



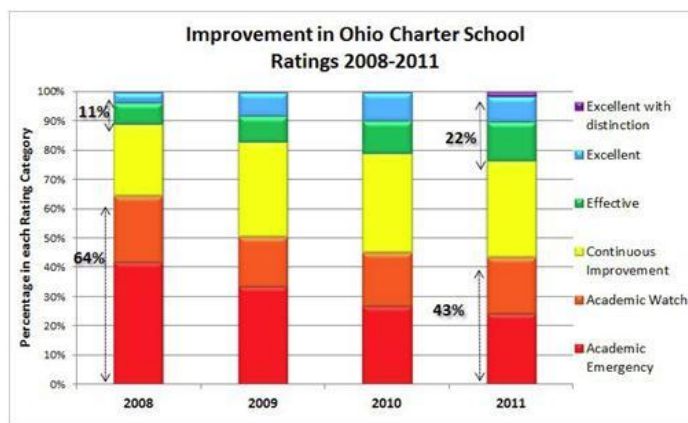
August 25, 2011

Inside this issue

- [Notes from the CEO Bill Sims](#)
- [Charter School Law Workshop](#)
- [2nd School Leader Consortium](#)
- [FREE Regional Value-Added Workshops for Community Schools this Fall](#)
- [Charters Move into District School Buildings](#)
- [Columbus Preparatory Academy](#)
- ["Excellent with Distinction" Pep Rally](#)
- [STATE CONFERENCE EXHIBITOR REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!](#)
- [Stunning News from E-Rate](#)

Notes from the CEO Bill Sims

The testing results and school performance ratings for the 2010-2011 school year demonstrate very encouraging four-year trends in the overall performance of community schools in Ohio. The percentage of community schools with Excellent/Excellent with Distinction or Effective ratings over the past four years has doubled while the percent of schools in Academic Watch or Academic Emergency has decreased by 33%.



These trend lines, down for poor performing schools and up for good performing schools, show a consistent improvement pattern over time and tell a story about how seriously community schools are taking their commitment to quality performance. Our goal as a charter school community is to make sure these trend lines continue because these results demonstrate clearly that community schools are adding substantial value to Ohio public education, particularly in Ohio's urban centers where the achievement gap is the most glaring.

- [We are on Facebook](#)
- [Internet Access for Low Income Families: Information Your Schools Can Use to Leverage Student Achievement](#)
- [Please note community school change of address procedures](#)
- [Charter School Playing Football on National Television](#)

Articles of Interest...

ides of ODE-August 2011

A monthly newsletter from the Office of Curriculum and Assessment. [Click here to read the latest edition.](#)

EDUCATION NOTES: CHARTER SCHOOLS TOUT REPORT CARD RESULTS

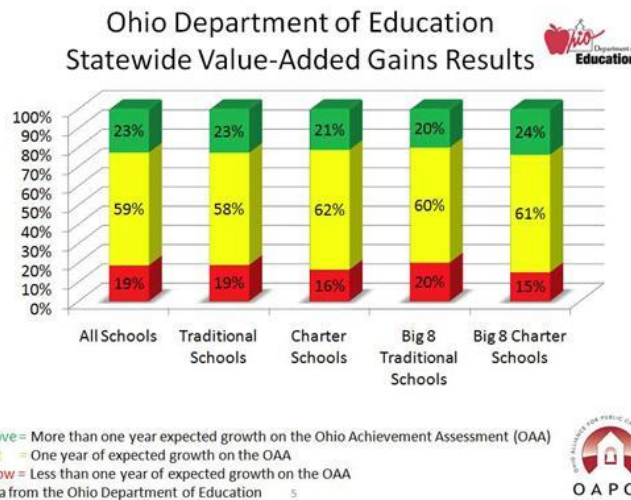
[Click here to read the full article.](#)

Contact Us

Ohio Alliance for Public Charter Schools

33 N. Third Street,
Suite 600
Office: (614) 744-2266
Fax: (614) 744-2255
www.oapcs.org

At the same time, data obtained from ODE demonstrate that community schools continued to do well on the value-added scores that measure student growth in 2010-2011. Value-added data scores indicate whether students at the school achieved a year's expected growth in learning, or if they achieved below or above expected growth.



