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# **PreK-12 Innovation Subcommittee**

**October 11, 2017**

**3:30 PM**

**Mashburn Hall (306 HOB)**

**Meeting Packet**

# Committee Meeting Notice

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

### PreK-12 Innovation Subcommittee

**Start Date and Time:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 03:30 pm  
**End Date and Time:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 05:30 pm  
**Location:** Mashburn Hall (306 HOB)  
**Duration:** 2.00 hrs

Department of Education update on implementation of rules and policy related to school choice

Panel discussion on turnaround process in Jefferson County

**NOTICE FINALIZED on 10/04/2017 4:15PM by Jones.Missy**





FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF  
**EDUCATION**  
fldoe.org

# Florida DOE Update: Educational Choice

October 11, 2017

Florida House of Representatives

K-12 Innovation Subcommittee

Presented by: Adam Miller, Executive Director,  
Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice

## Gardiner Scholarship Eligibility Changes

- Gardiner Scholarship Program was established in 2014 to provide the option for a parent to better meet the individual educational needs of his or her eligible child.
- Serves students with specified disabilities
- House Bill 15 passed during the 2017 legislative session added the following diagnoses for purposes of eligibility:
  - Rare diseases (affect fewer than 200,000)
  - Anaphylaxis
  - Deaf
  - Visually impaired
  - Dual sensory impaired
  - Traumatic brain injured
  - Hospital or homebound

## Gardiner Scholarship

- 2016-17 School Year
  - 8,099 students served
- 2017-18
  - Total Scholarship Funding Available- approx. \$105 Million
  - 8,547 students as of August 30



## Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program

- The Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program was established in 2001 to expand educational opportunities and ensure that all parents, regardless of means, may educate their child as they see fit.
- House Bill 15 revised the formula for determining the maximum scholarship amount per student to address the cost differentials between elementary, middle and high schools.

## Florida Tax Credit Scholarship

- The base amount awarded to a student is determined as a percentage of the unweighted FTE funding amount for the fiscal year as follows:
  - 88% K-5 (\$6420)
  - 92% 6-8 (\$6712)
  - 96% 9-12 (\$7004)
- FTC Participation 2016-17
  - 98,936 students



## Charter School Statutory Revisions in HB 7069

- Charter School Application Process
  - Beginning in 2018 and thereafter, the deadline for submitting a charter school application is February 1, instead of the current deadline of August 1.
    - The February 1 application deadline is for new charter schools to open 18 months later, at the beginning of the district's school year.
  - The provision in law that allowed a charter school applicant to submit a draft application by May 1 to receive feedback from the district was removed.

## Charter School Statutory Revisions in HB 7069

- If a district denies a charter school application submitted by a high-performing charter school or high-performing charter school system and the applicant appeals the denial, the appeal will be heard by the Charter School Appeal Commission. The Charter School Appeal Commission will then issue a recommendation to the State Board of Education, and the State Board will issue a final order.
  - Prior to this change, if a district denied an application submitted by a high-performing charter school and the applicant appealed the denial, the appeal bypassed the Charter School Appeal Commission and went directly to the State Board of Education.



## Charter School Statutory Revisions in HB 7069

- Standard Charter School Contract
  - For purposes of contract negotiations, districts and charter schools are required to use the standard charter school contract, adopted by the State Board of Education (State Board of Education Rule 6A-6.0786, F.A.C.). The law was revised to further clarify that any term or condition of a proposed charter contract that differs from the standard contract will be presumed a limitation on charter school flexibility.
- Accountability and School Improvement
  - A charter school that earns three consecutive grades below a “C” is required to choose one of the academic corrective action plans specified in law (contract for educational services, contract with an outside entity, reorganization, or voluntary closure).
    - This requirement was previously triggered when a school received three consecutive grades of “D”, two “D” grades followed by a grade of “F”, or two non-consecutive grades of “F” in a three-year period.

## Charter School Statutory Revisions in HB 7069

- Accountability and School Improvement
  - The Florida Department of Education (department) is no longer required to publish one specific charter school comparative performance report (previously required by s. 1002.33(21)(b)3.a., F.S.). These small schools now receive a school grade, making the report unnecessary. This requirement was originally intended to provide performance information for charter schools that had more than 10 but less than 30 students with state assessment scores.
  - The department is still required to develop and publish the Charter School Student Achievement Report required in s. 1002.33(23), Florida Statutes (F.S.). This report includes more than 175 comparisons of academic performance of students in charter schools and similar students in traditional public schools. The most recent report can be found at the following link: [Student Achievement Reports](#).



