

# FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

## CHARTER SCHOOLS OFFICE



### November-December 2024

### News and Updates

November 8, 2024 | Volume 24 | Issue 4



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 the November-December newsletter! With the first few months of the academic school year behind you, many of you are, hopefully, finally settling into a rhythm.

On Oct. 19, we hosted our first Charter Schools Day event on the Ferris State University campus. We welcomed seven schools—Clara B. Ford Academy, Creative Technologies Academy, Hope Academy of West Michigan, Hope of Detroit Academy, Marshall Academy, Michigan Collegiate, and Voyageur Academy—for a full day of activities, including a football game, food, and academic presentations. Over 150 students and staff joined us, making it a memorable experience for all involved. If you were part of this day, the CSO and Ferris State University extend a heartfelt thank you!

We're pleased to announce that the redesigned Contract Performance Reports (CPRs) for each academy are now ready for review. We've scheduled visits to board meetings where we will present the CPRs and introduce board members and school leaders to our new support model. These visits will take place throughout November and December, so if you're a board member or school leader, expect to see the CSO team soon! On Nov. 5, we also held a Zoom meeting to share these changes with school leaders and representatives from various management companies. If you missed it, a link to the recording will be available below. As always, please reach out with any questions.

This month, we also began our new School Support Meeting process, led by our Associate Director, Margaret Baker. These meetings involve a deep dive into data across key pillars—Academic, Fiscal, Operations, and Compliance. Our goal is to leverage data and observations to identify areas where our schools might need additional support. Through these efforts, we aim to strengthen our partnerships with academies by focusing on areas of meaningful need. We'll keep all academy stakeholders informed as we progress.

We're excited about the year ahead and look forward to deepening our partnerships with academy boards and leaders to support their growth and success. Thank you for the opportunity to work with you!

[Watch the CPR Zoom Recording Here](#)





**Chris Loiselle**

Director of the Charter Schools Office

chrisloiselle@ferris.edu

Cell: (616) 591-7825

Office: (231) 591-5907



**Competitive Grant Applications are Due on Nov. 15**

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 projects that do not fit the first three areas. The total amount of funds for the grant program offered by the Ferris State University Charter Schools Office this year is \$400,000.

Applications are due to Epicenter no later than 5:00 p.m. on Nov. 15, 2024. Academies will be notified of their grant status no later than Nov. 29, 2024. Grant awards will be disbursed with Dec. 2024 state aid payments.

Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to receive funding for your academy!

[Read the Competitive Grant Flyer and Application Here](#)

**Messages from our Associate Director**

**MAPSA Symposium Reminder**

As you look forward, learning and helping all students succeed, make sure you register for the MAPSA Symposium! This is a tremendous professional development and networking opportunity for all academies. Each Ferris-authorized charter academy

will receive a discount.

The CSO will be hosting a Lunch and Learn session on Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> from 11:30am – 12:30pm. Come for lunch, and we will share information about the new support model and answer questions.



**Margaret Baker**  
Associate Director of the  
Charter Schools Office  
margaretbaker@ferris.edu  
Office: (231) 591-5803

[Access the Registration Form Here](#)

### **Special Education Updates**

Please reach out to the CSO if you need support with special education information. We are here as a resource for you to support your students with disabilities!

### **Board Meeting Visits**

Also on the agenda, we will be attending upcoming board meetings and visiting several academies in November. We look forward to bringing the Contract Performance Reports (CPRs) and discussing the new support model in the near future.

If you have a pressing need or questions, please contact the CSO office.

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## **Leadership in Charter Schools: A Path to Innovation and Community Engagement**

Charter schools offer innovative approaches to teaching and learning. Central to success is strong leadership, which plays a pivotal role in shaping school culture, driving academic performance, and fostering community relationships.

Effective leaders in charter schools are often entrepreneurial, willing to embrace change, flexible, and capable of implementing unique curricula. Strong leadership is essential for creating a vision that aligns with the school's mission, values, and works toward common goals.

### **Community Engagement**

Charter school leaders also serve as critical liaisons between the school and the community by building strong relationships with parents and local organizations and

showcasing success.

This leadership not only strengthens the school community but also enhances student learning. By advocating for their schools and sharing achievements, they can help shift narratives and promote a positive image, which is essential for attracting new students and maintaining community support.

