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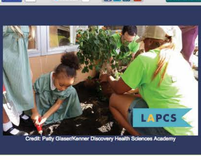

Credit: Patty Glaser/Kenner Discovery Health Sciences Academy

The 2015 Legislative Session Is Here

It's here.

The Legislative Session begins April 13th. This year's session is especially significant as 2015 marks both the 20th Anniversary of Louisiana Charter School Law and the 10th Anniversary of Hurricane Katrina.

In recognition of these milestones, LAPCS wants to have every single charter school in the state represented at Charter School Day at the Capitol. In the coming weeks we will send out more details about this and other fun activities we have planned for National Charter School Week, May 3-9, including video testimonials, tweet-ups, an essay contest, and more!

As always, LAPCS will keep you informed about bills and how you can help us inform legislators on the impact a piece of legislation will have on your school.

I've always said that you can either get out there and lead on issues and influence and results or you can sit back and let it be done to you. We hope you'll choose to lead!

Best,
Caroline

In this month's newsletter:

- In the News
- Educating Louisiana: New Episodes Airing Now!
- The Top Shelf: Season 6 Happening Now!
- The Bottom Line: CEP and Ethics Filings
- E-Rate Program Changes
- Just the Facts: Rate of Louisiana High School Graduates Heading to College Increases
- Featured School: Kenner Discovery Health Sciences Academy
- Partner Connection Spot

LAPCS: Working for You!

April 15: The Role of the Board Chair (webinar). Being an effective Board Chair requires knowledge, skill and finesse. This Top Shelf webinar will provide relevant tips for ensuring that board meetings are productive and impactful as a result of the chair's laser focus on results and effective leadership. Chairing a meeting does not come naturally and herding cats may get tiring, but with these recommendations success is only a few meetings away. Click to register.

April 22: End of the Year Checklists (webinar). Consultant Simone Green and LAPCS Legal Director Sarah Vandergriff will co-host a Bottom Line webinar on end-of-year legal, HR, finance and operations checklists for schools to help ease the transition closing out this school year and preparing for next year. Click to register.

April 23: The Board's Role in Academic Oversight (webinar). This Top Shelf webinar, presented by BoardOnTrack, focuses on the role of the board in understanding how to monitor the academic results your organization has promised to deliver. We will discuss the roles and responsibilities of the full board in academic oversight; the governance / management line with regard to academic oversight; what data the board should be receiving on a consistent basis; and the role of an academic excellence committee. Click to register.

April 29: The Board's Role in Advocacy. Board members play a crucial role in helping to sustain the charter school movement. Advocacy is the term used to best describe what it takes to influence policy changes at any level. In this Top Shelf workshop, attendees will hear recommendations to leverage the energy, expertise and experience of board members to help advocate for charter-friendly policies. Click to register.

***May 6*: Charter Boards and Community Engagement.** As schools of choice, charter schools have the potential to make community engagement a primary focus. This Top Shelf workshop focuses on best practices to galvanize community support and work in collaboration with stakeholders dedicated to the fulfillment of the organization's mission. Click to register.

***May 21*: Ethics Training.** The Board of Ethics will host a special 1-hour charter school-specific ethics training program in New Orleans at Warren Easton High School from 12:30-2:00 pm. All charter school leaders, staff administration, and board members are encouraged to attend so that may have the opportunity to directly ask the Board of Ethics your questions! This program will satisfy charter school employees' and board members' annual ethics training requirement, as well as count towards the 4-hour training requirement for anyone interested in becoming a Certified Ethics Trainer. The event is free and includes lunch. Click to register.

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In the News

- Charters outpacing district schools in many urban areas, study finds
- Take pride in what we have achieved
- Myths in the political roar over Common Core

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Educating Louisiana: New Episodes Airing Now!

The newest episode of *Educating Louisiana*, featuring Chris Meyer of New Schools for Baton Rouge and Leona Christy of Catalyst ED, airs this week! New episodes of the show will air on Cox 4 each Thursday night at 8:30 pm (repeating on Monday evenings at 10:30 pm) in New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Lafayette and on Northshore Channel 17 on Sundays at 7:00 pm (repeating on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM and Mondays at 4:30 pm). You can always view past episodes on our Vimeo page.

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The Top Shelf: Season 6 Happening Now!

Season 6 of The Top Shelf is in full swing! From now until mid-June we have a series of webinars and workshops to help help strengthen your board. For more information and to register, check out the LAPCS calendar.

This week's Board Member Focus spotlights Rex Cabaniss, secretary of the board at Mentorship Academy in Baton Rouge.

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The Bottom Line: CEP, Ethics Training and Ethics Filings

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is a new federal option that allows school districts to offers meals at no charge to students in high-poverty schools. For more information, check out the attached document or contact the Food Research and Action Center's Jessie Hewins at (202) 986-2200. You may also contact Louisiana Appleseed's Tara Richard for a copy of the *Feeding More for Less* booklet that explains the CEP program's application in Louisiana schools.

