

Report: Reauthorization Review Visitation
Academy: Conner Creek Academy East (CCAЕ)
Date: October 23-24, 2017

The visitation occurred at the Michigan Collegiate High School/Middle School and Conner Creek East Elementary School campuses with four members on the Ferris State University Charter Schools Office (CSO) visitation team. The team had the opportunity to meet with and interview the school leadership team, two school board members and the School Improvement Team. The team was able to tour the facility and visit several classrooms to observe teaching and learning. We appreciate the open communication and transparency that was apparent with everyone we interacted with.

Visitation Findings

School Improvement Plan (SIP) and EdYes! School Systems Review	
Observations	Opportunities for Growth
<p>School Improvement Plan (SIP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SIP is comprehensive and seems to address the needs of the academy. • The initiatives address the academic concerns at all buildings. • The goals are aligned with the academy’s vision, mission and core values. • The SIP focuses on creating an interactive learning environment by strengthening the culture and climate of the academy. Building-wide protocols establish multiple opportunities for teachers to dialogue with students across disciplines. 	<p>School Improvement Plan (SIP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue your efforts to monitor the effectiveness of the many SIP activities. The administrators’ walk through process seems to be working. • Continue your efforts to have master teachers bring new teachers up to speed with the SIP expectations. You have provided time for this to take place during the school day, which helps to ensure continual coaching. <p>EdYes! School Systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None at this time.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a process in place to evaluate the SIP with the use of a continual feedback process that addresses implementation and modification as needed. • The SIT is fully aware of the value of SIP activities. • It appears that most staff are fully engaged in SIP activities. <p>EdYes! School Systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The evidences cited in the report appear to be validated by the documentation provided. • The programs and activities cited appear to be in place. • The written MTSS plans for each building appear to be what is being implemented and if followed should lead to improved student achievement. 	
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Facilities Review

Observations	Opportunities for Growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The facilities are clean and well maintained. There is a comfortable learning environment for students and staff. • There is a long-range maintenance plan in place. • The technology appears to be up to date and used on a regular basis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None at this time.

Academy Culture Review

Observations	Opportunities for Growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The implementation of “Capturing Kids Hearts” and “Kagan” have led to a positive and noticeable improvement in the academic environment. • Student-teacher relationships are very positive. • It appears that there is a culture that is summed up in “We care for the kids first.” • The CCAE staff recognizes the importance of learning tools relevant to their students’ culture background. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain what you have accomplished and nurture/cultivate this climate to result in higher student achievement. • Develop orientation procedures/protocols to support the acclimation of students who are new to CCAE.

<u>Mission Accomplishment</u>	
Observations	Opportunities for Growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is clear alignment between mission and programs. • The mission review process seems to be effective. • The use of objective and observational data to help evaluate the implementation of the mission is very helpful. • Posting the Mission and Vision in prominent places encourages recognition and supportive actions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None at this time.
<u>Website</u>	
Observations	Opportunities for Growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The web site appears to be up to date and functional. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None at this time.

Academy Internal Review

<u>Student Outcomes</u>	
Observations	Opportunities for Growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is clear that the leadership team is fully aware of and working to achieve the expectations established by FSU. • There is full acknowledgement of weaknesses to be addressed. • There is intentional implementation of instructional practices designed to make improvements. • The trend lines of student achievement data indicate positive growth in many areas. • All staff members are working together to make improvements. • It was mentioned by staff and leaders that attendance and parent involvement is an ongoing concern. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue efforts to mentor new teachers and offer resources to support success in the classroom. • Continue effective efforts to help teachers utilize assessment data to drive better instruction. • Continue to evaluate trend lines of student achievement data to ensure continued positive growth in all areas. • Continue your efforts to improve student attendance rates. Continue to emphasize to the students that showing up is an importance part of effort.

<u>Governance and Leadership</u>	
Observations	Opportunities for Growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The board is fully aware of their role and understanding of how they can add value to the academy. The board is committed to the success of the students attending the academy. The board has the ability to ask the right questions for clarification and assessment of student achievement. 	<p>The Board should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look into the value of aligning Board and School vision, mission and core values. Look into the value of aligning the Board and School strategic plan.
<u>Resources and Support Systems</u>	
Observations	Opportunities for Growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff placement is positive. All classes except for two have permanent certified teachers. Instructional resources are meeting current need. The academy is managing its budget well. Continue working to improve the procurement of resources and instructional aids necessary for teachers to have success. The technology is effective and meeting current needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to evaluate the program needs and targeted services provided for special education students.

CSO Review of Overall Performance for **Conner Creek Academy East**

<u>Contract Performance Report Review</u>	
Observations	Opportunities for Growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MAP growth targets met on 15/18 measures MSTEP growth is above 40% in all areas and averages 55% in ELA and 52% in math Compliance remains at 100% 0 Board vacancies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MAP Spring Achievement Percentiles remain low MSTEP Proficiency Percentages are 18% for ELA and 8% for math MSTEP Proficiency Percentages are below their Composite District's SAT average scores went down from 2015-16 and remain below their Composite District's average (864 compared to 883)

School Support Team (SST) Updates	
Observations	Opportunities for Growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCAE moved from a Red designation to Yellow based on their MAP and MSTEP growth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achievement and Proficiency data

Overall Opportunities for Growth

- Monitor student preparation for the College Board assessments
- Enrollment has slowly been declining

Current CSO Expectations in Consideration for Recommendation of Reauthorization. These are subject to change.

For: Conner Creek Academy East

- Meet or exceed FSU CSO’s academic measures and goals
- Continue to follow all charter contractual expectations
- The CSO may have other academic and non-academic expectations as more information becomes available. All other contractual and policy standards must be met and maintained.
- NOT be designated as a Partnership, low-performing, Priority, Comprehensive Needs, etc. school by the State of Michigan.

Signed James K. Scholten
 CSO Visitation Chair

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 CSO Associate Director