# Charter Schools in Iowa: 

## Progress Update

Iova Department of Education

2006-07

State of Iowa
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Iowa Charter Schools are guided by goals developed by lowa's charter school application to the USDE, the State Board of Education, lowa Code, and goals developed by each charter school applicant. In its initial charter School application to the USDE, the lowa Department of Education (DE) outlined five goals. Included are: 1) Establish charter schools during the next three years representing a diversity of programs, 2) Provide technical assistance for charter schools throughout development and implementation, 3) Collect and analyze the outcomes of the charter schools against, at a minimum, the state goals for school and student improvement, 4) "Incent", document, and disseminate best or promising practices, and 5) Grow the Public Charter Schools Program beyond the initial pilots.

Wth regard to goal one, charter school legislation was passed in lowa during the 2003 session. It allowed for a maximum of 10 charter schools in lowa. During the 2006 legislative session, the cap of charter schools was lifted in lowa to 20; however, no additional funding was allocated. To date, lowa has authorized 10 charter schools.

With regard to goal two, lowa charter school partner with each other and the DE for growth. As a partner with charter schools, the DE provides technical assistance, support, monitoring, and budget management. In accordance with the lowa Application for charter Schools, the lowa DE continues to provide a wide range of sevices to the schools already at charter status, as well as schools in the charter-planning phase. Those senvices are outlined below.

0 On-Site Technical Assistance - Each charter school received on-site visits from the DE Charter School Director and staff, including provisions for the following:
o Pre-Opening Visit - Review of application goals and objectives, legal obligations, curriculum, budget management, and school climate. The Pre-opening visit included interviews with local school board members, superintendent, parents, principal, lead teacher, advisory committee members, and charter teachers.
0 Quarterly Meetings - Review of implementation and guidance for aligning instruction with research-based practices, as well as the provision for collaboration among charter school leaders.
0 End of Year Review - Performance results, sustainability, program modifications, planning for the following year (year 2 or 3).

The DE continues to collect and analyze the outcomes of the charter schools against the State Board of Education goals for school and student improvement. Those goals include: a) Each student will graduate from high school having had opportunities to take challenging, relevant courses that have prepared him/her well for success in post-secondary learning and the workplace and b) At least $90 \%$ of all lowa high school graduates will go on to complete, at a minimum, two year of college or post-secondary education.

Four of lowa's charter schools are specifically targeted toward increasing opportunities for students to participate in rigorous, relevant coursework through enrollment in college level courses. These charter schools partner with area community colleges, as well as Buena Vista University, coordinating these opportunities and encouraging high school students, many considered at-risk, to complete college level courses while still in high school and receive college credit. One charter High School provides enrollees an opportunity to participate in a fifth year of high school, earning an Associate's Degree upon high school graduation. Other charter high schools have experienced growth in the number and percentages of their students earning college credits while enrolled in high school, ensuring that their graduates experience an early start to a post-secondary education.

Goal four is centered on providing incentives, as well as documenting and disseminating best or promising practices. This goal is addressed through ongoing conversations focused on the review of the merits of the Charter Programs to determine their value to the state education system. Performance data are being collected on a continual basis to inform any decision-making (summarized later in this report).

Goal five involves growing the Public Charter Schools Program beyond the initial pilots. The first two lowa charter schools achieved charter status at the beginning of the 2004-05 school year. During the following school year, 2005-06, five more charter applicants achieved charter status, four at the beginning of the school year and one mid-year. The following school year, 2006-07, one additional school was granted charter status prior to the beginning of the school year, one school achieved charter status mid-year, and one achieved charter status at the end of the year, bringing the total of charter schools in lowa to 10. The 2006 General Assembly action led to an increase in the cap for the number of charter schools in lowa (from 10 to 20); however, to date, no other applications for charter status have been submitted.

Caution should be utilized when making judgments regarding the success of charter schools in lowa. Little research is available to determine the success of charter schools across the nation. Any benefit or harm as a result of attending a charter school depends upon the types of opportunities students had. Furthermore, since no student attends both a conventional public school and a charter school simultaneously, it is impossible to determine the benefit of one over the other. ${ }^{1}$

Several obstacles to analysis exist with regard to charter schools in lowa, including the types of data available for analysis and the small number of students represented by the data. Wth few exceptions, lowa charter school data available to date includes those for different cohort groups of students year to year (e.g., students in grade 11 from one school year compared to students in grade 11 during the following year),

[^0]requiring the use of a status model for comparisons in achievement. This apples-to-oranges approach to data analysis lends itself to numerous false conclusions. Not only does it involve the comparison of two different groups of students, this approach fails to account for the fact that students in one cohort may have actually made greater achievement gains than students in the comparison group; however, by simply comparing the percentage of students proficient between the two cohorts, one might conclude that progress had not been made from one year to the next.

Comparative studies may yield differences between the academic performances of two groups; however, with the use of large data samples, measurement error may account for such differences. Conversely, studies that rely on small numbers of students are not reliable. Any conclusions made based upon small samples may be extremely distorted.

For the purpose of appraisal, one type of comparison researchers commonly make involves an estimation of the differences between actual student achievement and probable achievement gains students would have made if they had remained in their previous educational setting. This may be accomplished by comparing students' rate of achievement prior to and following entrance into charter schools. In lowa, these types of data are not yet available; however, with the state's data management system, the Electronic Access for lowa Education Records (Project EASIER), the availability of individual student achievement data will be greatly impacted. Additionally, Project EASIER vill enable researchers to measure the academic growth of both individuals and cohort groups of students enrolled in lowa charter schools.

