

NC Office of Charter Schools

6303 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-6303

Website: <http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/charterschools>

Telephone: 919-807-3491

Please share these updates with appropriate staff at your school.

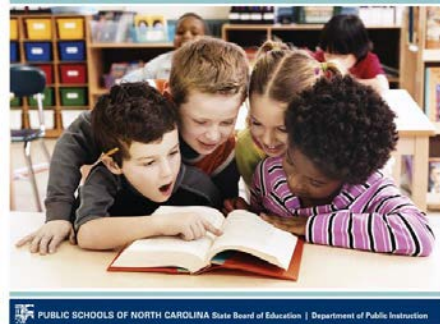
Office of Charter Schools Updates

- ***Adam Levinson's, Interim Director, OCS Changes Announcement***

The Office of Charter Schools (OCS) has recently realigned its work in order to more efficiently and effectively meet the needs of the State Board and the NC charter schools community. Most of the OCS functions you have come to expect – such as administering the Application, Planning Year, Amendment, Renewal, and Closure processes – will continue in much the same form, and OCS will still provide information and technical assistance regarding how to meet all state and federal requirements. The way we do this may seem different, however, as we have moved to a more streamlined, focused operation. Some of the highlights include the following:

OCS will no longer assign consultants to be the single point of contact for each charter school; instead, OCS will provide services to the charter community based on areas of work (such as Applications, RTO, and Amendments), with a lead/primary contact for each.

Office of Charter Schools



Upcoming Events

October 5 – 7, 2015

*Charter School Leadership
Institute*

October 12, 2015

*Charter Schools Advisory
Board Meeting*

Important Announcement

EDDIE is the authoritative source for NC public school numbers and demographic information, and is used by multiple systems including; [Accountability](#), [PowerSchool](#), [NC School Report Cards](#), and is used to meet federal reporting requirements.

LEAs and charter schools are responsible for ensuring data are complete, accurate, and current.

**EDDIE is located
at: <http://apps.schools.nc.gov/eddie>**

OCS also will no longer visit each school annually; as part of our new work stream focused on “Risk Assessment,” schools will only receive site visits as needed to address high risk issues or if required by the Renewal process.

OCS has begun consolidating communications from various areas of DPI into a weekly newsletter to charter administrators.

OCS is redesigning the Charter Schools website to be more user-friendly and increase transparency regarding charter school law, policy, and operations.

While we recognize that there will be some growing pains as we transition to this new way of working, we are confident that this approach will enable us to provide the best service to the State Board, Charter School Advisory Board, and schools that we can within our limited resources.

Please familiarize yourself with the following OCS **areas of work** and the lead/primary contact for each. As always, we appreciate any feedback or you might have about OCS!

- **Applications for charter:** [Deanna Townsend-Smith \(Lead OCS Consultant\)](#)
- **Planning Year (“Ready to Open”) Process** for newly approved charters: [Kebbler Williams](#)
- **Risk Assessment** (including Performance, Other Data & Reporting, Governance warnings): [Cande Honeycutt](#)
- **Site Visits:** [Kebbler Williams](#) (temporary)
- **Charter Amendments and Renewals:** [Lisa Swinson](#)
- **Communications** (Inquiries, Complaints, Public Records Requests, etc.): [Deanna Townsend-Smith](#) (temporary)
- **OCS Website:** [Brian Smith](#)
- **Coordination of Technical Assistance/Professional Development:** [Brian Smith](#)
- **Charter School Advisory Board:** [Lisa Swinson](#)
- **Office of Charter Schools Administration:** [Kristin Jones](#)

- **Leadership Institute**

We still have spaces available for you to attend the 2015 Leadership Institute at Sallie B Howard in Wilson, NC. We are extending the registration window to September 18, 2015. We hope to see you there!

Please click the link below to read more information and to register.

Registration Link:

[2015 Leadership Institute Registration Link](#)

Direct questions to Brian Smith at brian.smith@dpi.nc.gov. The Office of Charter Schools is looking forward to learning with you in October!

- **Submitting Amendment Requests**

Outlined below is the process for submitting amendment:

- Submit all amendment requests to Lisa Swinson at lisa.swinson@dpi.nc.gov.
 - When submitting your amendment request, send:
 - The approved board meeting minutes that reflect the decision to amend,
 - A strikethrough version of the amended document, and
 - A clean copy for our records.
- For more information, reference the State Board of Education policy [TCS-U-014](#).

- **Teacher of the Year (TOY) Process**

The Teacher of the Year applications are due on **October 2, 2015 at 5:00PM**.

Information submitted after this date will not be considered. Please make sure you submit your packets electronically as one complete PDF document. The selection committee will review submitted portfolios and select five candidates to interview. Ultimately, two finalists will be selected, and the committee will conduct school visits for those two teachers. The Charter Teacher of the Year will then be determined, and that teacher will participate in the state Teacher of the Year process, along with eight Regional Teachers of the Year from across the state. More information about the state Teacher of the Year Program can be found at [TOY Information](#). Contact Brian Smith at brian.smith@dpi.nc.gov or 919-807-3492 with questions or concerns.