# Charter School Statutory Revisions in HB 7069

- Charter School Survey

- Beginning in the 2017-18 year, each charter school will be required to complete and submit an annual survey, provided in a format specified by the department, to rate the timeliness and quality of services the district provides pursuant to s. 1002.33(20), F.S. The department is required to compile the results, by district, and include the results in the Annual Authorizer Report.

- Local Education Agency Status

- Charter schools that meet each of the following requirements may be designated a local education agency for the purpose of receiving federal funds:
  - Has all schools located in same county;
  - Has total enrollment exceeding the total enrollment of at least one school district in the state; and
  - Has the same governing board for all schools.
- The governing board must adopt and file a resolution with its sponsoring district and the department and accept full responsibility for all local education agency requirements related to the federal programs.
- Additionally, a governing board that is operating a system of charter schools within a district that are established pursuant to s. 1008.33, F.S., may also be designated as a local education agency for the purpose of receiving federal funds.



# Charter School Statutory Revisions in HB 7069

- High-Performing Charter Schools (Section 1002.331, F.S.)
  - A charter school that has been designated as high-performing pursuant to s. 1002.331, F.S., may replicate more than once in any year if it establishes the new school in the area of a persistently low-performing school and serves students from that school.
- High-Performing Charter School Systems (Section 1002.332, F.S.)
  - A charter school system that has been designated as a high-performing system, pursuant to s. 1002.332, F.S., may replicate its high-performing charter schools in any school district in the state using a new standard charter school application that will be developed by the department which includes:
    - Goals and objectives for improving student learning
    - An annual financial plan for each year of the charter
    - Academic and financial history of all schools operated by the governing board and education services provider, if applicable.
  - If the district fails to act on a high-performing system replication application within 90 days after receipt, the application is deemed approved.
  - The department will adopt the new standard application through the rule development process beginning this fall.

# Charter School Statutory Revisions in HB 7069: Implementation

- Proposed State Board of Education Rule Revisions
  - Rule 6A-6.0788- Notice Requirements: Repeal rule
    - Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: August 16, 2017
    - September 13, 2017: State Board of Education
  - Rule 6A-1.099827- Charter School Corrective Action and School Improvement Plans: Revise rule to conform to new criteria (3 years below grade of “C”)
    - July 20, 2017: Notice of Development
    - August 16, 2017: Notice of Proposed Rule Making
    - September 13, 2017: State Board of Education
  - Rule 6A-6.0781- Charter School Appeals Rule: Revise rule to address changes to High-Performing replication appeals
    - July 11, 2017: Notice of Development
    - August 16, 2017: Notice of Proposed Rule Making
    - October 18, 2017: State Board of Education
  - Rule 6A-6.0786- Model Forms for Charter Schools and Sponsors: Create new model application for High-Performing System Replications
    - August 24, 2017: Notice of Rule Development
    - October 6, 2017: Rule Development workshops
    - November 15, 2017: State Board of Education

## Schools of Hope: Traditional Public Schools

- Turnaround Grants
  - Up to 25 grants for traditional public schools for up to \$2,000 per FTE
  - Bureau of School Improvement hosted two webinars for districts
    - 57 schools applied
    - Recommendation to State Board of Education on October 18



## Schools of Hope: Charter Schools

- The State Board of Education (SBE) must promulgate rules to:
  - Establish process to designate charter school organizations as Hope Operators
  - Establish eligibility criteria for Hope Operator designation
  - Establish process for Hope Operators to open Schools of Hope
  - Adopt forms
    - Application for Hope Operator Designation
    - Notice of Intent
    - Performance-Based Agreement

## Schools of Hope: Charter Schools

- The Department will adopt rule in 2 stages
  - Stage 1 will focus on procedures and forms
  - Stage 2 will establish the SBE criteria
- Stage 1
  - Describe process to apply to State Board of Education for Hope Operator designation (using criteria already established in law)
  - Describe process to submit Notice of Intent and negotiate Performance-Based Agreement
  - Adopt forms
    - Hope Operator Application
    - Notice of Intent
    - Performance Based Agreement
- Rule development initiated on July 11, 2017