The purposes of charter schools established by 256F. 1 of the lowa Code are as follows:

0 Improve student learning
0 Increase learning opportunities for students
0 Encourage the use of different and innovative methods of teaching
0 Require the measurement of learning outcomes and create different and innovative forms of measuring outcomes
0 Establish new forms of accountability for schools

In the five years that charter schools have existed in lowa, learning opportunities have been created at the elementary (generally K-5) and the high school (generally 9-12) level. Eementary learning opportunities have included arts integration instruction, multiage/multicultural experiences, technology integration, inquiry learning, and expeditionary learning. Secondary learning opportunities have focused on partnerships with post-secondary institutions for expanded learning opportunities, career preparation, concurrent enrollment opportunities and increased instructional rigor and relevance. These expanded learning opportunities, particularly at the elementary, signify that the charter schools are exploring innovative methods of teaching.

This report serves to provide an update on the progress of charter schools in lowa. Each lowa charter school has developed, as a part of its charter application process, goals for the charter. At the end of each school year, lowa charter schools complete an end of year report, documenting
progress toward each of its goals. Though limited data are available for the purpose of assessing the success of charter schools in lowa, the remainder of this report describes the progress made to date on each of the charter schools' goals.

| District/Charter | Description of Charter | Goal | Measure | Progress made to Date |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Northeast Iowa Charter High School <br> West Central Community School District <br> PO Box 54 <br> Maynard, IA 50655 <br> 563/637-2283 <br> Jim Patera, Superintendent <br> Mission: To produce a literate, lifelong learner who is visionary and productive, aware of self, accepting of cultural differences, sensitive to others, and who applies knowledge to make morally responsible decisions in an ever-changing global society. <br> First year of Charter Status: 2005-06 <br> Number of Charter <br> Teachers/Administrators (2006-07) = $3 / 2$ <br> District Dropout Rate $\begin{aligned} & 2004-05=0 \% \\ & 2005-06=.63 \% \end{aligned}$ <br> District Ave. Daily Attendance K-8 $\begin{aligned} & 2004-05=97.2 \% \\ & 2005-06=96.5 \% \end{aligned}$ | Partnership between Northeast lowa Community College and West Central High School for $11^{\text {th }}$ and $12^{\text {th }}$ grade students to provide unlimited learning opportunities producing a highly qualified work force. The high school is the Charter School (schoolwide charter). <br> Planning Grant: Yes - 2004-05 | Students in the Charter participate in the fall administration of the lowa Tests of Educational Development (ITEDs); consequently, 2005-06 data will be used as the baseline. <br> 1. To increase the number of graduates who graduate with dual concentration of career academics and pathways making students more employable. <br> 2. Increase the number of graduates who complete postsecondary training. <br> 3. Increase ITED scores for $11^{\text {th }}$ grade students in reading, math and science. | 1. a) Document the number of graduates with a dual concentration (academic and career technical) Establish trend-line with class of 2003-04. <br> 2. Track students' rate of course completion and transition to postsecondary following graduation. Establish baseline then use graduate follow-up survey and compare charter students with baseline. <br> 3. ITED assessment(Disaggregated data) | 1. The number of students graduating with dual concentration increased by 14 from the 2004-05 to the 2005-06 school year; however, the 200506 school year will serve as the baseline year. During 2006-07, the number of seniors graduating with dual concentration increased by 8 ; however, the percentage decreased from 96\% to 91\% <br> 2. The average number of college credits earned by Charter seniors increased by 14.8 percentage points ( 5.4 to 20.2 average number of credits) between 2004-05 and 2005-06, and increased by 1 credit between 2005-06 and 2006-07 (20.2 to 21.2) <br> 3. The 2005-06 school year will serve as the baseline year. The percentage of eleventh grade students scoring in the proficient |


| District/Charter | Description of Charter | Goal |  | Measure |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

Northeast lowa Charter High School

## West Central Community School District

PO Box 54
Maynard, IA 50655
563/637-2283

| Northeast Charter School Postsecondary Data |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| The Number of Students Graduating from High School <br> vith Dual Concentration | $\mathbf{2 0 0 4 - 0 5}$ | 2005-06 (Baseline Year) |  |
| The Average Number of Postsecondary Credits Earned <br> by Graduating Seniors | 8 | 22 |  |

Percentage of Northeast Charter School Students in Grade 11 Proficient in Reading, Mathematics, and Science

| Reading, Mathematics, and Science |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Content Area | 2005-06 <br> (Baseline Year) | 2006-07 |
| Reading | $83.7 \%$ | $96 \%$ |
| Mathematics | $75.6 \%$ | $92 \%$ |
| Science | $78.3 \%$ | $96 \%$ |



| District/Charter | Description of Charter | Goal | Measure | Progress made to Date |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | dance/creative movement, theatre/creative dram, music, or the visual arts - by the end of the 2007-2008 academic school year. <br> 5. School climate will improve and student engagement will increase by the end of the 2007-2008 academic school year. | 5. a) Truancy/Tardiness Data <br> b) Tardiness <br> c) Behavioral referrals <br> d) Suspensions <br> e) Asset checklist (grades 4-6) <br> f) self-directed learning - Local Rubric <br> g) Creative, higher order thinking - Local Rubric <br> h) District Developed Technology Assessment | arts. At this point, data gathering is preliminary and ongoing. <br> 5. Between 2004-05 and 2005-06, the total number of office referrals decreased; however, between 200506 and 2006-07 the number increased slightly. The truancy rate increased between 2004-05 and 2005-06, as well as between 200506 and 2006-07. The average daily attendance for students in the charter decreased between 2004-05 and 2005-06, but remained fairly stable over the following school year. The rate of tardiness increased during both the 2005-06 and 200607 school years. The rate of suspensions remained constant between 2004-05 and 2005-06, but dropped by two students in 2006-07. |

