

Schools Respond To the “C” Words: *Choice and Competition*

*Ferris State University Charter Schools Office
Committed to Continuous Quality Improvement
For Michigan Public Schools*

Many of you have seen our Charter Schools Office logo and mission statement. We place it on almost all of our documents because it is much more than just a nice looking logo or catchy saying: it guides the way we do PSA oversight every day. It is the yardstick by which we make decisions both large and small. Please note however that our mission statement says nothing about “charter schools” at all, but instead refers to “Michigan Public Schools.” This is not an accidental omission.

As a State authorizer, our office is particularly interested in charter schools, yet we are also interested in the development and strengthening of all Michigan public schools in general. That means charter and traditional schools alike. We believe, and research bears out, that strong charter academies create

good competition for all schools, especially those in the vicinity of the academy. The old axiom that has driven the business model for eons also applies to schools: choice and competition are good for the consumer! Parents have educational choice, and that means there is incentive for all schools to improve their product.

In a news release put out in September, the Center for Educational Reform reported that nearly 4,000 charter schools opened for the 2006-2007 school year, representing 1.15 million children. The Michigan Association of Public School Academies (MAPSA) reports that almost 10% of those students are here in Michigan.

Signs of the response to competition recently showed up in the September Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) newsletter. In it ran an article that had several tips for traditional schools to respond to choice and competition. The most significant statement in the article might have been the following: *“Superintendents need to acknowledge that com-*

petition is a fact of life, and help school leaders understand what competition means for their schools.” (MASB Headlines, September 18, 2006 pg. 4) Of particular encouragement was the recommendation that school districts need to make some “difficult decisions” about intervening in chronically underperforming schools.

Being a charter school advocate does not mean that we do not want to see traditional school succeed also. In fact, we are convinced that charter academies need the completion of strong traditional schools to keep them focused on increasing student achievement also. Our State and our nation need well prepared students who will continue their education past high school, and fill many of the jobs currently held by “baby-boomers” who will be retiring soon. We feel that competition and choice will remain the driving force behind the continued improvement of all Michigan Public Schools in the future.

Special Points Of Interest

- Scenes From the 2006 Shining Star Celebration
- CSO To Offer Professional Learning Communities
- Curriculum Corner
- Do You Know Your Acronyms?



CSO Hosts 5th Annual Shining Star Celebration



On October 6, the CSO hosted its 5th Annual Shining Star Celebration at the Dearborn Inn. It was our pleasure to welcome board members, school leaders, educational service companies, and many friends from the Michigan charter school movement. The keynote speaker for the evening was Dr. Crystal Kuykendall, who delivered an inspiring talk on helping young people reach their potential. Additionally, FSU presented compliance checks to each of its academies.

Those academies recognized as Shining Stars (100% compliance) were:

Conner Creek Academy East

**Creative Technologies Academy*

George Crockett Academy

**Hope of Detroit Academy*

**Huron Academy*

**Voyageur Academy*

* Denotes 100% Compliance for 3 or more consecutive years

Scenes From The 2006 Shining Star



How Is Your Acronym Knowledge?

Every field has its own lexicon and jargon relative to that particular field, and the education field seems to have had an explosion of acronyms lately. It is truly amazing how many new acronyms have crept into the field within the past few years. With that in mind, we challenge you to test your skill at deciphering the following:

(Answers on back page)

SRSD

REP

SID

FID

SCM

MEGS

MI-CIS

MTTEC

MEAP

MIEM

CNAP

AYP

LEP

NAEP

NCLB

FERPA

RFP

OSI

CEPI

PSA

GED

MEIS

LEA

SIT

LPSD

ESP

FOIA

ISD

OMA

ECE

CRT

STAR

UIC

EDN

PIC

ACT

ADA

CEU

EEOC

ESL

IDEA

MEDS

NCES

OESE

CSO To Develop Professional Learning Community (PLC) Workshops

We are pleased to announce that the CSO will be developing **Professional Learning Community (PLC)** workshops beginning in November. The first workshop is slated for November 14 at Weber's Inn in Ann Arbor. All Curriculum Directors and those staff identified as responsible for assessment will receive invitations.

According to CSO Assessment Specialist Suzanne Finney, the workshops have been developed around 3 basic questions: 1. What is it we want all students to learn?; 2. How will we know when each student has acquired the essential knowledge and skills?; and 3. what happens in our school when a student does not learn? In addition there will be numerous updates and handouts for all participants who attend. Call (231) 591-5805 for more information.



School Improvement Corner

By Suzanne Finney

October: MEAP, MEAP, MEAP. . . Connecting Results to School Improvement

We all know that MEAP leads to accountability via AYP and Ed Yes!, but how do we translate those results into practices that go beyond window dressings to actually impact student achievement????

There are some very worthwhile opportunities available to help us in our journeys to answer our question:

School Improvement Framework Conference on November 6, 2006 at the Lansing Center. Register at www.gomiem.org or call 517-327-2589

OEAA (Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability) with multiple dates and locations. For registration information contact Danielle Dankenbring at MIEM by phone 517-327-2589 or e-mail danielle@gomiem.org

Our question is addressed within the *School Improvement Framework* by Strand I, Standard 3, Benchmark B: Data Reporting & Use located at www.michigan.gov/schoolimprovement. The MEAP is a summative assessment that tells us to what extent students mastered the previous years' learning and is valuable for informing decisions regarding curriculum resources and instructional practices. This year in grades 3-8 we will have two years of data for each grade level tested. Looking at patterns of student achievement over time will give us more credible evidence for these decisions.

CPD 1020 E. Maple Street
Big Rapids, MI 49307-1676

Phone: (231) 591-5802
Fax: (231) 796-1448
Email: rizzor@ferris.edu

Acronym Test Answers

SRSD=Single Record Student Database

REP=Registry of Educational Personnel

SID=School Infrastructure Database

FID=Financial Information Database

SCM=School Code Master

MEGS=Michigan Electronic Grant System

MI-CIS=Michigan Compliance Information System

MTTEC=Michigan Test for Teacher Certification

MEAP=Michigan Educational Assessment Program

MIEM=Michigan Institute for Educational Management

CNAP=Child Nutrition Application Program

AYP=Adequate Yearly Progress

LEP=Limited English Proficiency

NAEP=National Assessment of Educational Progress

NCLB=No Child Left Behind

FERPA=Family Educational Right to Privacy Act

RFP=Request for Proposal

OSI=Office of School Improvement

CEPI=Center for Educational Performance and Information

PSA=Public School Academy

GED=General Education Diploma

MEIS=Michigan Education Information System

LEA=Local Educational Agency

SIG=State Improvement Grant

LPSD=Local Public School District

ESP=Educational Service Provider

FOIA=Freedom of Information Act

ISD=Intermediate School District

OMA=Open Meetings Act

ECE=Early Childhood Education

CRT=Criterion Referenced Test

STAR=Student Test and Achievement Repository

UIC=Unique Identification Code

EDN=Education Data Network

PIC=Personnel Identification Code

ACT=American College Test

ADA=Americans with Disabilities Act

CEU=Continuing Education Credit

EEOC=Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

ESL=English as Second Language

IDEA=Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

MEDS=Migrant Education Database System

NCES=National Center For Education Statistics

OESE=Office of Elementary and Secondary Education



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www.ferris.edu/charterschools

FSU Mission

Ferris State University will be a national leader in providing opportunities for innovative teaching in career oriented, technological and professional education.