



GCSA Weekly Update

Dear Jeniffer,

Thank you for making our 6th Annual Conference a success! We have listed some highlights of the event in this week's newsletter.

Once again, thank you.

GCSA - NEWS & EVENTS

2008 GCSA Charter School Conference - A Splendid Success

The 2008 Georgia Charter Schools Association 6th Annual Conference this past week was a fantastic event which provided invaluable information, resources and networking opportunities for all 300+ attendees.

Conference keynotes, Ian Jukes and Kevin Johnson inspired and delighted all who had the privilege to see them speak.

As charter public schools continue to grow and evolve, this annual conference will provide current and future charter leaders and advocates an occasion to share and learn, unlike any other in our state.

"I would like to commend the Georgia Charter School Association for an excellent conference. You guys rock!!! The conference was extremely valuable for me."

Andrew Cameron - Program Director, Amazing Young Minds and Athletes Corporation

"The Conference was EXCELLENT. I am interested in inviting Kevin Johnson to be our keynote speaker at our graduation next year 2009."

Ben C. Jakes - Executive Director, Destiny Academy of Excellence

"I am so glad I went to the conference!"

Dr. Lucy Phillip - Executive Director of Partnerships, GA Department of Technical & Adult Education

Be on the lookout for a conference evaluation in your email asking you to complete a survey using SurveyMonkey.com. We are looking not only for your feedback about the just-completed conference, but also for your recommendations about next year's, including your preferences about the times and dates. Please let us know the month, the days of the weeks, and the schedule that would allow your staff to take maximum advantage of next year's conference and we will plan accordingly

CHARTER NEWS

"Let's further improve the grounds on which charter schools are established in our state, as too often new public charter schools are still not able to use existing educational facilities or be afforded transportation options."

From Governor Sonny Purdue's State Address - January 16

[New route to charter status sought](#)

Published on: 01/27/08

Local school boards are hammering down approval of startup charter schools, rejecting 80 percent of petitions last year, charter school advocates said as they met last week in Marietta. The best hope of circumventing hostile school boards is passage of pending legislation, HB 881, that would set up a separate state body to pass judgment on charter school applications, said Tony Roberts, chief executive officer of the Georgia Charter Schools Association.

Charter School Student Wins 1st Place in Spelling Bee

[Fulton Science Academy](#) 7th grade student Kelly Dodd won 1st Place in 2008 Fulton County Spelling Bee at River Eves Elementary School in Roswell on Thursday January 24th.

There were 64 spellers representing elementary schools and middle schools from all over Fulton County. Kelly Dodd, of Johns Creek, sealed her victory with the word toboggan to become the winner of the 2008 Fulton County Spelling Bee. "It was such a relief and felt great to win," said Kelly.

The top 6 spellers in the competition will now advance to the district Spelling Bee on February 23 at the old Milton High School in Alpharetta. The winners of the district competition will advance to the State.

Georgia Charter Schools Association congratulates Kelly, her teacher Mr. Hudgins and Language Art Department Head Mr. Wright on their wonderful accomplishment!

KidsPeace state special charter school named a statewide leader in excellence

When students excel, they win. When an entire school system excels, everyone wins - parents, teachers, communities, and kids. In what amounts to a heartwarming equivalent of getting an "A," the [KidsPeace Bowdon state special charter school](#), which helps children who have been through emotional crises was recognized by the Georgia Council for Administrators of Special Education as a statewide leader in excellence. Following the Council's annual fall conference, a letter of notification was sent out declaring that the "KidsPeace Charter School was recognized as a leader in the state of Georgia for outstanding efforts to improve the performance of students with disabilities."

KidsPeace, a 125-year-old national children's charity that helps youngsters overcome crises, has a long history of academic success at its schools. "This is a huge accomplishment especially when you consider the number of schools throughout the state that were hoping to get this honor," said Scott Merritt, executive director of KidsPeace Bowdon. "One of the most significant indicators of resident's success after discharge is determined by their accomplishments in education. This recognition proves that our residents are making the progress they need to be successful once they return to the community."

"This is a wonderful honor," said Georgia Charter Schools Association CEO, Tony Roberts. "Congratulations to Scott Merritt, Education Manager Patricia Swint, and their entire education team. This recognition demonstrates what we have long known - the ability charter public schools have to assist thousands of children across our state to become productive members of our

communities only enhances public education as a whole."

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Charter School Governing Board Training Handbook](#)

Source: Colorado League of Charter Schools

This training manual covers board structure and responsibilities. It provides a series of recommendations on holding productive board meetings, promoting the mission and vision of the school, engaging in strategic planning, developing sound policy, training, renewal and accreditation, financial planning and oversight, relationships with administrators, and common challenges and pitfalls.

[Project Intersect Research Summary: Special Education in the Charter School Sector](#)

Source: United States Department of Education

This document summarizes the findings of a four-year national study of special education in the charter sector funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Education. Using data from legislative reviews, state directors of special education and charter school officials, surveys of charter school authorizers and operators, and an in-depth analysis of special education in 270 California charter schools, researchers found that charter schools serve more students in the general education classroom (but data do not provide insight into whether these placements are appropriate). In general, charter schools are educating students with disabilities but not at the same proportion as traditional public schools. There are exceptions, however, such as charter schools enrolling a larger proportion of students in the categories of a specific learning disability.

HIGHLIGHT YOUR SCHOOL!

GCSA wants to highlight your school on the "new and improved" GCSA website, which will be launched very soon! GCSA would like you to forward a photo of your school building or a school sign with a short sentence which can be used as a descriptive caption. Please forward all photos to Andrew Lewis at alewis@gacharters.org.

Jeniffer Collins
Georgia Charter Schools Association

[Forward email](#)

✉ **SafeUnsubscribe®**

This email was sent to jcollins@gacharters.org, by jcollins@gacharters.org
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



Georgia Charter Schools Association | 600 West Peachtree Street | Suite 1555 | Atlanta | GA | 30308