

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

CHARTER SCHOOLS OFFICE



September/October 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.



Messages From Our Director

Welcome to a new year with the Ferris State University Charter Schools Office! We're excited to begin with new faces and a refined approach to charter authorizing. Our previous

leadership provided a strong foundation, but with rising expectations for charter authorizers, we're committed to continuous improvement. We're updating our practices to align with national best practices, new legal and compliance requirements, and preparing for our 2025-26 Cognia accreditation.



This year, we encountered legislative efforts to increase authorizer oversight and attempts to reduce our funding. Several new Senate bills could significantly impact our oversight responsibilities during the current year. Moving into the future, we expect increased scrutiny in ensuring our academies provide high-quality educational opportunities for the communities they serve.

During this school year, your field representative will introduce our new methods for overseeing and evaluating Academy and Board practices in our four key areas: academic, fiscal, operational, and compliance. We're aligning our practices with the **National Association of Charter School Authorizers's** Principles & Standards, the leading standards for quality charter school authorizing.

As the CSO, we are committed to supporting all our academies, particularly those facing challenges. Our approach involves evaluating performance in the four pillars, identifying issues, providing meaningful support, and maintaining transparency, all while continuously refining our practices to align with best practices and legal standards. We are excited for the future as we embark on developing this new model with you. Thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Loiselle".

Chris Loiselle

Director of the Charter Schools Office
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Competitive Grants Are Back!



Safety and
Security



Extra-Curricular
Activities



Staff PD



Other

Since its inception in 1997, the Ferris State University Charter Schools Office has provided resources to the University's authorized public-school academies in numerous ways. Our Mission Statement sums up that commitment:

"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 public-school academies."

Consistent with our Mission, the CSO is pleased to announce that all FSU-authorized academies are eligible to apply for a competitive grant of up to **\$25,000** for the 2024-2025 academic year. The grant may be used for one of four "bucket" areas: **Safety and Security**, **Extra Curricular Activities**, **Staff Professional Development**, or **Other**, which includes projects that do not fit the first three areas. The total amount of funds for the grant program this year is **\$400,000**.

Specific Information:

- Applicants must complete the *CSO Competitive Grant Request Application* outlining the project, anticipated cost, and rationale for the project.
- Grant requests may be for any amount up to but not exceeding \$25,000 to fund specific projects not covered by the Academy's general fund. The grants are not meant to supplant general budget money, but to enhance offerings or projects that the Academy would not be able to fund otherwise.
- The grant must benefit academy students and/or staff.



Blended Learning Academy applied for a competitive grant for the 2023-2024 academic year to fund and maintain their robotics team.

[Read More](#)

Charter School Day at Ferris State University

Ferris State University is for students who are ready to accelerate their education forward at the speed of the real world! Charter school students are invited to get a close-up look at Ferris State and the programs that can change their lives.



[View
Flyer](#)

Join us on Oct. 19, 2024, for a day exploring academic programs, learning about support services, exploring campus, and attending an exciting Ferris State football game! Students will enjoy a meal and take home special Ferris State swag

Charter School Day is open to 10th through 12th grade students attending a Ferris State authorized charter school.

Join us and see what it is like to be a Bulldog!

Milestone Celebrations



Marshall Academy

Marshall Academy is celebrating an authorization milestone with the Charter Schools Office this year. Please join us in congratulating them on their 25 years of success!



Michigan Charter Schools Symposium

Registration for the 2024 Michigan Charter Schools Symposium is now open! **Secure your spot today** and join this transformative event. Participants will have the opportunity to explore innovative strategies, share success stories, and collaborate to shape the future of charter education in Michigan.

Join MAPSA as they celebrate the momentous milestone of Michigan charter schools' 30th anniversary! The special event will honor the past, present, and future of charter schools in Michigan. Enjoy an evening of drinks, a strolling dinner, and fantastic networking opportunities with fellow charter school advocates and professionals. Don't miss this chance to be part of a historic celebration, reflecting on our journey and looking forward to the continued growth and success of charter schools.

Don't forget to use code FSU24 for \$200 off registration for two people from every FSU school.

**Register
Now!**

Spotlight on STEM Support – Inland Seas Education Association



The ISEA's fleet includes two ships, the S/V Inland Seas (right) and the S/V Alliance (left).

The Inland Seas Education Association offers a variety of school programs to introduce students to hands-on learning on and around the Great Lakes.

Programs Offered Include:

- **Schoolship programs:** three hour programs in which students become scientists for the day and assist professional staff and seasoned volunteer instructors with the collection and analysis of Great Lakes samples.
- **ROV Engineer and Explore programs:** programs extend student learning onshore and can be used as stand-alone programs or in conjunction with a Schoolship program.
- **Watershed Exploration programs:** programs connect students with the Great Lakes by exploring watersheds, exposing youth to Great Lakes careers, and gaining experience with technology and skills used in the field.

