

Charter Day School



Fall 2005

STATE BOARD HONORS CHARTER DAY SCHOOL FOR ACADEMIC GROWTH: ONE OF N.C.'S TOP 25 K-8 SCHOOLS

The State Board of Education has designated The Roger Bacon Academy ~ Charter Day School (RBA~CDS) as one of North Carolina's top 25 elementary schools. It received this distinction by achieving one of the highest academic scores on the State's "exemplary gain" achievement measurements. By exceeding academic proficiency and growth expectations, the school has also received the State's highest ranking as an "Honors School of Excellence."

Charter Day School in Top 25!

The State Board of Education's recent release of annual statistics on the performance of North Carolina's public schools for 2004-05 indicates that 80.9% of the state's K-8 students are at or above grade level in their 1,865 schools.

At The Roger Bacon Academy ~ Charter Day School

- ❖ 91.9% students scored at or above grade level on reading and math tests.
- ❖ They also met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) standards established by the NCLB federal mandates.
- ❖ Of most significance, the school ranks among the top 25 highest-scoring out of all K-8 schools in the state, a result of its students exceeding exemplary academic growth measures.

RBA~CDS is the only charter school in the state to receive this highest form of recognition and is the only K-8 school, charter or regular, in New Hanover, Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, and Pender counties to be so honored.

"Being among the top 25 in the state in academic growth can be attributed to the Direct Instruction curriculum we employ, the skill and loving devotion of every staff member on the campus, and the hard work and strong effort put forth by each of our students and their parents or care-givers," said Headmaster Mark Cramer.



Charter Day students compete in FASTAR—a fun and rewarding extra-curricular activity. FASTAR was developed by The Roger Bacon Academy to encourage children to achieve fluency in reading and math skills.

Charter Day Students Excel on National Test; Kindergartners in Top 10% Nationwide

RBA~CDS students also excelled on nation-wide measurements of academic success. Because the state does not include national examinations as part of its ABC accountability program, and because the state's tests are shrouded in secrecy – teachers and school administrators are prohibited from knowing what questions are on the annual tests - Charter Day School elects to give the Stanford Achievement Test, Edition 9, known as the SAT-9, to its students in addition to the EOG tests. By examining the SAT-9 returns, the school's teachers and administrators are able to target specific content areas needing additional focus in the classroom. Test results from the SAT-9 rank more than 10 million students nationwide in grades K-6 in reading and math skills. The educational value of this testing regimen is born out by the school's results: **this past spring, the Kindergartners at RBA~CDS scored in the top 10th percentile in the nation in reading on the SAT-9, and 4th graders in the top 16% in math. The school as a whole scored in the top 29%, a full 30 points over national grade level equivalents.**

“Our global economy is forcing each of us to be competitive not only within the state but within the entire country and even the world. Charter Day feels obligated to measure itself on a national basis and to constantly seek improvement in that broader sphere as well as within the state,” according to school founder Baker A. Mitchell, Jr. “We want our students to be among the best in the nation, and the SAT-9 is one yardstick that we can use to measure our progress toward that goal,” Mr. Mitchell added.



Charter Day students perform at a ceremony honoring National Charter School Week.

How The State Measures School Success

The State Board of Education (SBE) uses three different measures to categorize each school's success. These measures are the adequate yearly progress (AYP), the academic growth, the performance composite.

- ❖ The AYP status indicates whether or not the students in the school as a whole and in each identified subgroup met the standards set by the state, following federal guidelines, with the long-term goal of 100% proficiency by 2013-14. The AYP status is either “yes” the school met all of their standards or “no” the school missed one or more of its standards.
- ❖ Academic growth is an indication of the rate at which the students in the school, on average, learned, over the past year. The standard set for each student is equivalent to learning a year's worth of material for a year of instruction. There are four levels of recognition for a school: students meet less than expected growth, students meet expected growth, students meet high growth, or its students on average scored an annual gain that was among the top 25 in the state.
- ❖ The performance composite is the percentage of students in the school whose test scores are at or above Achievement Level III which is considered “at grade level.” The performance composite can range from 0% to 100% and every school strives to have 100% of its students at or above grade level.

Kindergartners share a smile at their reading award ceremony.

North Carolina Charter Schools Rise to the Challenge*

Although many charter schools have only been in operation for a few years on limited budgets, the 82 non-alternative charters are holding their own with the traditional public schools. The 2004-05 statistics released by the State Board of Education show that 63% of the non-alternative charter schools met their federal “Adequate Yearly Growth” goals compared to 58% of regular public schools. With regard to academic growth, there were 27% of these charters in the “High Growth” category compared with 26% of regular schools. These charter schools had 57% as either Schools of Excellence or Schools of Distinction compared to 51% of the regular schools. Finally, Charter schools had 80% of their students at or above grade level while traditional schools had 80.9%.

Clearly the regular charter schools are getting through their start-up years in good shape and can hold their own as quality schools of parental choice. The alternative charter schools formed to fill specific local needs to serve learning disabled students, abused youth, or highly at-risk juveniles are also meeting their expected growth goals as established by the state.