## Lincoln Academy of Integrated Arts Davenport Community School District <br> 318 East $8^{\text {th }}$ Street <br> Davenport, IA 52803 <br> 563/324-0497

| Indicators of School Climate and Student Engagement |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2004-05 (Baseline Year) | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
| Office Referrals | 808 | 576 | 608 |
| Average Truancy Rate Per Student | 7.3 | 9.4 | 10.5 |
| Average Daily Attendance | 95.67 | 94.06 | 94.15 |
| Tardies | 7.2 | 8.25 | 11.09 |
| Suspensions | 12 | 12 | 10 |


| Percentage of Lincoln Academy Charter Students Proficient on the ITBS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Reading |  |  | Mathematics |  |  | Science |  |  |
| Grades | 2004-05 <br> (Baseline Year) | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2004-05 <br> (Baseline Year) | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2004-05 <br> (Baseline Year) | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
| Grades 3-5 Combined | 66.9\% | 60.7\% | 64.71 | 71.3\% | 64.3\% | 70.59 | 77.9\% | 72.9 \% | 72.55 |
| Grade 4 <br> Lincoln <br> Academy | 69\% | 64.7\% | 65.71 | 78.6\% | 49\% | 80 | 85.7\% | 76.5\% | 74.29 |
| Grade 4 <br> Davenport <br> District | 64.83\% | 67.04\% | 73.87\% | 75.05\% | 74.98\% | 77.62\% | 72.49\% | 74.65\% | NA |

Lincoln Academy of Integrated Arts (Continued)

| Creative Arts Rubric |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Elements of Design | The student did the minimum or the artwork was never completed | The student did the assignment in a satisfactory manner, but lack of planning was evident | The artwork shows that the student applied the principles discussed in class adequately | The artwork shows that the student applied the principles discussed in class in unique manner |
| Creativity | The piece shows little or no evidence of original thought | The student work lacked sincere originality | The student work demonstrates originality | The student work demonstrates a unique level of originality |
| Effect | The student did not finish the work in a satisfactory manner | The student finished the project, but it lacks finishing touches or can be improved upon with little effort | The student completed the project in an above average manner, yet more could have been done | The student gave an effort far beyond the requirements of the project |
| Skill | The student showed poor craftsmanship or lack of understanding | The student showed average craftsmanship and understanding | The student showed above average craftsmanship and understanding | The artwork is outstanding and was finished with a great deal of patience |
| Responsiveness | The student displayed a negative response throughout the development of the piece | The student displayed a negative response at times during the development of the piece | The student displayed a positive response most of the time during the development of the piece | The student displayed a positive response all of the time during the development of the piece |
| Total |  |  |  |  |

## Lincoln Academy of Integrated Arts (Continued) <br> Lincoln Academy of Arts Integration

Teacher Report on Student Assets

Student Name: $\qquad$ Date: $\qquad$ PRE POST
Please circle the number in each set that best describes the student's performance on completing academic work. Personal Power

1. Is able to solve problems consistently, has control over how to respond to difficult situations. Strongly
Agree
1

2
3
4
5
6
8
Strongly
Disagree
10
Self-Esteem
2. Overall, demonstrates characteristics of high self-esteem (e.g.---)

## Strongly

Agree
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8

## Strongly

Disagree
10

## Sense of Purpose

3. Actively engages skills that relate to sense of purpose.

Strongly
Agree
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
Strongly
Disagree

Positive View of Personal Future
4. Hopeful and positive about his/her personal future.

Strongly
Agree
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
Strongly
Disagree

Range 4-12
TOTAL SCORE: $\qquad$

Comments:

| District/Charter | Description of Charter | Goal | Measure | Progress made to Date |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Iowa Central Charter High School <br> Southeast Webster-Grand School District <br> POBox 49 <br> Burnside, IA 50521 515/359-2235 <br> Dr. Mike Jorgensen, Superintendent <br> Mission: To develop a fast track program that will assist students in working towards an AA degree in a specific vocational area or towards a four-year degree program. <br> First year of Charter Status: 2004-05 <br> Number of Charter <br> Teachers/Administrators (2006-07) = 9/2 <br> District Dropout Rate $2004-05=1.65 \%$ $2005-06=.66 \%$ <br> District Ave. Daily Attendance K-8 $\begin{aligned} & 2004-05=95.6 \% \\ & 2005-06=95.7 \% \end{aligned}$ | A partnership with lowa Central Community College to serve $11^{\text {th }}$ and $12^{\mathrm{h}}$ grade students who have specific vocational and academic needs and want to be on a fast track to post-secondary study. The Charter School is a school within a school. <br> Planning Grant: Yes-2003-04 | Students in the Charter participate in the mid-year administration of the ITED; consequently, 2003-04 data will be used as the baseline. <br> 1. Increase the number of graduates who complete postsecondary training <br> 2. Increase math, science and reading ITED scores at grade 11 | 1. SE Webster Graduate Data ICCHS Graduate Data <br> 2. ITED scores (disaggregated) | 1. The percentage of students earning college credit while in high school increased by 14 percentage points between 200304 and 2004-05, and by four percentage points between 200405 and 2005-06, bringing the percentage up to $100 \%$, where it remained between 2005-06 and 2006-07. Additionally, the average number of college credits earned by graduates in the charter school increased by approximately 10 credits between 2003-04 and 2004-05, by approximately two credits from 2004-05 to 2005-06, and by slightly more than two credits between 2005-06 and 2006-07. <br> 2. Between the 2003-04 and 200607 school years, the percentage of students at grade 11 scoring in the proficient range of achievement on the lowa Tests of Educational Development (ITED) in reading decreased by 2.9 percentage points, increased by 4.3 percentage points, and finally increasing by 14 |