These performance-rating reports and value-added results form credible evidence of the positive contribution community schools are making to public education in Ohio. For more on the value-added data, go here on our website to see the regional breakdown of the 2010-2011 results.

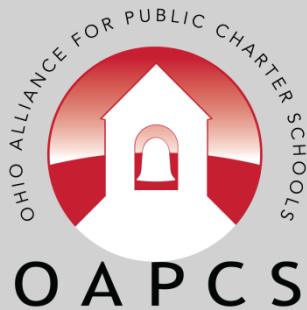
We are proud of the continued progress community charter schools are making. Let's keep the trend lines going in the current directions.

Finally, there are some wonderful stories about charter schools that are soaring. It would literally take pages to tell all of them. Management companies whose schools are all doing exceedingly well, schools that have gone from emergency to excellent with distinction in 3-4 years, schools that have been maintaining their excellent rating for several years now, and 5 charters this year with excellent with distinction grades. We'll tell some of these stories in future editions and on our website. Stay tuned.

[Top](#)

Charter School Law Workshop

Quick Links



[Advocacy](#)

[Events](#)

[Quality Values and Principles](#)



Workshop for Community School Leaders and Board Members

Are you aware of all of the recent changes to education and charter school law? Do your policies and procedures comply with existing regulations? Are you looking for a handbook that makes Ohio's charter school law more accessible and easier to understand?

Gain a better understanding of some of the most complex legal issues facing Ohio Community Schools from some of Columbus's expert charter school attorneys.

Presenters will include:

Julia Bauer, *Scott, Scriven, and Wahoff, LLP*

Amy Borman, *Eastman and Smith, LTD*

Edmund Brown, *Ulmer and Berne, LLP*

Jamie Callender and Diem Kaelber, *Buckley King, LPA*

Tim Clements, *Nicola, Gudbranson & Cooper, LLC*

Allen Jones, *Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Aronoff, LLP*

Sandra McIntosh, *Freund, Freeze, and Arnold, LPA*

Sarah Moore, *Roetzel and Andress, LPA*

Elizabeth Smith, *Vorys, Satyr, and Pease, LLP*

When:

Friday, September 16, from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Location: Capital University Law School 303 E. Broad Street Columbus, OH 43215 in Room 245

Cost (This includes lunch): \$100.00 OAPCS Members \$200 Non-members

Please register by September 13th, 2011. [To register now, click here.](#)

[Top](#)

2nd School Leader Consortium



OAPCS School Leader Consortium was created to provide a forum for charter school operators to discuss common advocacy, operational, technical, and academic issues. It is also a forum for sharing best practices and school innovation.

OAPCS School Leader Consortium is an informal gathering of professionals. Its agenda is the product of its members. The OAPCS provides meeting facilities and a conference bridge for those interested in participating by phone. There are no costs associated with consortium membership other than membership in the OAPCS.

When: September 23rd, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Location: TBD

[Click here for the Registration Form](#)

[Top](#)

FREE Regional Value-Added Workshops for Community Schools this Fall

Don't miss these informative sessions! If you serve grades any of grades 4-8, value added data impacts your school in many ways:

- the ranking system (increase one designation for overall "Above," decrease one designation with two consecutive overall "Belows"),
- charter school closure,
- and, increasingly, teacher and principal evaluations (mandated as 50% of teacher effectiveness ratings for RttT participating schools).

New this year, students' historical data now travels across LEA's - meaning that ALL charter school students (in grades 4-8), will have value added data (if they have previous data from Ohio schools). By fall of 2013, math and reading teachers for grades 4-8 will receive teacher-level value-added reports.

