

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

CHARTER SCHOOLS OFFICE



May/June 2024
News and Updates
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When Ferris State University authorizes a public school academy, it is an endeavor to positively transform the life trajectory of the students who attend that academy. The Charter Schools Office holds as its most fundamental goal that all students be prepared for success in college, work, and life. Test scores and knowledge are important but are not enough to succeed in an ever-competitive and connected global community.

We believe that students must be able to apply knowledge to new situations, and to seek out new information through research skills and technological competence. To accomplish this, each academy must provide an environment to achieve academic excellence by delivering quality programming and instruction for the students it serves.

A Warm Welcome from Our New Director

Hello everyone!

I am incredibly honored and excited to extend my warmest greetings to each of you as I continue to settle into my new role as the Director of the Charter Schools Office at Ferris State University. I am deeply humbled by the opportunity to lead the CSO into a new chapter of growth and success.

First and foremost, I want to express my gratitude to Dr. Ron Rizzo for his leadership and contributions to the CSO for over 20 years! Building on his legacy, I am committed to fostering a culture of innovation, collaboration, and excellence that propels us toward a shared vision. Dr. Rizzo did an excellent job during his time with the CSO, leaving us in good standing with outstanding Academies that are doing

fabulous work with their students, families, and communities. We are proud to have all of you as members of our Academy group.

Although I've only been with the Charter Schools Office three months, I've already met several of you and look forward to meeting many more at upcoming board meetings and graduation ceremonies. In the coming weeks and months, I look forward to getting to know each of you better, listening to your ideas, and working together to realize our potential.

Thank you for all you are doing in your academies. I am genuinely excited about the journey ahead. Together, we have the power to overcome challenges, seize opportunities, and achieve remarkable outcomes!

Chris Loiselle, CPA, MBA
Director



Contact:

Chris Loiselle, CPA, MBA
Director of Charter Schools
ChrisLoiselle@ferris.edu
(616)788-7825 cell
(231) 591-5807 office



Updates from the Charter Schools Office

This year has already proven to be a transformative one for the Charter Schools Office (CSO), starting with significant additions to our team. In February, the CSO welcomed Beth Taylor as our new School Support Specialist, alongside my own arrival. We were also fortunate to have Dr. Ron Rizzo extend his stay briefly to provide essential mentorship to both Beth and myself before his well-

deserved retirement. With Dr. Rizzo's departure we've opened the search for a new Associate Director. We are actively accepting applications for this pivotal role, and we encourage you to share the [job posting](#) with potential candidates. The posting will remain open through May 24, 2024.



Ron passing the "baton" off to Chris on his first day.

Over the past few months, my team and I have embarked on a comprehensive review of our operational processes and past engagements with our Academies, and we are developing a fresh approach. Our objective is to refine and enhance the support we provide, utilizing the extensive resources offered by the University. Some of these enhancements will take effect immediately, while others will be introduced throughout the upcoming academic year. Immediate changes include CSO representation at every graduation when possible to celebrate your milestones alongside you. Additionally, we're excited to distribute swag bags filled with Ferris State University goodies for school staff and students in May.

Looking ahead, we're developing an innovative 'early warning' support tool designed to better assess and assist with operations, compliance, fiscal, and academic performance. Our goal is to ensure your autonomy as school administrators while providing support in areas of need. We believe it's important to monitor outcomes transparently and provide assistance when challenges arise, with the aim of intervening early to offer resources, expertise, or training as needed. We are excited about implementing this new approach with you during the next academic year, with more details to come in August.

I am incredibly optimistic about the year ahead. With a complete team and a revitalized approach to support, we're looking forward to expanding professional development opportunities, increasing collaborations with Ferris faculty, and focusing more deeply on your success. Thank you for allowing us the privilege to support and work alongside you. More updates will follow in August, and I am eager to begin this journey together!

Milestone Celebrations

The following Academies are celebrating Authorization milestones with the Charter Schools Office this year. Please join me in congratulating them on their success!

Ten (10) Years

Blended Learning Academies
Credit Recovery High School



Twenty (20) Years

Bridge Academy



Twenty-Five (25) Years

Hope of Detroit Academy
Huron Academy
Joy Preparatory Academy
Michigan Collegiate



Ferris Bound!