TOY TIMELINE

TENATIVE DATE	ACTIVITY
October-December, 2015	Portfolios assessed, interviews conducted, and on-site school visits
December, 2015	Charter winners due to DPI
December-January, 2016	9 Regional Teachers of the Year Announcements
March – May 2016	State Selection Process Completed
May 2016	State Teacher of the Year – Winner Announced

- ***School Performance Grade Posting Requirements***

All schools must place the School's Performance Grade in a prominent position on the school's website. Schools that received a "D" or "F" must send a letter of notification to all families attending the school. The Office of Charter Schools will collect this evidence on a future date. The general statute is outlined below for your reference.

§ 115C-218.65. North Carolina School Report Cards.

A charter school shall ensure that the report card issued for it by the State Board of Education receives wide distribution to the local press or is otherwise provided to the public. A charter school shall ensure that the overall school performance score and grade earned by the charter school for the current and previous four school years is prominently displayed on the school Web site. If a charter school is awarded a grade of D or F, the charter school shall provide notice of the grade in writing to the parent or guardian of all students enrolled in that school.

- ***Charter Statute Guiding Student Proficiency and Promotion***

Make sure to review the requirements for charter schools regarding student proficiency and promotion.

Resources: [Proficiency and Promotion Resources](#)

NCDPI Updates

- ***The Read Aloud Project***

October 1-2, 2015

Charlotte Museum of History

A great opportunity for K-2 teachers, coaches and curriculum specialists. See attached flyer for additional information.

Register here: <https://www.smore.com/12dvv>

Attachment: [The Read Aloud Project Flyer](#)

- ***New Research: Children with Strong Social Skills in Kindergarten More Likely to Thrive as Adults***

Attachment: [Strong Social Skills Research](#)

- ***Weekly Legislative Update***

Attachment: [Legislative Update 9.11.15.pdf](#)

- ***Finance Update***

Attachment: [Finance Officer's Newsletter 009 15/16](#)

[15-16 IFE Conversion Form](#)

[IFE LTR Supts 15-16](#)

- ***Math I, II, and III Updates***

Please see the attached memo regarding updated notes to Math I, II, and II. Questions or comments concerning the Notes should be addressed to the Secondary Mathematics Consultants Lisa Ashe at lisa.ashe@dpi.nc.gov or Joseph Reaper at joseph.reaper@dpi.nc.gov.

Attachment: [Supe Memo Math Notes 091615](#)

- ***NCDPI Web Highlights***

[Teachers' Biweekly Message](#)

[Superintendents' Weekly Message](#)

Exceptional Children's Updates

- Please see the attached Autism professional development (PD) opportunities for the fall 2015 – 2016 school year.

If you have any questions, please contact the regional Autism consultant.

Attachment: [Memo-AU PD 2015-16](#)

- Please see the attached regarding Significant Cognitive Disability Foundations of Math (SCDFM) professional development.

If you have any questions, please contact Ronda Layman at ronda.layman@dpi.nc.gov or 919-807-4059.

Attachment: [Memo-Sig Cog Foundations of Math 0915](#)

- Attached is the informational flyer for the Augmentative and Alternative Communication/Assistive Technology (AAC/AT) Interdisciplinary Assessment Team Initiative.

If you have any questions, please contact Ronda Layman at ronda.layman@dpi.nc.gov or 919 807-4059.

Attachment: [Memo-AAC AT Team Initiative 0915](#)

[Flyer-AT Regional Meetings](#)

- Please make the attached tuition reimbursement application available to provisionally licensed teachers seeking coursework in the education of children with disabilities. The deadline for applications is December 4, 2015.

If you have any questions, please contact Thomas Holahan at (919) 807-3596 or Thomas.holahan@dpi.nc.gov.

Attachment: [Memo-Tuition Reimb Fall 15-16 App](#)

[Memo-Tuition Reimb Fall 15-16](#)

- Please see the attached announcement of new staff in the Policy, Monitoring & Audit Section in the EC Division.

Attachment: [New Employee Announcement-PMA 0915](#)

- Attached is information regarding the Fall 2015 meeting of LEA Lead/Representative for school psychology, speech-language pathology, physical therapy, occupational therapy, audiologists and orientation and mobility specialists.

The meeting is October 12 in Greensboro. Each LEA and Charter School is encouraged to send one representative. Registration is required.

Attachment: [Memo-Lead Related Svc Mtg 0915](#)

Accountability Updates

- Please find the attached memo, Read to Achieve Alternative Assessments, from Rebecca Garland and Tammy Howard, to all Charter School Directors.

Attachment: [RTA Alternative Assessment 091115 RG TH](#)

- **NC Report Card Release Date**

In order to provide a more complete picture of school quality, the release of the North Carolina School Report Cards has been delayed until late fall of 2015. Certain key data, including teacher and principal quality measures and other academic indicators, will not be available for the release initially scheduled for Oct. 15. All of the READY Accountability data continue to be available in spreadsheet format on the NC Department of Public Instruction's Accountability [website](#). Questions regarding the delay may be directed to North Carolina State Report Card Coordinator [Diane Dulaney](#)