OAPCS' VP of School Performance and Accountability, Marianne Lombardo, has been selected, along with Lenny Schafer and Sue Newell of Ohio Council of Community Schools, to assist Batelle in assuring that Community School

value added issues and needs are addressed. They will participating in the 2-day community school workshops to be held:

- September 22 & 23: Columbus
- October 10 & 11: Akron
- October 14 & 15: Cincinnati
- October 20 & 21: Toledo
- October 24 & 25: Columbus

These workshops are open to ALL charter schools - NOT just those participating in Race to the Top, and are geared to schools serving any of grades 4-8. Registration is through STARS, and requires a DVAL Selection form. School Leaders should select a Value Added Leader from their staff that has a 1) willingness to lead the charge in their school to make value-added information a diagnostic tool for instructional improvement, 2) a willingness to build others' capacity to use value-added reports, 3) strong relationship-building skills, 4) an understanding of educational improvement and change leadership, and 5) strong experience using multiple data sources to inform instructional improvement.

The responsibilities of the Community Value-Added Leader will be: 1) attend a Community School Value-Added Leader Workshop in the fall, 2) work directly with VALs, 3) partner with building administrators to co-facilitate information sharing and training on how to use value-added data with staff members, 4) build the capacity of building-level teams and teacher based teams to use value-added reports for diagnostic purposes, 5) arrange EVAAS® access for appropriate stakeholders, 6) deliver updates to staff members, and 7) assist with the collection of participant feedback.

School leaders should submit a Selection Form by September 2, 2011, via Fax to (614) 481-8997 or E-mail to OhioRttT@BattelleforKids.org. Please feel free to contact Marianne if any questions (614) 744-2266 ext. 201 or mlombardo@oapcs.org. We look forward to seeing you there!

[Top](#)

Charters Move into District School Buildings



This fall, several charter schools across the state will operate in former district buildings—and at one location in Cleveland, a charter and district school will be sharing a facility.

The Near West Intergenerational School, part of the Cleveland-based Breakthrough Network of charters, opens September 1 in the Garrett Morgan school building in Ohio City. The charter school will be in the basement; above it will be the Cleveland School of Science magnet

high school.

Another Breakthrough school, Citizens Leadership Academy, will operate its school out of the old Charles Orr School in the University Circle part of the city.

A few former Columbus district schools are also now being used by charters. Columbus Collegiate Academy moved into the old Main Street Elementary building. Last month, the Graham Expeditionary Middle School, aka “GEMS,” GEMS moved into the Indianola Alternative Elementary School, located near the Ohio State University. And a brand new charter school, the Academy of New Media Middle School, will open its doors in the building previously occupied by the Douglass Alternative School.

These are just a few examples from across the state of charters using district space, but recent changes in state law should lead to many more. Under the two-year budget passed at the end of June, school districts must offer to sell or lease buildings that have not been used for at least two years to charter schools.

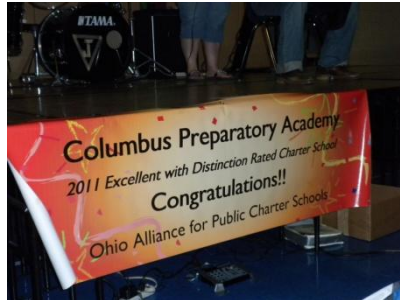
Still, despite positive changes in the law and these examples from Cleveland and Columbus, OAPCS knows that finding appropriate facilities will remain a big challenge for our members. We will continue to push for more changes to help charters get the buildings and space you need to do your job.

