEADERS
Linda Chambers November 7, 2024
Dear Florida Charter School Leaders, As we approach Thanksgiving, I'm reminded of how deeply gratitude and connection shape the fabric of our lives and our work. In



Florida Charter
Institute



Contact Us

We are Florida's premier hub for charter excellence and insight by providing research-based best practices, resources, and support. If there is anything we can do to help, please contact us:

 [\(786\) 475-1230](tel:(786)475-1230)

 info@flcharterinstitute.org

 www.flcharterinstitute.org



Follow Us



LinkedIn
Florida Charter Institute



Facebook
FloridaCharterInstitute



X
FLCharterInst



Instagram
floridacharterinstitute



Florida Charter
Institute

THANK YOU

Access Slides:



fci.fyi/2024-11-lea

Powered by Miami Dade College