## Iowa Central Charter High School Southeast Webster-Grand School District PO Box 49

Burnside, IA 50521 515/359-2235

| Iowa Central Charter High School |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Indicator of Success | 2003-2004 (Baseline Year) | 2004-2005 | 2005-2006 | 2006-07 |
| Percentage of High School Students Earning College Credit while in High School | 81\% | 96\% | 100\% | 100\% |
| Average College Credits Earned per High School Graduate | 10.6 | 20.3 | 22.28 | 24.5 |
| Average Composite Score on the ACT | 21.4 | 21.0 | 21.8 | 24.1 |


| Percentage of Iowa Central Charter High School Grade 11 Students Proficient on the ITED |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2003-04 (Baseline Year) | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
| Reading | 67.9\% | 65\% | 69.3\% | 83\% |
| Mathematics | 83.0\% | 80\% | 85.7\% | 76.6\% |
| Science | 76.8\% | 85\% | 93.8\% | 87.2\% |


| District/Charter | Description of Charter | Goal | Measure | Progress made to Date |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Ema Eementary Charter School <br> Howard-Winneshiek Community School District 1000Schroder Drive Cresco, IA 52136 563/547-2762 <br> Robert Hughes, Principal <br> Mission: To provide standard-based multiage instruction that ensures each child innovative learning experiences, multicultural awareness, and the use of technological tools to develop responsible citizens, while embracing parents, families, and community. <br> First Year of Charter Status: 2005-06 <br> Number of Charter <br> Teachers/Administrators (2006-07) = 7/1 <br> District Dropout Rate $2004-05=1.169 \%$ $2005-06=1.47 \%$ <br> District Ave. Daily Attendance K-8 $\begin{aligned} & 2004-05=96.6 \% \\ & 2005-06=96.4 \% \end{aligned}$ | To provide standard-based multiage instruction K-5 that ensures each child innovative learning experiences, multicultural awareness, and the use of technological tools to develop responsible citizens, while embracing parents, families, and community. The school is the Charter School (school-wide charter) and is one of four elementary schools in the district. <br> Planning Grant: Yes - 2004-05 | Students in the Charter participate in the mid-year administration of the ITBS; consequently, 2004-05 data will be used as the baseline. <br> LITERACY-VOCABULARY <br> 1a. Increase the percentage of students proficient in reading. | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 1a. ITBS } \\ & \text { BRI } \\ & \text { MISIC/MAP } \end{aligned}$ | 1a. Using cohort data, the percentage of students proficient in reading increased between 2004-05 (grades 3-5) and 200506 (grades 4-6) (Cohort 1). Between 2005-06 and 2006-07, the percentage of students in grades 3-5 and 4-6 (cohort 2) proficient in reading decreased slightly. When cohort data are compared across several school years, growth was noted using National Grade Equivalents (NGEs). Between 2003-04 and 2004-05, students moving from grade 3 to grade 4 gained 1.2 NGEs in reading. Between 2004 05 and 2005-06, the same students moving from grade 4 to grade 5 gained 1.4 NGEs in reading. Between 2005-06 and 2006-07, the same group of students moving from grade 5 to grade 6 gained 8 NGEs in reading. Essentially, the same group of students made 3.4 years growth in reading using NGEs over a three year period (cohort |


|  |  | 1b. Increase vocabulary development. <br> 2a. All students will develop the effective use of a variety of math problem solving strategies. | 1b. Project-Based Learning (PBL). <br> Presentations <br> Rubrics <br> ITBS Vocabulary <br> Program Review Team <br> 2a. ITBS Math Total MISIC/ MAP | 3). Between 2004-05 and 200506 , students moving from grade 3 to grade 4 gained 1.0 NGEs in reading. Between 2005-06 and 2006-07, the same students moving from grade 4 to grade 5 gained 1.2 NGEs in reading. Essentially, the same group of students made 2.2 years growth in reading using NGEs over a two year period (cohort 4). <br> Furthermore, between 2005-06 and 2006-07, students moving from grade 3 to grade 4 gained 1.2 NGEs in reading (cohort 5). <br> 1b. When combined and compared as cohort groups (grades 3-5 for 2004-05 and grades 4-6 for 2005-06), the percentage of students proficient on the vocabulary subtest of the ITBS decreased slightly. Between 2005-06 and 2006-07, the percentage of students in grades 3-5 and 4-6 (cohort 2) increased by slightly more than 6 percentage points. <br> 2a. When combined and compared as cohort groups (grades 3-5 for 2004-05 and grades 4-6 for 2005-06), the percentage of students proficient in mathematics problem solving increased. Between 2005-06 and 2006-07, the percentage of |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |


|  |  |  |  | students in grades 3-5 and 4-6 (cohort 2) proficient in mathematics decreased slightly. When cohort data are compared across several school years, growth was noted using National Grade Equivalents (NGES). Between 2003-04 and 2004-05, students moving from grade 3 to grade 4 gained 1.1 NGEs in mathematics. Between 2004-05 and 2005-06, the same students moving from grade 4 to grade 5 gained 2.2 NGEs in mathematics. Between 2005-06 and 2006-07, the same group of students moving from grade 5 to grade 6 gained . 6 NGEs in mathematics. Essentially, the same group of students made 3.9 years growth in mathematics using NGEs over a three year period (cohort 3). Between 2004-05 and 2005-06, students moving from grade 3 to grade 4 gained 1.5 NGEs in mathematics. Between 2005-06 and 2006-07, the same students moving from grade 4 to grade 5 gained 1.4 NGEs in mathematics. Essentially, the same group of students made 2.9 years growth in mathematics using NGEs over a two year period (cohort 4). Furthermore, between 2005-06 and 2006-07, students moving from grade 3 to grade 4 gained 2.0 NGEs in mathematics (cohort 5). |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |


|  |  | 2b. All students will increase the understanding of the scientific inquiry method \& its applications. | 2b. ITBS Science MB. ISIC/MAP | 2b. When combined and compared as cohort groups (grades 3-5 for 2004-05 and grades 4-6 for 2005-06), the percentage of students proficient in science increased. Between 2005-06 and 2006-07, the percentage of students in grades 3-5 and 4-6 (cohort 2) proficient in reading decreased slightly. When cohort data are compared across several school years, growth was noted using National Grade Equivalents (NGEs). Between 2003-04 and 2004-05, students moving from grade 3 to grade 4 gained . 3 NGEs in science. Between 2004-05 and 2005-06, the same students moving from grade 4 to grade 5 gained 2.4 NGEs in science. Between 2005-06 and 2006-07, the same group of students moving from grade 5 to grade 6 gained .9 NGEs in science. Essentially, the same group of students made 3.6 years growth in science using NGEs over a three year period (cohort 3). Between 2004-05 and 2005-06, students moving from grade 3 to grade 4 gained 1.3 NGEs in science. Between 200506 and 2006-07, the same students moving from grade 4 to grade 5 gained 1.1 NGEs in science. Essentially, the same group of students made 2.4 years growth in science using NGEs |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |



|  |  |  |  | participation, commitment, and effectiveness of our safe and friendly school structure. Lower elementary students thoroughly enjoyed the multiage setting. Preschool surveys emphasized this appreciation. Upper elementary grouped and regrouped students in various manners; clock partners, interest areas, content information, random, ability, and P.B.L. groups. Students responded positively. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |

