

Charter School An Introduction

Prepared by:

Lake County International Charter School

A k-8th Grade Public Charter School

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Agenda/Topics to Be Covered

- **Charter School Fact Sheet**
- **History of Charter Schools**
 - **Charter School Laws & Funding**
- **An Alternative Education**
- **Accountability**
 - **NCLB**
 - **California Standards**
- **Lake County International Charter School Overview**
- **Q & A**

Fact Sheet

- **May 2008**
 - **1,259,571** students attending
 - **4,303** public charter schools in **40** states & District of Columbia
- 2007-2008 school year **362** new public charter schools opened
- Public charter schools comprise **3%** of all public schools (based on student population)
- Arizona has the highest market share of students in public charter schools – **57%**

Fact Sheet - continued

- **There are limits or caps on the number of charter schools that may exist in 26 states**
- **Minority students make up 60% of all students in public charter schools (2006-2007)**
- **Public charter schools only receive 78% of the average per-pupil funding of school districts per-pupil funding**

Source: National Alliance for Public Charter Schools

- **School Choice**
 - **Fundamental to the public charter school concept**
 - **Recent public poll (April 2008)**
 - **77%** of registered voters favor giving more parents more options when choosing a public school for their children

UTRL: <http://www.publiccharters.org/aboutschools/factsheet>

History

- **Charter School Movement roots in reform movement**
 - **Alternative schools**
 - **Site-based management**
 - **Magnet schools**
 - **Public choice**
 - **Privatization, and**
 - **Community parental empowerment schools**

History

- Term “**Charter**”
 - Originated in **1970s**
 - New England Educator: [Ray Budde](#)
 - Suggested that small group of teachers be given contracts or “charters” by their local school boards to explore new approaches
 - [Albert Sanker](#), former president of AFT publicized the idea
 - That local boards could charter an entire school with union & teacher approval

History

- **Late 1980s**
 - Philadelphia started a number of *schools-within-schools* called them “Charters”
 - Some were “Choice”
 - **Minnesota** refined the idea
 - Charter schools were developed according to three basic values:
 - Opportunity
 - Choice, and
 - Responsibility for Results

Creation of State Charter School Laws & Funding

- **1991**
 - Minnesota passed 1st charter school law
- **1992**
 - California followed suit
- **1995**
 - US Department of Education provided grants to support 'states' charter school efforts starting with \$6 million
- **1997**
 - Former President Clinton called for creation of 3,000 charter schools by the year 2002

- **2002**
 - President Bush called for \$200 million to support charter schools
 - Proposed another \$100 million for new Credit Enhancement for *Charter Schools Facility Program*
- **2003**
 - 40 states, including Puerto Rico & District of Columbia

- **Charter Schools** are one of the fastest growing innovations in education policy
- **Enjoys broader bipartisan support from:**
 - **Governors**
 - **State Legislators**
 - **Past & Present Secretaries of Education**

Alternative Education

- **They are public schools**
- **Paid for by Taxes**
- **Independent of the public-school system**
- **Relatively free from state & local regulations**
- **Greater degree of freedom and autonomy**
- **Students attend by choice**

Alternative Education

- **Each school is granted a renewable charter by state or local board for 3-to-5 years**
- **Some charter schools have higher percentage of minority or economically disadvantaged students**
- **Usually small, mainly urban schools**

Alternative Education

- **Aim:**
 - **To increase learning opportunities**
 - **To allow for greater innovation in teaching practices**
 - **Can specialize in a particular academic area**

Accountability: No Child Left Behind: NCLB

- A goal of **Title I** of the **No Child Left Behind Act of 2001** “is to ensure that all children have a fair, equal and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and reach, at a minimum, proficiency on challenging state academic achievement standards and state academic assessments.”

- States must ***align*** academic content with **student performance standards** and annually assess students' progress in achieving those standards.
- Schools, school districts, and each state must use a statewide educational accountability system to determine whether all students in a school are making adequate yearly progress (AYP) toward having:
 - **100 percent** of students **perform proficiently in English and math** by the **2013-2014 school year**.

- **Federal AYP Summary**
 - **Average Yearly Performance**
 - **No Child Left Behind Act prescribes local accountability measures and timelines for student progress**
 - **Schools must meet and sustain performance levels to make adequate yearly progress**
 - **Adequate yearly progress indicators include student performance, student attendance, and graduation rates**

California State Standards

API

- **Academic Performance Index**
 - The cornerstone of **California's Public Schools Accountability Act of 1999**;
 - measures the academic performance and growth of schools on a variety of academic measures.

Median API

- **The median values for the 2008 Growth API and 2007 Base API were calculated using all 100 schools in this school's 2007 similar schools group. Based on the following characteristics:**
- **Pupil mobility**
- **Pupil ethnicity**
- **Pupil socioeconomic status**
- **Percentage of teachers who are fully credentialed**
- **Percentage of teachers who hold emergency credentials**
- **Percentage of pupils who are English learners**
- **Average class size per grade level**
- **Whether the schools operate multi-track year-round educational programs**
- **Percentage of grade span enrollments (grades two, six, seven to eight, and nine to eleven)**
- **Percentage of students in Gifted and Talented Education program**
- **Percentage of students with disabilities**
- **Percentage of reclassified fluent-English-proficient (RFEP) students**
- **Percentage of migrant education students**

Lake County International Charter School

- Located in Middletown, CA
- **K-8th Grade Public Elementary Charter School**
- Opened its doors **2005-2006**
- Currently in its **4th year**
- Current API 2008: 720
- 5 Multi-Grade Teacher
 - K, 1st grade
 - 1st, 2nd Grade
 - 3rd, 4th grade
 - 5th, 6th Grade
 - 7th 8th Grade

Lake County International Charter School

- Chartered for **140** students
 - Current population **103**
- Applied for and Granted provisional status:
 - **International Baccalaureate (IB)**
 - In final Authorization process
 - **Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)**
 - Granted Accreditation candidacy

Lake County International Charter School

- **Mission:**
 - **To encourage children's innate curiosities and promote critical thinking skills so that they may realize their potentials and become conscientious, compassionate, and responsible local and global citizens.**

Lake County International Charter School

- **Emphasis:**
 - **Rigorous** and **balanced** instructional program meeting or exceeding California State Standards
 - **Art & Culture**
 - Spanish as second language
 - Environmental Education
 - Performing Arts
 - Visual Arts
 - Technology
 - **Community Building**



END