



Quality Standards for Florida Public Charter Schools

Aspiring to the highest standards for the sake of our students

Quality Standard 1. Student Academic Achievement

Our charter school prioritizes student learning through a sound design for its educational program and high expectations for all students.

A quality charter school:

- Maintains high expectations for student achievement;
- Maintains a focus on improving student learning that permeates all levels of the school;
- Offers a curriculum that challenges each student to excel, reflects a commitment to equity, and demonstrates an appreciation of diversity;
- Budgets sufficient resources to support its educational programs and to implement its plans for improvement;
- Supports students in a safe, healthy and nurturing environment to enhance academic performance and instruction;
- Productively engages stakeholders in the decision-making process that promotes a culture of participation, responsibility, and ownership.



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Quality Standard 2. Effective Leadership

The leaders of our charter school are stewards of the charter's mission and vision and carry out their duties in a professional, responsible and ethical manner. Our school leaders are focused on fulfilling the school's mission and achieving success for all students.

The quality charter school leader:

- Has a strong understanding of and ensures compliance with applicable local, state, and federal laws, standards and regulations; Consistently implements the educational program outlined in the school's charter;
- Effectively communicates with and engages stakeholders in the vision and mission of the school;
- Monitors school climate and takes appropriate steps to ensure that it is conducive to student learning and professional development;
- Monitors and evaluates the effectiveness of the curriculum and instructional programs;
- Provides information about students, their performance, and school effectiveness that is meaningful and useful to stakeholders;
- Treats all individuals with fairness, dignity and respect;
- Respects diversity and implements instructional strategies, innovations, and activities that are research based and reflective of best practice.



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Quality Standard 3: Continuous Focus on Increasing Quality

Our charter school engages in a process of continuous self-improvement to increase the effectiveness of its educational program. The school and its governing board regularly assess and evaluate student learning based on stated goals and use this information to make improvements.

A quality charter school:

- Establishes and implements curriculum based on clearly-defined expectations for student learning;
- Gathers, analyzes and uses data and research in making curricular and instructional choices and improvements;
- Bases curriculum and instructional decisions on student assessment results;
- Implements interventions to ensure that students meet expectations for student learning;
- Provides for articulation and alignment between and among all faculty, staff, students, parents/guardians and stakeholders in the accountability for student learning and the school's self-evaluation process;
- Uses the results of programmatic evaluation and student assessment and takes appropriate steps to ensure that students meet expectations for student learning;
- Provides appropriate support for students with special needs;
- Provides professional development for school personnel to help them implement interventions to achieve improvement goals.



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Quality Standard 4: Responsible Governance and Fiscal Accountability

The charter school's governing board establishes and implements board-level policies and governance practices that are focused on student achievement and viable long-term school operations. It fulfills its fiduciary responsibility for public funds and maintains publicly accountable fiscal records.

A quality charter school governing board:

- Defines the mission and purpose of the charter school that serves as a guide to all school operations;
- Selects the principal/administrator, defines the role the principal plays in the overall running of the charter school, and supports the administrator's decision-making regarding day-to-day operations;
- Establishes clear expectations of and assesses the performance of the principal/administrator using a standardized instrument;
- Ensures legal and ethical integrity and maintains accountability;
- Implements successful organizational planning to ensure sufficient resources;
- Ensures appropriate training for new and existing board members and assesses board performance;
- Promotes the mission and programs of the charter school in the community and to the public at-large;
- Shapes, oversees, and bolsters the school's programs and services;



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- Provides proper financial oversight and develops funding sources to ensure the school's long-term financial viability;
- Ensures compliance with applicable local, state, and federal laws, standards and regulations;
- Fulfills its fiduciary responsibility for public funds and maintains publicly accountable fiscal records;
- Recognizes when the school should seek outside support and assistance to improve school operations.