## Schools of Hope: Charter Schools

- Hope Operator Criteria:
  - Organization must meet both:
    - 501(c)(3) Non-Profit status
    - Operate 3 or more charter schools with record of serving students from low-income families
  - Law allows charter school organizations that also meet one of the following criteria to be designated as Hope Operator prior to the State Board of Education establishing its own criteria:
    - Awarded US Department of Education Charter School Program Grant for Replication and Expansion of High-Quality Charter Schools within last 3 years;
    - Receives funding through National Fund of the Charter School Growth Fund; or
    - Is selected by district school board as turnaround school

## Schools of Hope: Charter Schools

- Rule Development: Stage 2
  - SBE will establish criteria for Hope Operator designation based on following standards:
    1. The achievement of enrolled students exceeds the district and state averages of the states in which the operator's schools operate;
    2. The average college attendance rate at all schools currently operated by the operator exceeds 80 percent, if such data is available;
    3. The percentage of students eligible for a free or reduced price lunch under the National School Lunch Act enrolled at all schools currently operated by the operator exceeds 70 percent;
    4. The operator is in good standing with the authorizer in each state in which it operates;
    5. The audited financial statements of the operator are free of material misstatements and going concern issues; and
    6. Other outcome measures as determined by the State Board of Education.
  - When SBE adopts criteria, the criteria established in law are no longer valid

## Schools of Hope: Charter Schools

- Rule Development Timeline
- Stage 1
  - July 11: Published Notice of Rule Development
  - August-October: Developing draft rule and forms
  - October: Stakeholder feedback and input
  - November: State Board of Education adoption
- Stage 2
  - November-December: Initiate stakeholder conversations
  - December: Publish Notice of rule development
  - February-March: Rule adopted by State Board of Education



## Jefferson County Charter School Transition

- Jefferson County School Board requested presentations from 3 charter school operators
- School Board requested full proposal from Somerset Academy Charter Schools
- Somerset prepared charter school proposals for an elementary (prek-5), middle (6-8) and high school (9-12)
- School Board reviewed proposals and approved on March 21, 2017

## Jefferson County Charter School Transition

- Somerset and District immediately began negotiating charter contracts
  - Standard charter school contract was used as starting point and revised as needed
- Department created a Jefferson Charter Transition Team comprised of school and community members
  - Bi-weekly conference calls to ensure all parties received timely and accurate information on transition
- Charter Contracts approved by Jefferson County School Board on April 18, 2017



## Jefferson County Charter School Transition

- Somerset responsible for all day-to-day educational operations for all PreK-12 students:
  - Curriculum
  - Instruction
  - Preschool/After School
  - Transportation
  - Meals
  - Extracurricular and Athletics
- Somerset responsible for operations and maintenance of physical plant

## Jefferson County Charter School Transition

- District responsible for monitoring and oversight of charter school
  - Reviewing monthly financial reports
  - Monitoring academic progress and outcomes
  - Serving as fiscal agent for state and local funding
  - Monitoring compliance with terms of charter contract



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# Somerset Jefferson County K-12

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A PATHWAY TO PARTNERSHIP AND EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE





# The State of Affairs in Jefferson County

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- Persistently low academic performance
- District is in a state of financial emergency
- Students leaving Jefferson to attend school in adjacent counties
  - Approximately 1450-1500 children should be attending Jefferson Schools
  - Only 715 students in attendance at the conclusion of the 16-17 school year
  - Current student enrollment is 763
- Multiple meetings with the school and community
- 100% of the students in Jefferson County are direct certified free and reduced lunch

# The Process of Change

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We are leveraging our network of experts under the Academica umbrella to support Jefferson, including:

- Somerset Academy Inc.
- Pinecrest Academy Inc.
- Doral Academy Inc.
- Mater Academy Inc.