Elma Elementary Charter School
Howard-Winneshiek Community School District
1000Schroder Drive
Cresco, IA 52136
563/547-2762

| Elma Elementary Charter School Cohort Data (Percentage Proficient) |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Indicator of Success | 2004-2005 (Baseline Year) Percentage Proficient | 2005-2006 <br> Percentage Proficient | 2005-2006 <br> Percentage Proficient | 2006-07 Percentage Proficient |
| Increase the percentage of students proficient in reading (ITBS). | Grades 3-5 Combined (Cohort 1) 60\% proficient | Grades 4-6 Combined (Cohort 1) 66\% proficient | Grades 3-5 Combined (Cohort 2) 71\% proficient | Grades 4-6 Combined (Cohort 2) 63\% proficient |
| Increase vocabulary development (ITBS) | Grades 3-5 Combined <br> (Cohort 1) <br> 72\% proficient | Grades 4-6 Combined <br> (Cohort 1) 65.5\% proficient | Grades 3-5 Combined <br> (Cohort 2) <br> 64\% proficient | Grades 4-6 Combined <br> (Cohort 2) <br> 70.3\% proficient |
| All students vill develop the effective use of a variety of math problem solving strategies (ITBS). | Grades 3-5 Combined <br> (Cohort 1) <br> 63.33\% proficient | 4-6 Combined (Cohort 1) 73.33\% proficient | Grades 3-5 Combined (Cohort 2) 71\% proficient | Grades 4-6 Combined (Cohort 2) 67\% proficient |
| All students will increase the understanding of the scientific inquiry method \& its applications. | Grades 3-5 Combined <br> (Cohort 1) <br> 76.66\% proficient | Grades 4-6 Combined (Cohort 1) 83.33\% proficient | Grades 3-5 Combined (Cohort 2) 79\% proficient | Grades 4-6 Combined (Cohort 2) 78\% proficient |

Elma Elementary Charter School Cohort 3 Data (Growth by National Grade Equivalents) From 2003-04 to 2006-07


Elma Elementary Charter School Cohort 4 Data (Growth by National Grade Equivalents) From 2004-05 to 2006-07


Elma Elementary Charter School Cohort 5 Data (Growth by National Grade Equivalents) From 2005-06 to 2006-07


| District/Charter | Description of Charter | Goal | Measure | Progress made to Date |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Buffalo Ridge Đementary Charter School <br> Sioux Central Community School <br> District <br> 4440 US Hwy 71 <br> Sioux Rapids, IA 50585 712/283-2571 <br> Kevin Teno, Principal <br> Mission: To foster student achievement through the use of inquiry learning and decision making to create pathways for each student to become a competent and responsible citizen. <br> First year of Charter Status: 2004-05 <br> Number of Charter <br> Teachers/Administrators (2006-07) = 3/1 <br> District Dropout Rate $\begin{aligned} & 2004-05=.287 \% \\ & 2005-06=.81 \% \end{aligned}$ <br> District Ave. Daily Attendance K-8 $\begin{aligned} & 2004-05=97.8 \% \\ & 2005-06=94.7 \% \end{aligned}$ | A K-5 school that fosters student achievement through the use of inquiry learning and decision making to create pathways for each student to become a competent and responsible citizen. The Charter is a school within a school. <br> Planning Grant: Yes - 2003-04 | Students in the Charter participate in the mid-year administration of the ITBS; consequently, 2003-04 data will be used as the baseline. <br> 1. All students will be proficient or above in mathematics by June 2008 <br> 2. All students will be proficient or above in science by June 2008 | 1. IITBS, Portfolio Assessment <br> 2. ITBS and NASA indicators | 1. Between the 2003-04 and 200506 school years (two-year period), the percentage of students proficient in mathematics increased in 4 out of the 6 grades assessed. During 2006-07, grade 3 was the only grade with at least 10 students; therefore, growth will be measured through the use of Grade Equivalents (GE) for cohort groups of students (same group of students each year) across three grade levels. Caution should be used in interpreting the data, however, due to the declining number of students represented in the data each year ( 29 students in grades 2-4 combined during 2004-05, 22 students in grades 3-5 combined during 2005-06, and 13 students in grades 4-6 combined during 2006-07). Therefore, pure cohort comparisons could not be made. <br> 2. The percentage of students proficient in science increased in |


| District/Charter | Description of Charter | Goal | Measure | Progress made to Date |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | 3. All students will be proficient or above in reading by June 2008 | 3. ITBS and other standardized reading assessments | 3 out of 5 grades assessed between 2003-04 and 2005-06. During 2006-07, grade 3 was the only grade with at least 10 students; therefore, growth will be measured through the use of Grade Equivalents (GE) for cohort groups of students (same group of students each year) across three grade levels. Caution should be used in interpreting the data, however, due to the declining number of students represented in the data each year ( 29 students in grades 2-4 combined during 2004-05, 22 students in grades $3-5$ combined during 2005-06, and 13 students in grades 4-6 combined during $2006-07$ ). Therefore, pure cohort comparisons could not be made. <br> 3. At most grade levels (4 out of 5 grades assessed), the percentage of students proficient in reading increased between the 2003-04 and 2005-06 school years (two-year period). The percentage of students proficient in reading during the same twoyear period at grade 3 remained constant. During 2006-07, grade 3 was the only grade with at least 10 students; therefore, growth will be measured through the use of Grade Equivalents (GE) for cohort groups of students (same |



| District/Charter | Description of Charter | Goal | Measure | Progress made to Date |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | 7. Parent participation | 7. Perception survey | data related to goal 6. <br> 7. No data are available. The original Charter School's administrator resigned at the end of the 2005-06 school year without submitting this information. The current administrator is unaware of any data related to goal 7. |