Leadership in charter schools is a dynamic and multifaceted role that requires vision, innovation, and community engagement. As these schools continue to evolve, effective leaders will remain at the forefront, driving change and improving educational outcomes for students.

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## Messages from our School Support Specialist

### Upcoming Professional Development Offerings

The Charter Schools Office will be offering three virtual sessions for all academies in the FSU portfolio.

All of the sessions are open to school leaders and their leadership team. This training is being offered to help all leaders have a better understanding of the new NWEA report formats and to train the leadership team with valuable information for their staff. Zoom links will be sent to all participants once registration has closed.

**Please sign up by Friday, Nov. 8, 2024.**

#### **Session #1 Focus: School Leaders and their Team**

November 12, 2024

9:00 am - 11:00 am

- **School Profile Report:** You can use the school profile report to quickly compare and track trends, identify classes that need additional support, evaluate the results of major changes, and more!
- **Class Profile Report:** You can use the class profile report to access streamlined information about your class and your students' testing status, slice data to make informed instructional decisions, and understand the strengths and opportunity areas that can serve as a starting point for formative assessments and temporary flexible learning groups.

#### **Session #2 Focus: "Teacher Information" for the School Leadership Team**

December 18, 2024

9:00 am - 10:00 am



**Beth Taylor**

School Support Specialist

[bethtaylor@ferris.edu](mailto:bethtaylor@ferris.edu)

Office: (231) 591-5805



- **Getting Ready for MOY Testing:** Prepare your students for mid-year testing by using student resources, practice tests, and videos based on your data from the test details tab in the class profile report.
- **Instructional Connections:** Whether you are looking for deeply integrated curriculum and assessment—or simply want your assessments to connect directly to the learning tools you already trust—we’ve got you covered. We will explore instructional connections to help supplement your teaching and support student needs!

### **Session #3 Focus: “Teacher Information” for the School Leadership Team**

February 19, 2025

9:00 am - 10:00 am

- **Achievement Status and Growth Report with Quadrant Chart :** This session will show three pictures of growth, all based on national norms:
  - Projections, which will allow you to set student growth goals
  - A summary comparison of two terms, which will allow you to evaluate efforts
  - An interactive quadrant chart, which will allow you to visualize growth comparisons

[NWEA PD Sign-up Link](#)

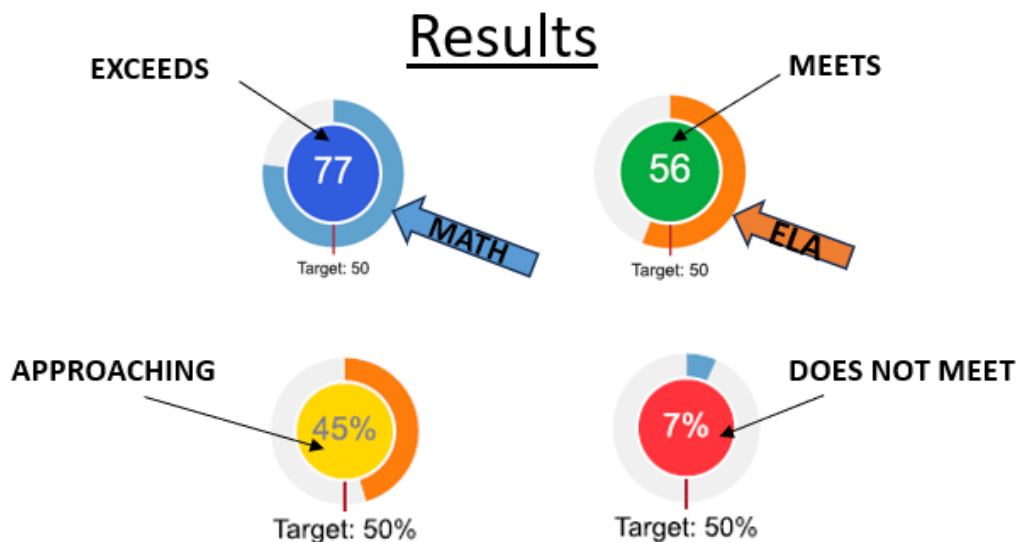
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## **Contract Performance Reports Have a New Academic Format**

The CSO has been working hard to give the charts and graphs in the annual Contract Performance Reports (CPRs) a fresh look. Below is a guide to some of the changes that have been made.