# Staffing Initiatives

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- Somerset gave all Jefferson County employees preference prior to opening interviews to out-of-county applicants
  - Jefferson teachers submitted resumes, credentials and evaluations prior to being observed in the classroom using our network of principals
  - Teachers were then interviewed the following day using a self-made evaluation tool
  - Support staff (custodians, clerical, maintenance) were interviewed later in the process
  - For teachers and staff with 25 or more years in the Florida Retirement System (FRS), Somerset committed to making the required contribution to FRS of behalf of the employee, allowing them to remain in the system
  - Somerset also created a pay scale that would rival that of any large school district in Florida
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# Improved Facilities

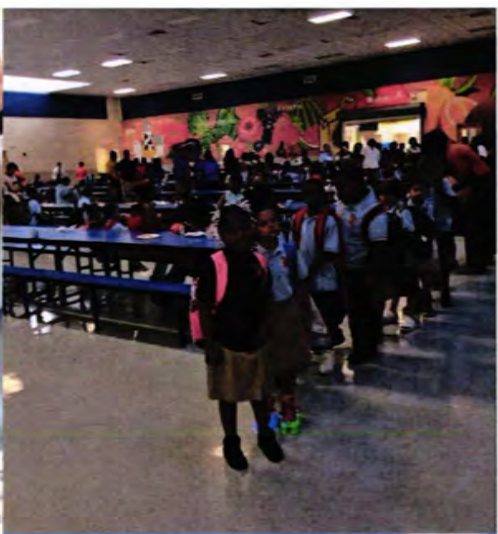
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- Moved all students, K-12, to one campus
  - Added new landscaping and signage for the entire campus
  - Built new outdoor courts and play areas for both elementary and middle/high
  - Added a state-of-the art Culinary Arts Lab
  - Refinished the gym floor and added new logos
  - Painted the entire inside of the facility
  - Rebranded the cafeteria and completely revamped the lunch program
  - Upgraded the technology infrastructure and purchased new computers, laptop carts and clear touch panels for every classroom
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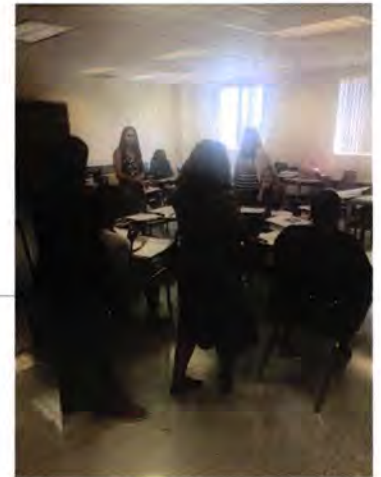


# Building Teacher Capacity

- Teachers reported two weeks prior to the beginning of the school for a professional seminar
  - Curriculum training was conducted by content area experts throughout our network of schools
  - Curriculum materials were selected with the input of our most experienced and successful schools
- Curriculum support teams were created to work with each accountability area, including:
  - K-2
  - 3-5 Reading
  - 3-5 Math
  - Science grade 5, 8 and Biology
  - Math grades 6-8
  - ELA grades 6-8
  - ELA grades 9-10
  - EOC Algebra 1 and Geometry
  - Civics and US History

Curriculum support teams were divided into two teams for each area with one administrator leading each team and two content resource teachers.

- Each team visits Somerset Jefferson a minimum of every three weeks for two and one half days.
- The teams constantly communicate with the teachers they support and provide training and pacing guides for teachers to follow





# Community and Parents

- Parent informational meetings were held for both elementary and middle/high parents
- Somerset personnel went to church to meet parents where they were most comfortable
- The Somerset Board of Directors appointed a parent and community leader as advisors to the board from Jefferson County
- Parents were provided free after and before care for students in grades PK-8 and free uniforms for students in grades PK-12
- Somerset invited all parents over a two-day period to sit with counselors and review the progress and schedule of their student(s)
- A school-sponsored kick off barbeque for students, parents and community members on the Saturday prior to the opening of school provided everyone an opportunity to meet
- New principal attended community meetings with various local organizations



# Tiger Pride and Our Students

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- During the Summer Somerset hosted Tiger camp for students in grades K-8 with the most outstanding graduates from across our network of schools
- Camp was conducted to assist students in getting a head start to the school year in reading and math
  - Graduates now attend schools such as:
    - Harvard, Yale, Stanford, Duke, MIT, University of Florida, Johns Hopkins, Florida State, Williams College
- New football, cheerleading and dance uniforms were purchased
- New band equipment was purchased
- New program called Tiger Time was created to assist students with academic progress
  - Four days per week after school, students can attend clubs and/or get additional tutoring assistance