## Buffalo Ridge Elementary Charter School Sioux Central Community School District <br> 4440 US Hwy 71 <br> Sioux Rapids, IA 50585 <br> 7121283-2571

| Buffalo Ridge Charter School Percentage of Students Proficient |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Reading |  |  |  | Mathematics |  |  |  | Science |  |  |  |
| Grades | $\begin{gathered} \text { 03-04 } \\ \text { (Baseline } \\ \text { Year) } \\ \hline \hline \end{gathered}$ | 04-05 | 05-06 | 06-07 | 03-04 <br> (Baseline <br> Year) | 04-05 | 05-06 | 06-07 | $\begin{gathered} \text { 03-04 } \\ \text { (Baseline } \\ \text { Year) } \\ \hline \hline \end{gathered}$ | 04-05 | 05-06 | 06-07 |
| 1 | 69\% | 100\% | NA | NA | 92\% | 100\% | 100\% | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| 2 | 69\% | 78\% | 100\% | NA | 66\% | 100\% | 88\% | NA | 54\% | 66\% | 88\% | NA |
| 3 | 71\% | 56\% | 71\% | 50\% | 67\% | 78\% | 71\% | 70\% | 67\% | 89\% | 71\% | 80\% |
| 4 | 77\% | 75\% | 100\% | NA | 71\% | 83\% | 50\% | NA | 85\% | 92\% | 75\% | NA |
| 5 | 78\% | 83\% | 82\% | NA | 66\% | 100\% | 82\% | NA | 81\% | 100\% | 82\% | NA |
| 6 | 79\% | 75\% | 88\% | NA | 82\% | 66\% | 63\% | NA | 79\% | 75\% | 63\% | NA |

NA= Not applicable - These data were not reported due to fewer than 10 students in the grade level

Average Cohort Growth by Grade Equivalents on the ITBS



| $2005-06=1.44 \%$ <br> District Ave. Daily Attendance K-8 $\begin{aligned} & 2004-05=95.6 \% \\ & 2005-06=95.7 \% \end{aligned}$ |  | to have a class percentile ranks in the 60's and proficiency rates at the $80 \%$ level or above, and the highest increase reflected in the subgroup scores. <br> 4. Increase the number of dualcredits offerings and PSEO opportunities for all students, specifically monitoring increased participation and performance of subgroups and Charter enrollees. | 4. Student enrollment data and personal questionnaire. | in reading on the lowa Tests of Educational Development (ITEDs) using National Percentile Ranks between 2004-05 and 2005-06. Slight increases were noted in the percentage of students proficient in science and mathematics. Specific subgroup gains in the percentage of students proficient were noted in reading, math, and science between 2004-05 and 2006-07 (even though some intermediate declines were noted). <br> 4. During the 2005-2006 school year charter programming saw twelve additional dual-credit courses introduced into the curricular offerings for all SLHS students including Fundamentals of Communication, Fundamentals of American Government, Stats I, Basic Đlectronics, Accounting Essentials, Office Procedures, Calculus I, Business Math, Technical Math, and others. As a result there was a 43\% increase in overall dual-credit enrollments and a doubling of enrollments in "pre-charter" courses including AAA English (Accelerated Acquisition of Academic English), Basic Reading, Basic Witing, and Fundamentals of Algebra. Students also took several new courses through Post Secondary Education Options with Buena Vista University and lowa Central Community College including |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |


|  |  | 5. All students in the Charter will have an Individual Learning Plan that is overseen by Storm Lake High School and SLICCC/BV Administration and staff. | 5. Review of student records | Human Growth \& Development, Anatomy \& Physiology, Criminal Justice, Religions of Asia, Introduction to Education, Education \& The Teaching Process, Cultural Anthropology, Sound Production, and several computer/web offerings. The four Charter I students ( $5^{\text {th }}$ year of high school through charter enrollment) earned 102 college credits in the 2005-2006 school year. During 2006-07, 56\% of the charter school students were enrolled in more post-secondary courses than high school courses. <br> 5. This is an action step, not a goal. Storm Lake High School implemented a school-wide Academic Advisor/Advisee program in 2005-2006 with special Advisor/Advisee sessions scheduled throughout the second semester and culminating with scheduled parent/student/advisor conferences during spring conferences. The conference group looked over the student's transcript to date, ran a credit check, and looked over the student's long-range educational plan as well as their course requests for the 2006-2007 school year. Over 80\% of parents and students in grades 9-11 scheduled and attended these academic conferences. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |

Storm Lake/lowa Central/Buena Vista Early College Charter High School

## Demographic Data for Storm Lake/lowa Central/Buena Vista Early College Charter High School

| Subgroup | Number/Percentage 2005-06 | Number/Percentage 2006-07 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Males | 27/46\% | 41/46\% |
| Females | 32154\% | 48/54\% |
| Juniors | 36/61\% | 41/46\% |
| Seniors | 19/32\% | 44/50\% |
| Charter I | 4/7\% | 4/4\% |
| Caucasian | 8/14\% | 22125\% |
| Asian | 4/7\% | 7/8\% |
| Sudanese | 1/1\% | 3/3\% |
| Hispanic | 46/78\% | 57/64\% |
| First Generation | 46/78\% | 63/71\% |
| Low SES | 36/61\% | 53/60\% |
| ELL | 49/83\% | 68/76\% |
| Students of Color | 51/86\% | 67/75\% |


| College Credits Earned by Storm Lake/Buena Vista Early College Charter High School Students During 2005-06 |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Number of College Credits Earned/Percentage of Total College Credits Earned 200506 | Number of College Credits Earned/Percentage of Total College Credits Earned 200607 |
| Hispanic Students | 270/76\% | 864/62\% |
| Asian Students | 12/3.4\% | 120/9\% |
| White Students | 33/9.3\% | 388/28\% |
| Other Students | 38/10.8\% | 27/2\% |
| Total College Credits Earned | 353/100\% | 1399/100\% |

