
Pennsylvania Department of Education



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
333 MARKET STREET
HARRISBURG, PA 17126-0333

Charter Annual Report **Tuesday, October 09, 2007**

Charter School: Beaver Area Academic CS
Address: Gypsy Glen Rd
Beaver, PA 15009
Phone: (724) 774-0250
Contact Name: Brian White

SECTION I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Organization Description

There are 59 students enrolled in the Beaver Area Academic Charter School. 37 are enrolled in the Enhanced Academic Program. This program is for students

who have the academic background to engage in a rigorous academic program. 22 are enrolled in the Core Education Program. This program is design for students who were not successful in a traditional school setting. They receive instruction in the core subjects and participate in the wilderness and service learning component geared specifically for building self-esteem.

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The Students enrolled in the Beaver Area Academic Charter School came from six surrounding school districts. All of the students at the Beaver Area Academic Charter School are welcomed into our school community and their educational success is our top priority.

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The need for this charter school is based on a lack of academic opportunities for individual students.Â Students seeking, without success, opportunities in school-to-work, academics, elective programs, and the arts, have demonstrated the lack of academic opportunities and the need for a charter school.Â Students needs have been met by participating in our enhanced academics program and our academic recovery program.

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The strength of the Beaver Area Academic Charter School is the ability to customize instruction to the needs of the individual learner.Â The use of individual learning plans in conjunction with the Scantron Performance Series allows school personnel to frequently adjust curriculum, instruction and support.Â

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Our academic program is very innovative.Â It blends cyber education with traditional courses.Â It provides the opportunity for students to develop as citizens and leaders in our wilderness program and allows students to develop a positive way of expressing themselves through our art program.

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The wilderness program engages students in hiking, climbing, repelling and spelunking.Â In addition to these outdoor skills, the students learn to become guides for elementary age students from around the region.Â Students and parents have commented that this may be the most life-changing educational program that their children have been involved with.

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The greatest challenge is the deficiency in core skills and varying work ethic from students coming from seven school districts. We will continue to design ways to address core skills. A second challenge is the mental and social health of the students we serve. We have actively engaged this challenge in our Art and Wilderness programs. However, we will need to continue to be cognizant of the mental health needs of our students.

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Core Purpose

Mission

The mission of the *Beaver Area Academic Charter School* is to provide student's individualized academic opportunities based on their needs and abilities.

Vision

The vision of the Beaver Area Academic Charter School is a school focused on delivering educational services that are based on the needs of the students.

Shared Values

- each person has value and intrinsic worth.
- individuals have the opportunity to pursue their potential through diverse learning opportunities.
- in the development of the whole person.
- that a sense of belonging is vital to the development of the individual.
- the choices of an individual require accountability.
- each person has responsibility to the community.
- the individual, home, school, and community are essential to the learning process.
- learning is a continuous process.
- in being innovative and proactive in a changing world.

Academic Standards

The primary curriculum for all core subject areas is based on the foundation of Lincoln Interactive, which has had all courses go through a rigorous accreditation process to ensure that the academic standards stated in chapter 4 are being met. The University of Pittsburgh's Tri-State Study Council has audited the Lincoln courses. University of Pittsburgh's Tri-State Study

Council developed a three-tiered endorsement process. These courses are aligned the Academic Standards in Chapter 4.

Instructional services are purchased from other providers. As part of each agreement the provider agrees that the curriculum and instruction being provided is aligned to Chapter 4.

Strengths and Challenges

The strength of the Beaver Area Academic Charter School is the ability to customize instruction to the needs of the individual learner. The use of individual learning plans in conjunction with the Scantron Performance Series allows school personnel to frequently adjust curriculum, instruction and support.

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SECTION II. STRATEGIC IMPROVEMENT PLANNING

Strategic Planning Process

The strategic planning process for 2006-2007 has been slowed down so that external factors can be fully evaluated before making long term plans. Most notably, the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit in conjunction with 15 school districts is in the process of creating a regional choice initiative. This program may have a major impact on our charter school. Therefore we have been actively supporting this program but we will wait to establish our own long-term goals.

Strategic Planning Committee

Name	Affiliation	Membership Category	Appointed By
Vaness Boyd	Staff		CAO
Brian White	CAO		CAO
Georgia Milnes	Staff		CAO
Pam Kuhns	Board	Board Member	CAO
Tod Marion	Beaver	Community Representative	CAO
Terri Fleeson	Service Provider		CAO
Vic Martinetti	Staff	Administrator	CAO
Vic Raskovsky	Bus		CAO

Goals, Strategies and Activities

SECTION III. QUALITY OF SCHOOL DESIGN

Rigorous Instructional Program

During 2006-2007 school year students enrolled in the Core Education program of the Beaver Area Academic Charter School were engaged in instructional programs that are innovative, rigorous and that cater to the individual student. These programs include instruction that blends cyber and direct instructional techniques. Each student has an individual computer work station for cyber instruction in mathematics, language arts, social studies and science. The cyber-based instruction is supplemented by direct instruction in reading and math. All students participate in literacy circle learning that engages the students in reading novels. The students receive real time math tutoring using Apangea Tutoring, which is a real time cyber based mathematics tutoring service that engages students in differentiated math reinforcement. All students are studying Spanish using PowerGlide. The teaching methodology used by PowerGlide primarily focuses on the use of the diglot weave and engages students in a story while interjecting Spanish words throughout the reading. The stories relate to an online game that students participate in using Spanish. Students also participate in a wilderness program that is intended to build self-esteem, teach citizenship and develop leadership. All of the programs in the charter school are vastly different than the traditional academic programs that can be found in the Beaver Area School District.

The leadership of the Beaver Area Charter School believes that this charter school can serve as a laboratory for learning by serving as a prototypic model for high expectations, student engagement and differentiated instructional techniques.