Congratulations to Dezire Robinson-Curry, Armeria Millhouse, and Taniya Brown for graduating, and we're excited to see you on campus next year. There's a special Ferris

It's always a joy to see young minds eager to embark on their academic journey. The news of graduating seniors from many of our academies committing to Ferris State University is truly inspiring!

These three talented ladies from Michigan Collegiate are paving their way to a promising future by attending Ferris this fall, and their dedication to pursuing a career in medicine is commendable. As they prepare to step into this new chapter at Ferris, they carry with them not just knowledge but

Swag Bag coming your way! Go Dawgs!

also the enthusiasm to make a positive impact in the healthcare industry. Here's to a bright and successful academic pursuit ahead!

Please contact Beth Taylor, our school support specialist, at BethTaylor@Ferris.edu if you have any committed seniors coming to Ferris in the Fall. We have special gifts for them. Thank you!

Voyageur Academy Expansion

Voyageur Academy in Detroit has been working on a new Career and Technical Education program and the building is nearly complete. In April, a large group of faculty and administrators from Ferris State University and Kendall College of Art and Design visited Voyageur Academy to discuss potential partnerships. They explored collaborative opportunities for curriculum development and the creation of college credit and certification options for students.

Exciting ideas discussed included programs in HVAC, General Engineering Technology, Entrepreneurship, Hospitality, Health Sciences, and Cloud Computing with Ferris State University. Additionally, Kendall College of Art and Design considered offering courses in Product Design and Digital Arts.

We are looking for more academies to join us in developing innovative ways to connect their students with the resources and credit options available through Ferris State University and Kendall College of Art and Design. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Chris Loiselle at ChrisLoiselle@ferris.edu.





Contact:

Beth Taylor
School Support Specialist
BethTaylor@ferris.edu
(616) 240-7883 cell
(231) 591-580 office



New School Support Specialist to Lead Comprehensive Support Initiatives for the CSO

The Charter School Office understands that school support can cover many different areas of need for its academies. While the role will continue to be changing as different needs arise, here are the main components that Beth Taylor will be focusing on through June of 2025.

- Implement individual Academy's supports needed from the Indicators for Academic Success
- Support schools that are specifically labeled as Tier 3 and 4
- Organize and monitor assessments and professional development
- Travel to schools for meetings including but not limited to: MICIP, MDE meetings, achievement data, academic monitoring plans, school culture, new virtual program implementation, or any other request from the academy.
- Connecting academies with local and state resources or other academies within the Ferris Portfolio as needed.

Assessment Information



NWEA

NWEA growth and achievement data is an integral piece to each academy's contractual goals and indicators of support. **The spring testing window will close at the end of the day on Friday, June 14.** No extensions will be given. We are looking forward to seeing your school's progress from fall to spring!

Upcoming 2024-2025 Data needed!

Each Academy will need to complete the NWEA form in Epicenter to help the Charter School Office properly prepare for the 2024-2025 school year. As of now, it appears that there will be reimbursement from the state for NWEA testing (reading and math only) for grades K-8. The CSO will continue to pay for professional development opportunities for each academy.

Panorama

For those academies using Panorama currently, the Spring Survey session will be open from May 6, 2024 to May 24, 2024.

2024-2025

The Ferris State University CSO would like to continue to support any academy that would like to use this tool. By signing up, you will be able to take advantage of professional development at no cost to the individual school and a reduced fee of approximately \$2.50 per student.

Each participating school will have access to two surveys in the fall, winter, and spring - those topics are: **School-Level Climate, Rigorous Expectations** and **Mindset and Social-Emotional Learning Survey (Individual Student)** See additional topic areas listed to the right.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Beth Taylor at BethTaylor@ferris.edu. If your school is interested in signing up with the Ferris CSO please complete this [LINK](#).



PANORAMA EDUCATION

Topics covered under each survey are listed below.

School-Level Climate, Rigorous Expectations & Mindset

- School Belonging
- School Climate
- School Engagement
- School Mindset
- School Teacher-Student Relationships

Social-Emotional Learning Survey (Individual Student)

- Challenging Feelings
- Emotion Regulation
- Growth Mindset
- Positive Feelings
- Supportive Relationships

Professional Development Opportunities

NWEA Data Dig Professional Development Available

The Charter Schools Office has 13 professional development hours still available

for academies to use before the end of July! School leaders may sign up for a 1-hour spring data dig with up to 5 people. These sessions will be held with an NWEA trainer who will walk your group through your spring test results. This information will help your team focus on student needs for the 2024-2025 school year. Look for an email from Beth Taylor soon regarding sign up dates and times.