The Percentage of Storm Lake Charter School Students Proficient on the ITED in Reading


The Percentage of Storm Lake Charter School Students Proficient on the ITED in Mathematics


The Percentage of Storm Lake Charter School Students Proficient on the ITED in Science




## Northwest Iowa

## Charter High School

## Hartley-Melvin Sanborn Community School District

173 South Central Avenue
Hartley, IA 51346

| Northwest lowa Charter High School Post-Secondary Data |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2005-06 (Baseline Year) | 2006-07 |
| The percentage of students enrolled in college credit courses | 68\% | 57\% |
| The percentage of Charter students with high school and college level courses aligned with a career pathway | 100\% | 100\% |


| The Percentage of Northwest lowa Charter School Students at Grade 11 Proficient on the ITEDs |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2005-06 (Baseline Year) | 2006-07 |
| Reading | 82\% | 65.7\% |
| Mathematics | 92.9\% | 68.5\% |
| Science | 92\% | 80\% |


| District/Charter | Description of Charter | Goal | Measure | Results |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Prescott Elementary Charter School <br> Dubuque Community School District <br> 1151 White Street <br> Dubuque, IA 52001 <br> (563) 552-4200 <br> Chris McCarron, Principal <br> Mission: The mission of Prescott Đementary School, an Expeditionary Learning School for the Arts, is to empower each child to achieve to his/her highest potential and to become a strong contributing member of the community. <br> First year of Charter Status: 2006-07 <br> Number of Charter <br> Teachers/Administrators (2006-07) = 31/1 <br> District Dropout Rate $2004-05=4.163 \%$ $2005-06=2.41 \%$ <br> District Ave. Daily Attendance K-8 $\begin{aligned} & 2004-05=95.1 \% \\ & 2005-06=95.80 \% \end{aligned}$ | Serves students in grades K-5, intertwining Expeditionary Learning Outward Bound, Iowa's Positive Behavior Support Initiative, and a visual and performing arts-infused curriculum. The school is the Charter (school-wide charter). <br> Planning Grant: Yes - 2005-06 | 1. Increase student achievement in reading on an annual basis to make continual progress towards meeting the annual yearly targets determined by the lowa Department of Education. <br> 2. Increase student achievement in math on an annual basis to make continual progress towards meeting the annual yearly targets determined by the lowa Department of Education. <br> 3. Increase student achievement in science on an annual basis to make continual progress towards meeting the annual yearly targets determined by the lowa Department of Education. | 1. Kindergarten Early Literacy <br> Assessment <br> Observation Survey - Grade 1 <br> Basic Reading Inventory - <br> Grades 2-5 <br> ITBS - Grades 3-5 <br> Measures of Academic <br> Progress - Reading - Grades <br> 3-5 <br> 2. ITBS - Grades 3-5 <br> Measures of Academic <br> Progress - Grades 3-5 <br> 3. ITBS - Grades 3-5 <br> Measures of Academic <br> Progress - Grades 3-5 | 1. The 2006-07 school year data will serve as a baseline for future reporting, as 2006-06 was the first year of implementation, and students were administered the lowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS) in the fall. The following chart displays the percentage of students (including subgroups) proficient in reading on the ITBS. Data are aggregated for students in grades 3-5. <br> 2. The 2006-07 school year data will serve as a baseline for future reporting, as 2006-06 was the first year of implementation, and students were administered the ITBS in the fall. The following chart displays the percentage of students (including subgroups) proficient in mathematics on the ITBS. Data are aggregated for students in grades 3-5. <br> 3. The 2006-07 school year data will serve as a baseline for future reporting, as 2006-06 was the first year of implementation, and students were administered the ITBS in the fall. The following chart displays the percentage of students (including subgroups) proficient in science on the ITBS Data are aggregated for students in grades 3-5. |



|  |  | 7. Create a safer school environment. | 7. In-school and out of school suspensions School-wide Evaluation Tool (SET) | 7. In-school suspensions: 4 half-day and 1 full-day Out of school suspensions: 3 halfday and 2 full-day SET: 78.7\% (80\% is considered a high implementing school) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | 8. Increase parental involvement. | 8. Parental participation in Learning Celebrations, student conferences, Literacy Night, and Advisory Council and Action Teams | 8. Learning Celebrations: $80 \%$ Student conferences: $97 \%$ fall and 95\% spring <br> Literacy Night: 120 students and family members Advisory Council and Action Teams: 6 parents serving |
|  |  | 9. Increase the economic diversity of the students who attend Prescott School. | 9. Percentage of students whose families qualify for free and/or reduced priced meals (Low SES) | 9. $83 \%$ Low SES in 2007 |
|  |  | 10. Increase the attendance rate. | 10. Average daily attendance rates | 10. $91.1 \%$ |
|  |  | 11. Increase community involvement and support for Prescott School. | 11. Classroomvolunteers/mentors | 11. Average of 20 volunteers per month and 31 mentors |