For schools coming from greater distances, a 40-bed on-site dormitory space is available.

The ISEA also provides Professional Development opportunities for teachers.

To learn more about the wonderful Great Lakes STEM opportunities provided by the ISEA, visit www.schoolship.org.

Messages From Our School Support Specialist

Testing and Survey Windows

The Ferris CSO will continue to support NWEA Testing for all academies and Panorama Surveys for those academies that registered last spring. Ferris will continue to provide consortium pricing and cover the cost of professional development.



Beth Taylor
School Support Specialist
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Office: (231) 591-5805

NWEA: 2024-2025 Academic Year

Testing window dates are as follows:

- FALL: August 19, 2024, to October 11, 2024 (8 weeks)
- WINTER: December 2, 2024, to February 7, 2025 (10 weeks)
- SPRING April 21, 2025, to June 13, 2025 (8 weeks)

UPDATE: Due to the NWEA summer session window beginning June 15th, the CSO has moved the date for the spring session up by one week.

There is a student participation goal of 95% or higher for grades 2-8
It is optional for students enrolled in grades K-1 and 9-12 but is **strongly encouraged**.

All questions should be directed to Beth Taylor (BethTaylor@ferris.edu)

Contractual goals related to NWEA are:

Are students making expected annual growth compared to their peers?

Target	Measure	Metric
50th Percentile	The fall to spring average of all NWEA MAP "School	Exceeds: \geq 70th Percentile Meets: \geq 50th Percentile

	Conditional Growth Percentiles” in reading and math	but <70th Percentile Approaching: ≥30 Percentile but <50 Percentile Does Not Meet: <30th Percentile
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Are students achieving proficiency on a nationally normed assessment?

Target	Measure	Metric
50%	The percentage of students meeting grade level norms on the reading and math NWEA MAP.	Exceeds: ≥ 70% Meets: ≥50% but <70% Approaching: ≥30% but <50% Does Not Meet: <30%

NWEA Professional Development Hours are available to EACH academy! School leaders may contact NWEA trainer Amber Ahmad (amber.ahmad@nwea.org) to schedule a personal virtual session with your data team.

PANORAMA SURVEYS 2024-2025

Survey Windows:

Fall: September 23, 2024 - October 18, 2024 (4 weeks)

Winter: February 3, 2025 - February 21, 2025 (3 weeks)

Spring: May 5, 2025 – May 23, 2025 (3 weeks)

Survey's Available:

- School-Level Climate, Rigorous Expectations & Mindset
- Social-Emotional Learning Survey (Individual Student)

Finalized Rosters to Ferris CSO:

(The CSO will send you a reminder email with directions before the required submission date)

Fall: September 6, 2024

Winter: January 17, 2025

Spring: April 18, 2025

We look forward to each academy reaching the goal of 95% of students being surveyed. The CSO has purchased professional development for each academy that expressed interest. Please contact Beth Taylor (BethTaylor@ferris.edu) to help get your hours scheduled!

FSU CSO Leadership Professional Development 2024-2025

We are looking forward to offering professional learning opportunities to all our academies this year! The school support team will be coming to your buildings this fall to meet individually with building leadership to get feedback and develop a professional

Messages From Our Compliance Auditor/Board Liaison

2024-2025 Virtual Board Professional Development Opportunities

This year, eight Michigan charter school authorizers, including Ferris State University, contracted with Angela Irwin from AirWin Educational Services to facilitate a board professional development webinar/Zoom series titled Board Governance Etiquette.

This series will include five GoToWebinars and four interactive sessions via a Zoom platform. If you can't make it to the live sessions, each session will be recorded, and the link will be provided to board members in future Board Communications. The dates, topics and delivery platform are as follows:



Sharon Hopper
Compliance + Governance
Specialist
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Office: (231) 591-5804

Date	Topic	Delivery Platform
Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2024 at 6 p.m.	Navigating Your Role as a New Board Member: Part 1	Zoom
Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2024 at 6 p.m.	Why Can't We All Just Get Along?	GoToWebinar
Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2024 at 6 p.m.	Establishing a Positive Board Culture	GoToWebinar
Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2024 at 6 p.m.	Board President Interaction	Zoom
Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2025 at 6 p.m.	Bringing Order to Meetings	GoToWebinar
Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2025 at 6 p.m.	The Role of the Treasurer	Zoom



Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 6 p.m.	Acquainting Yourself With Board Policies	GoToWebinar
Tuesday, April 1, 2025 at 6 p.m.	Cultivating Relationships as Part of Good Governance	GoToWebinar
Tuesday, May 6, 2025 at 6 p.m.	Navigating Your Role as a New Board Member: Part 2	Zoom

A formal invitation from Angela Irwin will be emailed to board members. The invitation will include a brief description of each session and registration instructions.