Exciting Opportunities for 2024-2025 School Year: Professional Development Focus Areas Revealed

Thank you to all of your responses from the CSO survey that was sent out in March. We have been working hard with the Ferris State University School of Education and other Authorizing Universities to devise a professional development plan for the upcoming year. A schedule of opportunities will be available early fall and will include the following focus areas:

- 1-Using NWEA data to improve student growth and achievement
 - 2-Social Emotional Learning
 - 3-Student Engagement (DEI, AI, and student motivation)
-
-



Contact:
Sharon K. Hopper
Compliance and
Governance Specialist
SharonHopper@ferris.edu
(231) 591-5804 Office

Charter Contract Amendments

There are two categories of charter contract amendments. One category requires the Ferris State University Board of Trustees to review and approve and the other category requires the FSU CSO Director to review and approve.



Regardless of which category, the Academy Board of Directors must formally prepare, review and approve a Board Resolution requesting a charter contract amendment stating the specific purpose and details for the request. Your Epicenter user will need to submit it in Epicenter under the submission type, *Board Resolution*. The CSO Director will review the Board Resolution and if necessary, contact the school leader, board president or ESP representative for clarification.

Examples of charter contract amendments that **must be reviewed and approved by the FSU Board of Trustees:**

- Any additional campus requests
- Additions or subtractions of any contractual grades offered
- Change of address
- Change to any part of the Academy's or District's name
- Changes to the Academy's contractual educational goals

The FSU Board of Trustees meet in February, May, October and December. Therefore, to meet their October and December 2024 deadlines the below table shows the deadline for a Board Resolution to be submitted in Epicenter. As soon as the CSO receives the FSU BOT 2025 calendar we will share that information with you.

FSU Board of Trustees Meeting Dates	Request for Charter Contract Amendment Deadline
October 4, 2024	August 26, 2024
December 12, 2024	November 4, 2024

Examples of charter contract amendments that **require the CSO Director's review and approval only:**

- Change to description of staff responsibilities
- Change to curriculum
- Change to admissions policy and criteria
- Change of methods of pupil assessment (as mandated by the State)



If you have any questions about charter contract amendments, please don't hesitate to contact Chris Loiselle at ChrisLoiselle@ferris.edu or (616) 788-7825.

**Celebrating a Successful Year with
Ferris Swag Bags for All!**

The CSO is thrilled to celebrate all of our academies for a fantastic year! To show our appreciation, we have purchased over 6,500 Ferris State University branded items and will be distributing special bags to each of our academies. These cloth grocery totes include t-shirts, various drinkware, notepads, sunglasses, window clings, and more!



School leaders who signed up for a shirt will receive Under Armour ¼ zip pullovers in black, along with a swag bag to share with their staff. Additionally, some schools will receive student bags containing items to share with their students.

With graduation approaching, each senior attending Ferris next year will receive a personalized swag bag that includes information about the \$3,500 scholarship available to them as graduates of an authorized Ferris Charter School!

We hope you and your school community enjoy these bags as much as we enjoyed putting them together for you!

We've already started delivering to some of your academies! Check out these pictures of happy faces sporting their new Ferris State University swag!

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY



FERRIS FORWARD



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From All of Us at the Charter Schools Office

*Wishing You a Wonderful
Summer!*

As the school year comes to a close, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks for all your hard work and dedication. Now, it's time to relax, recharge, and enjoy a well-deserved break. Enjoy your summer!

Our Mission and Vision Statement

Ferris State University Mission

Ferris State University prepares students for successful careers, responsible citizenship, and lifelong learning. Through its many partnerships and its career-oriented, broad-based education, Ferris serves our rapidly changing global economy and society.

Charter Schools Office Vision Statement

FSU will authorize public school academies that promise to transform the lives of students by demonstrating high-quality performance.

Charter Schools Office Mission

By implementing quality oversight, the Ferris State University Charter Schools Office focuses on student growth and achievement, offers professional learning opportunities, and provides relevant resources to its authorized public school academies.

Core Values

1. Student Learning
2. A Collaborative Working Environment
3. Diversity
4. Opportunities
5. Excellence
6. Accountability
7. Integrity and Trust

Contact Us

**Ferris State University
Charter Schools Office
1020 Maple Street
Big Rapids, MI 49307
(231) 591-5802**

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