2013-2014 Board Members! Don' forget that you must submit a Tier 3 financial disclosure form to the Louisiana Board of Ethics no later than May 15, 2015.

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2015 E-Rate Program Changes

The new 2015 school year will bring changes to the E-Rate program. Please check out this presentation for more information.

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Just the Facts: Rate of Louisiana High School Graduates Heading to College Increases

New statistics reveal that the number of 2013-2014 Louisiana high school graduates enrolling in college has increased by one percent to 59%. Even more impressive is that the number of students enrolling in college has increased by 16% since 2011.

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Featured School: Kenner Discovery Health Sciences Academy

Each month, LAPCS will feature a different school (or school system) and share highlights, milestones, and good news for that school. This month we're featuring Kenner Discovery Health Sciences Academy, but we would love to feature your school in the coming months! E-mail us and let us share your good news!

Kenner Discovery Health Sciences Academy is a Type 1 charter school that opened its doors in 2013 and currently serves PK-8th grade, with plans to expand to the 12th grade. The school is health sciences focused, with younger students learning about good nutrition, healthy lifestyle choices, physical fitness and a sustainable environment. They explore science and technology with 21st century tools across all subjects. They help maintain a butterfly and herb and vegetable garden. From an early age, students understand how they learn, make informed choices, set learning goals and track their progress.

Older students follow the scientific method and practice science exploration. Through health and environmental literacy they learn about preventive physical and mental health measures, establish personal health goals, examine public health concerns, analyze environmental issues and research effective solutions. They learn to propose questions and research answers while using technology, traditional research and writing to create evidence based reports. Students understand their personal learning style, act as their own best advocate for learning and track their personal learning goals and academic progress.

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Partner Connection Spot

From curriculum materials to prospective teacher counseling programs, we've got you covered! Check out some of our vendor partners.

LAMS FACILITY SOLUTIONS

We at LAMS Facility Solutions LLC are excited as well about the school tours you will be presenting this year at your annual conference. We would love to provide complete facility solutions and janitorial services for your school systems. Learn more about our services by reviewing our brochure.

SODEXO

Sodexo partnered with Adlai Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire, Illinois to manage more than 70 acres of land and a million square feet of indoor space. Sodexo provided exceptional custodial and green cleaning services, food services and HVAC services. They were also introduced to the National Nutrition Program and the Green Cleaning program. To see what Sodexo can do for you, please review our flyer.

EDWARD JONES-FINANCIAL ADVISOR MARIGNY duMAURIAC

Whether you want to plan for retirement, save for college, reduce your tax bills or ensure you have income cover your expenses, we can provide personalized service and investment strategies that have proven themselves over the long-term. Let's discuss your goals during a financial review. Contact me today.

Check out our entire list of partners by visiting our website . Don't see something you're searching for? Help us pick the partners you desire by completing a short feedback survey .

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GIVE NOLA DAY is MAY 5! Support LAPCS!

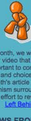
GiveNOLA Day is the community's one-day, online giving event to inspire people to give generously to the nonprofit organizations that make our region a stronger and more thriving community for all. Please support LAPCS by donating at least $10. Every dollar donated from midnight to midnight on May 5th will be increased with additional "lagniappe" dollars provided by the Greater New Orleans Foundation and generous GiveNOLA Day sponsors. Give to LAPCS!

Donate to LAPCS by Shopping Online!

You can donate to LAPCS just by shopping online! Visit Amazon Smile or iGive.com and make LAPCS your charity of choice. A percentage of your purchases will be donated to LAPCS.

DONATE NOW!

Points to Ponder: Rewriting NCLB



Each month, we will feature an article or video that we believe is to important to consider in the charter and choice movement. This month's article discusses the optimism surrounding the Senate's effort to rewrite No Child Left Behind.

NEWS FROM OUR PARTNERS

LRCE Summer Workshops

The Louisiana Resource Center for Educators (LRCE) will offer a series of workshops for teachers the week of July 13-16. Click for more info and to register.

National Charter School Resource Center

The National Charter School Resource Center is an online repository of on-demand resources, information, and technical assistance to support successful planning, authorizing, implementation and sustainability of high-quality charter schools. Check out this valuable resource, including their articles on special education and facilities.

NAPCS Conference Discount Code for Louisiana Residents!

The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools (NAPCS) conference is in New Orleans this June, and Louisiana residents can register for only $378! Visit the NAPCS website and enter code LA2015.

Goldring Teacher Fellowship Program Accepting Applications

The Southern Institute for Education and Research is currently accepting applications for its Goldring Teacher Fellowship Program in July, which will focus on World War II and the destruction of the Jewish people by the Nazis and other groups. The application deadline is April 30. Click here for more information.

Participate in AMAZON SMILE and iGIVE to support LAPCS!

DONATE NOW!

View our list of MEMBER SCHOOLS!

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