Each board member that attends or watches a webinar or interactive session can earn one professional development credit for their respective board. To earn the credit, the board member must share 2-3 takeaways from the session at a board meeting.

Boards are required to have at least two board members complete at least three credits per academic year. FSU Field Representatives will periodically report on your board's standing with professional development credits.

In-Person Board Professional Development Opportunities

In addition to our virtual board training series, we are thrilled to offer board members an in-person board professional development opportunity this fall. Again, we are partnering with seven other Michigan charter school authorizers. Angie Irwin will provide a formal presentation followed by a breakout session/table discussion facilitated by Angie and the authorizers and ending with the attendees re-convening for a meal together.

The session will walk through governance framework based on best practices, which will include the following "governance buckets":

- Policy & Practice
- Planning & Relationships
- Operations & Procedures

The interactive sessions will encourage board members to consider their practices and processes and determine into which "governance bucket" these practices and processes should be placed. Participants will leave with an outline of a governance framework that they can build upon and refer to as they execute their respective governance roles.

There are five regional sessions to choose from. The same content will be repeated at all five locations. The session will begin at 5pm and end by 8pm. The dates and locations are as follows:

Date	Location
Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2024 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.	MAPSA Headquarters 123 W. Allegan, Suite 750 Lansing, MI
Thursday, Oct. 17, 2024 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.	Cesar Chavez Academy High School 1761 Waterman Street Detroit, MI
Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2024 5 p.m.-8 p.m.	Grand Traverse Academy 1245 E. Hammond Road Traverse City, MI
Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2024 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.	Voyageur Academy 4366 Military Road Detroit, MI
Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2024 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.	Faxon Academy 26275 Northwestern Highway Southfield, MI

Board members, be sure to check your email for registration and other information about this in-person, interactive professional development opportunity. This is a unique opportunity to sharpen your governance skills and earn a professional development credit for your board.

We think you'll benefit greatly by the conversations with other board members generated around the content and by tapping into the knowledge and experiences of Angie and eight authorizers. We look forward to seeing you at one of the sessions!

Meet The New CSO Staff Members



Margaret Baker will join us beginning October 1 as our Associate Director. She grew up and lives in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where both her parents worked for the Grand Rapids Public School District. She is a graduate of Grand Rapids Catholic Central, Saint Mary's College (Notre Dame). Her passion is providing students with a variety of educational experiences by nurturing children's curiosity and creativity. She genuinely enjoys providing pathways for students to find their own success for the betterment of our communities and country.

Margaret Baker

Associate Director of Charter
Schools Office
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(231) 591-5803 (Office)

Margaret spent the majority of her career at Coopersville Area Public Schools in West Michigan, serving in a variety of roles including: teacher, media specialist, Curriculum Director, and Assistant Superintendent. As a member of the Ferris CSO, Margaret hopes to provide support to the vision of the FSU Charter Schools.



Alyssa Myers

Secretary Level 2
myersa29@ferris.edu
(231) 591-5802 (Office)

Alyssa Myers joined the CSO team in August as our new Secretary. She was born in Big Rapids, Michigan, and she graduated with a bachelor's degree in history from Ferris State University at the end of the Spring 2024 semester. Alyssa loves learning, and although she has graduated from Ferris, she will continue to take classes as time permits. In her free time, Alyssa likes to Facetime her niece, Faith, knit, read, and thrift shop. Alyssa is excited to join the team at the CSO, learn from her new co-workers, and serve the students, staff, and any others affiliated with the charter schools authorized by the Ferris CSO.



Todd Oatley

Field Representative
toddoatley@Ferris.edu

Todd Oatley began in July as our Field Representative for **Marshall Academy** and **Muskegon Montessori Academy for Environmental Change**. He grew up in northern Michigan, attending Cadillac Public Schools. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees at Western Michigan University. Todd spent his 33-year career in education working at Greenville High School, first as a teacher and coach, and then many years as high school assistant principal.

Todd lives in Rockford with his wife Amy. They have three adult children, all in their twenties, who still live and work in Michigan. He is an active member of his church and participates in a few men's faith-based groups. Todd enjoys the outdoors, long walks, and traveling to the National Parks and Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Todd looks forward to this new adventure that still allows him to continue serving the educational community and our country's most valuable asset, our young people.



Welcome to the 2024-2025 academic school year from all of us at the CSO!

Fall is here, hear the yell
Back to school, ring the bell
Brand new shoes,
walking blues
Climb the fence,
books and pens
I can tell that we are
gonna be friends

-*"We're Going to Be Friends"*
by The White Stripes



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

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[Visit our Website](#)

Ferris State University is an equal opportunity institution. For information on the University's Policy on Non-Discrimination, visit ferris.edu/non-discrimination.

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