The Percentage of Prescott Full Academic Year (FAY) Students Proficient on the ITBS

|  | 2006-07 |
| :---: | :---: |
| Reading |  |
| All Students (grades 3-5 combined) | 55.1\% |
| Male | 40\% |
| Female | 75.8\% |
| White | 64.2\% |
| Non-White | 36\% |
| Low SES | 50.8\% |
| Non-Low SES | 73.3\% |
| IEP | 25\% |
| Non-IEP | 60.6\% |
| Mathematics |  |
| All Students (grades 3-5 combined) | 48.7\% |
| Male | 46.7\% |
| Female | 51.5\% |
| White | 64.2\% |
| Non-White | 16\% |
| LowSES | 44.4\% |
| Non-Low SES | 66.7\% |
| IEP | 25\% |
| Non-IEP | 53\% |
| Science |  |
| All Students (grades 3-5 combined) | 48.7\% |
| Male | 42.2\% |
| Female | 57.6\% |
| White | 64.2\% |
| Non-White | 16\% |
| LowSES | 41.3\% |
| Non-Low SES | 80\% |
| IEP | 50\% |
| Non-IEP | 48.5\% |


| The Percentage of Prescott Full Academic Year (FAY) Students Proficient on the ITBS |  |
| ---: | ---: |
| Continued |  |$|$

## Comparison of Observation Results Prescott Elementary School 2006-07



| District/Charter | Description of Charter | Goal | Measure | Results |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Panorama Community School District 701 w. Main, P.O. Box 39 Panora, Iowa 50216 <br> John Millhollin, Superintendent <br> Mission: To provide a rigorous and relevant curriculum; ensure all students achieve competency of our core curriculum; students will become confident college level performers before graduating from high school; and strengthen relationships amongst our district's families, school district and colleges to support college success of our students. <br> First year of Charter Status: 2006-07 <br> Number of Charter <br> Teachers/Administrators (2006-07) = $34 / 3$ <br> District Dropout Rate $\begin{aligned} & 2004-05=0 \% \\ & 2005-06=0 \% \end{aligned}$ | The Charter School exists to increase the rigor and relevance at the secondary level. The curriculum will be reviewed and core areas will require a C grade in order for students to demonstrate competency in those areas. Post-secondary opportunities will be encouraged and all students will have an Individual learning Plan (ILP) developed with parent input and school personnel reflecting the education al goals to the students. The school is the Charter School (school-wide charter). <br> Planning Grant: No | 1. To increase parent and school collaborative academic and career planning through the development of an ILP. <br> 1a. Attendance rates vill increase <br> 1b. Truancy will decrease <br> 1c. Student enrollment will increase <br> 1d. Discipline referrals will decrease <br> 1e. Increase student use of technology <br> 2. To increase the percentage of students who can competently perform the skills benchmarks of the district to 100\% <br> 2a. Decrease the percentage of students in the low proficiency band on the ITBS/ITED. <br> 2 b . Increase the attendance rate of parents during parent-teacher conferences. <br> 2c. Increase student GPA <br> 2d. Increase student competency on district standards and benchmarks. <br> 3. To increase the percentage of graduates who obtain "advanced college standing" before they receive a high school diploma. <br> 3a. Increase the percentage of students successfully completing a second year of college. <br> 3b. Increase the percentage of students completing the CORE and | 1. JMC Data <br> 2a. ITBS/ITED <br> 2b. Sign in sheets <br> 2c. Report Card data <br> 2d. District standards and benchmarks <br> 3a. Post-Secondary Graduate Survey <br> 3b. ACT feedback | Implementation will begin 2007-08. No results available yet. |


| District Ave. Daily Attendance K-8 <br> $2004-05=95.59 \%$ <br> $2005-06=95.8 \%$ |  | more than the CORE on the ACT <br> annual review. |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |


| District/Charter | Description of Charter | Goal | Measure | Results |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| eSigourney Entrepreneurial Academy for Leadership (eSEAL) <br> Sigourney Community School District 107 W. Marion <br> Sigourney, IA 51591 <br> (641) 622-2025 <br> Todd Abrahamson, Superintendent <br> Mission: The eSigourney Entrepreneurial Academy for Leadership (eSEAL) is being formed with the unique focus to broaden choice for all students in the Sigourney Community School District in grades $7-12$, including the district alternative school students and interested community members, to realize opportunities to be entrepreneurs., to select postsecondary options, and to expand opportunities in career fields. Alongrange goal for the community is to stop the "brain drain" from the local area and to demonstrate that students can have a productive, successful life owning a personal business, locally or within the state of lowa. <br> First year of Charter Status: 2007-08 | ESEAL provides choice for students in grades 7-12 to grow entrepreneurial skills through the application of classroom knomledge to the actual experience of owning a personal business. A strong relationship with Indian Hills Community College allows students, through an innovative 4+1 schedule, to enroll in postsecondary classes leading to a variety of careers. The Charter will be a school within a school. <br> Planning Grant: No | 1. All students will achieve at high levels in reading comprehension. <br> 2. All students will achieve at high levels in mathematics. <br> 3. All students will achieve at high levels in science. <br> 4.Increase the number of classroom activities that utilize technology in the classroom in grades 7-12. <br> 5. Increase participation in activities that develop leadership skills in grades 7-12. <br> 6. Create a curriculum/Framework for students to develop a business plan, conduct research, and explore business start-up. <br> 7. 9-12 student in e-SEAL will learn to identify and evaluate market opportunities for entrepreneurial | ITBSIITED <br> NMEA <br> Alternative Assessments <br> IHCC courses completed <br> ITBS/ITED <br> NMEA <br> Alternative Assessments <br> IHCC courses completed <br> ITBS/ITED <br> NMEA <br> Alternative Assessments <br> IHCC courses completed <br> Identify e-SEAL classes that have integrated technology in grades 7 12, and the total number of students involved. <br> Number of students involved in leadership activities through e-SEAL grades 7-12 <br> Curriculum Framework development, local board approval, and implementation <br> e-SEAL curriculum will reflect competencies for entrepreneurial exploration and new business start | Implementation will begin 2007-08. No results available yet. |




[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ National Charter School Research Project. Hopes, Fears, \& Reality: A Balanced Look at American Charter Schools in 2005. Lake, R. J. \& Hill, P. T. (Eds.)

