

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

CHARTER SCHOOLS OFFICE



May-June 2025

News and Updates

May 16, 2025 | Volume 25 | Issue 3



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



Now Hiring: Field Representatives to Support Charter School Excellence



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Are you—or someone you know—a retired or soon-to-retire school administrator looking for a flexible and rewarding way to stay connected to K-12 education? Ferris State University's Charter Schools Office (FSU-CSO) is excited to announce an opening for **Field Representatives** to serve public school academies across Michigan.

This part-time role is an excellent opportunity for experienced educators to continue making a difference while enjoying a flexible schedule. Field Representatives act as the liaison between Ferris State University and its authorized charter schools, attending board meetings, visiting classrooms, observing school operations, and promoting initiatives that connect students with Ferris State University programs.

[Read More](#)



Explore the Future: Ferris State University Campus Visits for Charter School Students

Ferris State University is excited to welcome charter school students back to campus for another year of inspiring college visits designed to spark curiosity, ambition, and dreams for the future.

Whether you're working with 8th graders just beginning to imagine life beyond high school or upper-level high school students considering their next academic step, Ferris offers tailored campus visit opportunities that can transform how students think about college and careers.

[Read
More](#)



Wayne State University/MDE Survey Opportunity

Researchers in the Wayne State University College of Education, in partnership with MDE, are sending school leaders a survey to learn about the strategies schools are using to improve student attendance. You should have received an email from jeremysinger@wayne.edu with a personal survey link to complete.

Participation is voluntary, and all responses will be kept confidential. All participants will receive 5 State Continuing Education Clock Hours (SCECHs) and a personalized report comparing your school's responses to average statewide results. **Thirty participating schools will also randomly be selected to receive a \$1,000 grant for school-related expenses.**

If you have questions, you can contact jeremysinger@wayne.edu.

Messages from our Associate Director





2025 Summer Leadership Conference

Balancing Leadership, Balancing You

July 22 - July 23, 2025

DoubleTree Hotel

Bay City, MI

Margaret Baker

Associate Director of the
Charter Schools Office
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2025 Summer Leadership Conference Balancing Leadership, Balancing You

DoubleTree Hotel

Bay City, MI

Tuesday, July 22, 2025 (4 p.m. - 8 p.m.) - Networking Event

Wednesday, July 23, 2025 (7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.) - Speaker Sessions

The Ferris State University & Lake Superior State University Charter Schools Offices are offering a **FREE** two-day conference for networking, learning, discussion, and fun! **Neil Ihde** from **LifeIQ** will be the keynote speaker, and the Bay City Drama Group and Voyageur Academy Dance Group will perform.

Incentives to attend:

- The FSU CSO will pay for six SCECHs for attending academy leaders*
- The FSU CSO will reimburse each academy that attends the full conference for one hotel room and mileage*
- Grant opportunity for all FSU authorized academies that attend.**

*FSU-Authorized academies only

**Click the grant guidelines button below for more information.

Don't wait to [register](#)! Click [here](#) for our event flyer.

The deadline to register for the conference is May 23, 2025. The hotel room block deadline is July 1, 2025. If you have questions, please contact Margaret Baker (margaretbaker@ferris.edu).

[Grant Guidelines](#)

[Hotel Reservation](#)

[Event
Registration](#)

Messages from our School Support Specialist

NWEA Webinar Professional Development Opportunities this Month!

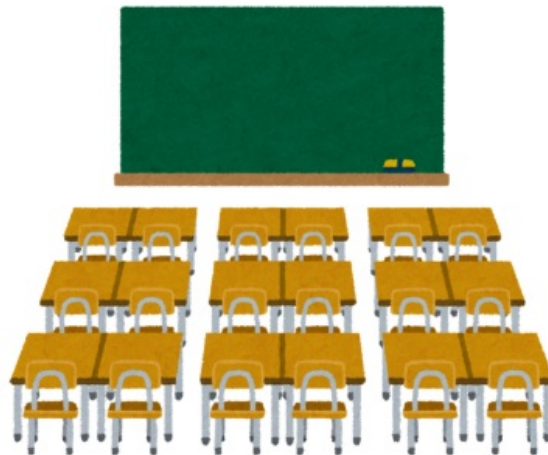
Opportunity #1 - Susan Klassen will be hosting a few **Data Dig webinars** that will allow our NWEA partner schools to dive into their Fall to Spring Growth data and see a preview of what is coming for Fall 2025. The webinars are designed for administrators, principals, and instructional coaches. **Each webinar will be the same, so school staff only need to attend one.**



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Opportunity #2 - Due to **Michigan Public Act 146**, Susan Klassen will be hosting a few webinars to showcase **MAP Reading Fluency plus Coach**. Together these two products will revolutionize reading fluency development by pairing a comprehensive NCII approved adaptive assessment with an ESSA strong personalized AI reading coaching that is grounded in the Science of Reading. If your schools are interested in learning more about these products, then this webinar is a great start!

[Read More and Register Here](#)



Finishing the Year Strong: Leadership After Testing Season

As the high stakes testing season winds down, you may feel a collective exhale across your buildings. The months of preparation, proctoring, and pressure are over — but the school year isn't. This final stretch offers a powerful opportunity to reinforce culture, celebrate growth, and set the tone for a successful transition into summer and

beyond.

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More](#)

Messages from our Compliance & Governance Specialist

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*.



Sharon Hopper
Compliance & Governance
Specialist
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[Read
More](#)

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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