- All academic contractual goals are posed as a question at the top of each corresponding chart.
- The contractual goals pertaining to the State Index Reports will always show the previous year's data + a minimum of a 3-year trend.
  - Due to MDE's release timeline, this data will always be a year behind all other data in the CPR. The CSO will take the progress trend into account when assigning Tier levels of support.
    - Once this score becomes available, the CSO will update the information in Epicenter to then evaluate if contractual goals were met.
- **Subject area color coding:**
  - Reading/ELA/EBRW will always be shown in orange
  - Math will always be shown in light blue
- A red line has been added to all of the graphs and charts to show where the contractual target is compared to the results of the academy.

- Circle graphs (affectionately referred to as “donuts”) hold the direct answer to the question above it.
  - The outside of the circle depicts the subject area
  - The target is shown with a red line
  - The inside of the circle shows the results of the academy
- **Results codes are similar to state and NWEA testing:**
  - **Dark Blue:** Exceeds the contractual goal
  - **Green:** Meets the contractual goal
  - **Yellow:** Approaching the contractual goal
  - **Red:** Does Not Meet the contractual goal



Members of the CSO staff will be coming to board meetings over the next few months to share the results of each academy's CPR and explain the new format.

Please reach out to Beth Taylor if you have any questions.

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## Messages from our Compliance & Governance Specialist

### FSU Board of Trustees Meeting Dates and Deadlines



**Sharon Hopper**  
Compliance &



FSU Board of Trustees Meeting Dates	Board Candidate Application Epicenter Deadline	Request for Charter Contract Amendment Deadline	CSO Deadline to submit all BOT-related documents
December 12, 2024	October 28, 2024*	November 4, 2024**	November 11, 2024
February 14, 2025	December 30, 2024*	January 6, 2025**	January 10, 2025
May 9, 2025	March 31, 2025*	April 7, 2025**	April 11, 2025

*\* No later than this deadline, the Academy Board must formally recommend board candidates for appointment. Also, the candidate's application/conflict of interest questionnaire, resume, and proof of US citizenship must be submitted in Epicenter.*

*\*\* No later than this deadline, the Academy Board must formally approve a Board Resolution for a Charter Contract Amendment. Also, the Academy Board must send the signed Board Resolution to the CSO Director for consideration.*



## Exciting Things Happening in the CSO

### Charter School Day Success

On Oct. 19, 2024, the Charter Schools Office and the Ferris State University community welcomed students from the following academies for the first ever Charter School Day:

1. Clara B. Ford Academy



2. Creative Technologies Academy
3. Hope Academy of West Michigan
4. Hope of Detroit Academy
5. Marshall Academy
6. Michigan Collegiate
7. Voyageur Academy

Participating charter school students were able to enjoy:

- A complementary breakfast,
- Opportunities to explore student organizations on campus
- Presentations from FSU college representatives
- A tour of the recently constructed Center for Virtual Learning
- A lunch at Top Taggart Field
- A Ferris football game
- An optional dinner at The Rock Cafe

The Charter Schools Office has been working hard to foster positive relationships with Ferris freshman that previously attended a Ferris-authorized charter school, and some of these students were able to volunteer as guides during Charter School Day. We thank them tremendously for their time.

We hope the students enjoyed attending Charter School Day as much as we enjoyed hosting them!







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## Welcome Red Oak Academy

Red Oak Academy, Ferris' newest authorized charter school, opened its doors this fall. Red Oak Academy is located in Clinton Township, Michigan. It is a multi-cultural, public, K-8 academy led by Mohammed Ishtiaq.



We are so excited about the opening of this academy, and we look forward to our future together!

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## Thank you Tom Butcher!

In October, Tom Butcher visited the CSO to talk a bit about his work with Michigan charter schools. During this visit, he donated a display that features two pieces of legislation that correspond to major developments involving the establishment and operations of Michigan charter schools.



Tom Butcher is an alumnus of Ferris State University and Thomas M. Cooley Law School. Tom served as the vice president emeritus and general counsel at Grand Valley State University. He was also awarded the National Association of College and University Attorneys Distinguished Service Award.

Thank you Tom for sharing your story with us!



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## 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

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### Contact Us

Ferris State  
University



Charter Schools Office  
1020 Maple Street  
Big Rapids, MI 49307  
(231) 591-5802



[Visit our Website](#)

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Ferris State University Charter Schools Office | FSU-CSO 1020 Maple St | Big Rapids, MI 49307 US

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