

FAMILY FOUNDATIONS ACADEMY

Charter School Renewal Report

This report summarizes the charter school's performance to date as measured by the Performance Framework through 2012-2013. 2013-2014 data will be available prior to the charter school's submission of a charter renewal application and Annual Report (both due September 30) and will inform the charter renewal process. Current law (14 Del. C. §514A(c)) requires that the renewal report be based, among other things, on the charter contract. However, the requirement that the Department of Education present a charter contract to an applicant upon approval of a charter school application was not in existence at the time this charter was approved. If the charter renewal application is approved, a charter contract will be presented to the applicant for the renewal period.

Academic Performance Framework: (Exceeds Standard, Meets Standard, Does Not Meet Standard, or Falls Far Below Standard):

2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013
Does Not Meet Standard	Does Not Meet Standard	Meets Standard

Family Foundations Academy (FFA) received an overall rating of "Meets Standard" in the 2012-2013 school year, with an underlying score of 68 points. In school years 2010-2011 and 2011-2012, FFA received an overall rating of "Does Not Meet Standard" with a total of 51 points for each year. The school is trending in a positive direction with regard to overall academic performance. Of note, more students are meeting their growth targets in both Math and ELA, the school's lowest performing students are meeting their growth targets in both Math and ELA, and more students are on track to be proficient in three years in both Math and ELA. FFA has met AYP consistently for the past three years.

While FFA received an overall rating of "Meets Standard" for the 2012-2013 school year, student proficiency is below the State average and the State's Annual Measurable Objectives were not met. This trend has been consistent since 2010-2011. Students with Disabilities are performing below the State average in both Math and ELA. Low Socioeconomic Status (SES) students are performing below the State average in Math. Hispanic students are performing below the State average, and this trend for this demographic subgroup of students has been consistent since 2010-2011. Finally, when compared to student performance in the district in which FFA is located (Colonial School District), students at FFA are not performing as well as Colonial School District's students in Math. However, students at FFA performed better than Colonial School District students in ELA.

Financial Performance (Meets Standard, Does Not Meet Standard, or Falls Far Below Standard):

2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013
Meets Standard	Does Not Meet Standard	Meets Standard

FFA earned a “Meets Standard” overall rating for the 2010-11 and 2012-13 school years. In 2010-11, FFA earned only one “Does Not Meet Standard” rating, for its debt-to-asset ratio of 1.0. The debt-to-asset ratio indicated the organization’s liabilities exceeded assets, which reflected a potential financial risk. The next year, FFA’s debt-to-asset ratio decreased to 0.93; though improved, this is still below the generally-accepted standard target of 0.9, and earned a “Does Not Meet Standard” rating for that measure. In 2012-13, the debt-to-asset ratio decreased further to .88, earning a “Meets Standard” rating.

FFA earned a “Does Not Meet Standard” overall rating for the 2011-12 school year due to low ratings on two measures, which included a sub-optimal debt-to-asset ratio as explained above, and a current ratio rated “Falls Far Below Standard” indicating that at the time of the audit FFA did not have enough assets to cover its liabilities. However, both of these issues improved in the 2012-13 audit as evidenced by FFA earning “Meets Standard” for every measure.

Organizational Performance (Meets Standard or Does Not Meet Standard):

2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013
Not calculated this year	Does Not Meet Standard	Does Not Meet Standard

FFA earned an overall rating of “Does Not Meet Standard” on the Organizational Framework Report for the 2012-13 school year, based on multiple issues of non-compliance. With respect to financial management, FFA was documented during that period as having owed Outstanding IVs to the Statewide Benefits Office dating back to July 2012. During that year, the Division of Accounting, via emails, documented FFA as being the “worst charter offender” for outstanding state Procurement Card transactions, which at one point totaled \$70,418.22. With respect to governance and reporting, FFA had not posted the required Board meeting dates, agendas, and minutes on its website. With respect to teacher certification, only 94.74% of teachers met the DOE licensure and certification requirements, short of the necessary 100%. With respect to the school environment, FFA was cited for not meeting requirements around nursing services/dispensing of pharmaceuticals and food service requirements. FFA’s website does not contain any information about required Citizen’s Budget Oversight Committee meetings. Additionally, the Charter School Office received more parent complaints about FFA than any other school, many of which cite concerns about the responsiveness of the school leadership to student and family questions. Since working in partnership with students and families is part of the FFA mission and school name, the complaints suggest that FFA may not be fulfilling it’s obligations under its charter. Based on the approved charter, the Department’s expectation is that FFA will demonstrate different and innovative family involvement practices that can be replicated in other schools.

In the 2013-14 school year, several of those compliance issues persisted. In December, the School Nutrition Programs office conducted an Administrative Review to evaluate the status of ongoing food service compliance issues. FFA has also been cited for three consecutive months as not having the most recent financial statements posted to its website as required by law. The Charter School Office continued to receive numerous complaints about the school, including some forwarded by the

Governor's office, many stating that the school administration was not responsive to parent concerns. Additionally, FFA's website does not contain information about required Citizen's Budget Oversight Committee meetings.

The Charter School Office has not yet concluded the process of gathering information about compliance for the 2013-14 school year. There may be additional compliance issues that have yet to be brought to the attention of the Charter School Office by other DOE workgroups.