[Top](#)

Columbus Preparatory Academy "Excellent with Distinction" Pep Rally

How does a charter school celebrate receiving an “Excellent with Distinction” Local Report Card rating? With a pep rally filled with contests, dancing, head shaving and guest speakers. OAPCS joined Dr. Bob Sommers from the

Governor's Office, Paul Preston from the Ohio Department of Education, Darlene Chambers and Jason Wall from Ohio Council for Community School, the board members of CPA, Mr. Ebbie Parsons from Mosaica and many others as Columbus Preparatory Academy turned their "Excellent with Distinction" school grade into a day of celebration. Performance improvement has been dramatic at Columbus Preparatory Academy (enrollment 700+), as they have finally achieved the highest rating that a public school can achieve. OAPCS was honored to be present on their big day and look forward to more great things from this exciting school. Congratulations to school superintendent Chad Carr and his remarkable group of teachers.



[Top](#)

STATE CONFERENCE EXHIBITOR REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!



There are also several additional marketing opportunities available. Some have limited numbers so register today! This is the one charter school conference that you won't want to miss! [Click here or on the conference logo to the left to go to conference information on our website.](#)

Currently, the companies that are registered to exhibit are: *Abrams Learning Trends, American Reading Company, Association of American Educators, Benchmark Education Company, Editure Professional Development, eSchoolView, FreyScientific, Hamilton County ESC, Hertz Furniture, Innovative Modular Solutions, Measured Progress, Miles Ahead Technology, Mobilease Modular Space, Inc., Portage County Educational Service Center, PSI Associates, Inc., Renaissance Learning, Saxon Publishers, School Pathway, LLC, Signature Learning Resources, SpedTrack, Study Island, Summit Academies, Superkids Reading Program, The Center for Learning, Total Education Solutions,*

Triumph Learning, Twin Towers Learning and Zaner-Bloser.

[Top](#)

Stunning News from E-Rate

An FCC Order released August 23rd reversed prior directives and announced that ALL Priority 2 funding requests at ALL discount levels for FY 2010 will be funded. Also, the FCC directed that \$850 Million of unused funds from prior years be carried forward into FY 2011. The document below answers anticipated questions and answers about the decision, what the Order means, and what actions you may need to take. If you have additional questions, please contact Lorrie Germann, State E-Rate Coordinator, eTech Ohio @ 614.485.6050 or lorrie.germann@etech.ohio.gov

[To review the Question/Answer Document, please click here.](#)

[Top](#)

We are on Facebook



The Ohio Alliance for Public Charter Schools has jumped on the bandwagon and created our own [Facebook page](#). Check it out and become a friend today.

[Top](#)

Internet Access for Low Income Families: Information Your Schools Can Use to Leverage Student Achievement

eTech Ohio, in conjunction with Comcast, has announced an initiative called "Internet Essentials," to make Internet access more available to low-income families. This could enhance your school's programs. Qualifying households with students enrolled in the free lunch program can receive high-speed Internet services for \$9.99/month (with no price increases, activation fees or equipment rental fees), as well as vouchers for deeply discounted computers and technology training. This initiative, "Internet Essentials," is being offered by Comcast for all qualifying families in their service area.

Visit www.internetessentials.com or call 1-855-8-INTERNET (1-855-846-8376) for further information or contact Katy Coy at Katy.Coy@eTech.ohio.gov or 614.485.6030 if you have questions.

[Top](#)

Please note community school change of address procedures



In the past, the Office of Assessment has received notices of address changes from community schools, but is unable to assist in the process. All changes of address for community schools must be submitted to the Office of Community Schools (OCS).

Before a community school can change an address in the Ohio Educational Directory System (OEDS), several documents must be submitted to and approved by OCS. If you need additional information, please contact Mary Cotton at (614) 995-1129 or mary.cotton@ode.state.oh.us

[Top](#)

Charter School Playing Football on National Television



Friendship Collegiate Academy (located in Washington DC) will be the first Charter school playing football on national television on August 28th. Sunday, August 28th at 11 am on ESPN U!

[Top](#)



You are currently subscribed to a mailing list of Ohio Alliance for Public Charter Schools. If you wish to unsubscribe, please click [here](#).