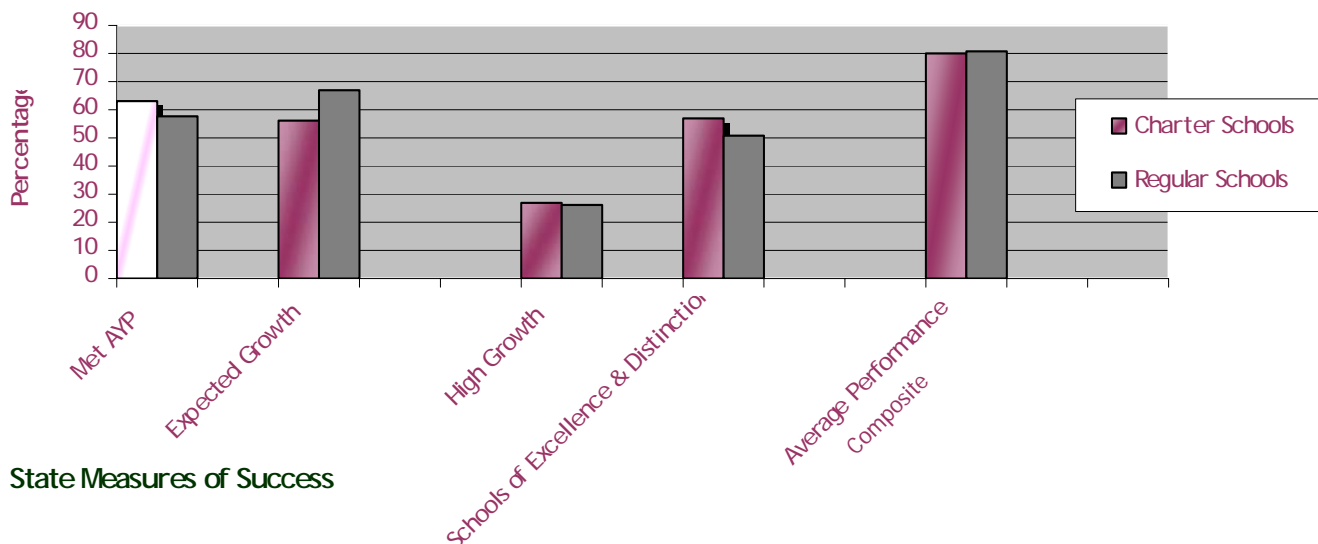
These achievements have also saved North Carolina taxpayers between \$1,500 and \$2,000 for each child each year because charters do not get building funds or transportation funds as do the traditional schools.

The charter school community hopes that the state senate will approve raising the limit on the number of charter schools from 100 to 110.

Why Raise the Cap on Charter Schools?

- ❖ 10 new charters can gain \$19,000,000 in federal funding for new charters.
- ❖ 10 new charters can offer school choice to about 4,000 North Carolina families.
- ❖ 10 new charters can save taxpayers more than \$10,000,000 per year in building and transportation funds.
- ❖ 10 new charters can help relieve overcrowding in fast growing counties.
- ❖ 10 new charters can bring school choice to ten counties currently without choice.
- ❖ 10 new charters can build on the successes of currently established, strong charter schools.

Comparison of Charter Schools & Regular Schools North Carolina 2004-2005 ABC Results



*This comparison of charter schools and regular public schools does not include alternative schools.

Traditional, Proven Methods Lead to School Growth, Student Success

Opening in 2000 with 53 students and using traditional, research-based methods, the school has seen remarkable growth. Enrollment for the 2005-06 year is now at 620 students in grades K-7. Headmaster Cramer explained that the school's philosophy is based on three "laws of success" for any school.

- ❖ First, reward good behavior, and you'll get more of it.
- ❖ Second, teach each bit of knowledge to mastery, and every child will learn.
- ❖ Third, trust the children to behave and learn. If they aren't learning or behaving, you are not following the first two laws.

"Adhering to these principles ensures that we can fulfill our mission to our students and the parents who entrust their children to us. We do this despite **receiving only about 2/3 of the government funding per student as do the regular public schools. RBA~CDS saves the tax payers of North Carolina about \$1.5 million per year to educate their children**, and still hires the very best teachers and compensates them with very competitive salaries and good fringe benefits," Mr. Cramer said.



RBA~CDS's mascot, the owl, a symbol of wisdom, graces the front entry way to the school.

Charter Day School, managed by the Roger Bacon Academy, is a free public charter school located on 50 wooded acres in Brunswick County, just off Highway 74-76 at the junction of Rte. 87. Children from all five surrounding counties attend the school, and every North Carolina child is eligible to apply. Interested parents should call Ms. Connie Hall at 655-1214. Guests are always welcome to schedule a tour of the school.



Fast Facts About RBA~CDS

A Free Public School

Founder: Baker A. Mitchell, Jr.
Headmaster: Mark T. Cramer, Major, Ret., USMC
Year Founded: 2000, initial enrollment of 53 students in grades K-2
Enrollment 2005-2006: 620 students in grades K-7

Campus: 50 wooded acres in northeast Brunswick County, 14 minutes from downtown Wilmington

Special Features: School Uniforms; Direct Instruction Curriculum; Reading & Math Mastery, Before- and After-School Day Care. After-School Programs sponsored by local firms include Tae Kwon Do, Pop Warner Football, Spirit Club, Twirlettes, Chorus, Running Club, and Boy Scout Troop 705.

RBA~CDS is a *North Carolina Honors School of Excellence*. Annual yearly progress and end-of-grade state test scores exceed county, regional, and state averages.

Our School's Mission:

- ◆ To teach the rules and techniques for effective expression and communication in the arts and sciences;
- ◆ To communicate, by these arts and sciences, our understandings of the universe and our role in it; and
- ◆ To instill a love of learning and discovery; to develop a lifelong dedication to health, truth and virtue.

Charter Day School



*The School of Choice
in the
Cape Fear Region*

in affiliation with



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