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English Language Learners

The ESL Program is replaces the English and an elective portion of the core curriculum in the Beaver Area Academic Charter School. The students shall receive sufficient instructional time from a Pennsylvania certified teacher with appropriate resource materials. The teacher shall use an instrument that monitors student progress in learning English. The classroom teacher shall provide assistance and accommodations so that the LEP student has academic success while learning English. The ESL Program shall be evaluated annually to determine if the ELL are achieving success in learning English. This past year we served one student who was an English Language Learner. The instruction was provided by the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit.

Graduation Requirements

All students must earn a minimum of 22 credits in order to qualify for graduation. Those credits shall include:

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<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>CREDITS</u>	
English	4.0	
Social Studies	4.0	
Math	3.0	
Science	3.0	
Arts or Humanities	2.0	
Health	.5	
Physical Education	**	2.0
Electives	3.5	

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^ ** All students must take Physical Education each year.

^ ** All students must complete a graduate portfolio/project

Special Education

The instructional strategies are determined at the IEP meeting. All classroom teachers attend the IEP meetings and there is a sharing of information. Teacher and appropriate staff discuss what might work in the classroom as well as areas of need. Staff development training is provided as needed, in differentiating instruction for gifted and special needs students. Staff evaluations consist of classroom observations, session reviews and end of the year portfolio reviews. Accommodations for advanced and students with special needs are reviewed. The use of differentiated instruction supports both students with disabilities.

Special Education - Attachment

- PENN DATA

Special Education Program Profile - Chart I

Teacher	FTE	Type of class or support	Location	# of Students	Other Information
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Georgia Milnes	1.0	Intinerent	BAACS	8	1
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Special Education Program Profile - Chart II

Organization	FTE	Type of class or support	Location	# of Students	Other Information
Beaver Area School District	n/a	Coordination and Management	Beaver	8	1

Special Education Program Profile - Chart III

Title	Location	FTE
All Contracted	BAACS	1

Special Education Program Profile - Chart IV

IU, Public Agency, Organization, or Individual	Title/Service	Amount of Time Per Week
Beaver Area School District	School Psychologist	As needed. Usually less than 1 hour per week.

SECTION IV. ACCOUNTABILITY

Student Assessment - Primary

Test/Classification	K	1	2	3	4	5
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Student Assessment - Secondary

Test/Classification	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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Student Assessment

the Beaver Area Academic Charter School. Each student that enters our institution is given a student-learning plan. This plan evaluates the students' state assessment results from previous years along with their present academic status. Once weakness has been identified, interventions and strategies are put in place to assist the students. As the year progresses, the student's learning plan is monitored and any necessary adjustments are made. Parents and students receive a copy of the original learning plan and any new modifications made to the learning plan. Individual After-school, tutoring is always available for our students.

The Beaver Area Academic Charter School has used the Scantron Performance Series as its primary testing program. The charter school made AYP for the 2005-2006 school year. We anticipate scores that will comply wit NCLB in Reading and Math. however, we anticipate not making AYP in grade 11 mathematics.

Student Assessment - Attachment

- results

Teacher Evaluation

The objectives of the charter school's evaluation plan for professional employees are to identify, improve, and reinforce the skills, attitudes and abilities which enable an employee to be effective in achieving school goals and to identify and suggest ways to improve on weaknesses which

prevent an employee from achieving personal goals of the charter school. Beginning with the 2006-2007 school year. Each employee will develop individual growth goals that will be part of their annual evaluation. In addition a merit pay system was started.

List entities/individuals who are responsible for teacher and staff evaluation:

Brian White, Chief Executive Officer
Victor Martinetti, Principal

SECTION V. GOVERNANCE REQUIREMENTS

Leadership Changes

The Board has 5 members.Â One member, member Michelle O'Farrell, left the board with birth of her second child.Â Denee Stevenson was selected by the Board to replace Michele.Â Denee Stevenson is a retired High School English Teacher. Additionally, Denee was selected as a finalist by the Teacher Excellence Center for her accomplishments as an educator.

Board of Trustees

Name of Trustee	Office (if any)
Curtis Feldmeier	President
Pamela Kuhns	Secretary
Mark Turnley	Treasurer
Denee Stevenson	none
Tod Marion	none

Professional Development (Governance)

The Board of Trustees has been provided training by our attorney, Robert W. O'Donnell.Â The topics included:

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Job Description of a Board Member

Compliance & Performance

Monitoring the Budget

Policy Making

Strategic Planning

Board Meetings

Public Participation

Professional Services

Sunshine Act

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In addition Denee Stevenson attended the PA Coalition of Charter School Conference.

Coordination of the Governance and Management of the School

Members of the local school board have been invited to attend our board of trustee meetings. In addition the Board of Trustees are active members of the community and have many interactions with school district personnel.

Coordination of the Governance and Management of the School - Attachment

- Meetings

Community and Parent Engagement

During the 2005-2006 Board of Trustees directed the administration to engage in a comprehensive and marketing plan. As a result of this a Director and Assistant Director of Marketing and recruitment were hired.Â The most notable success that has improved communication was the development of our website.

SECTION VI. FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Major fund-raising activities

The Beaver Area Academic Charter School recieved a 2nd year implementation grant. In addition the charter school was offered a \$10,000 grant by the Grable Foundation.

Fiscal Solvency Policies

In each year of its operation the school adopted a balanced budget that allocated resources based on the prioritization of needs. In developing the budget, a conservative approach was taken to projecting enrollment and the student subsidy rate. In several fiscal years, actual revenues exceeded budgeted revenues because enrollment was larger than anticipated while actual expenditures closely matched budgeted expenditures. As a result, the school accumulated an unrestricted fund surplus that gives it a good level of fiscal solvency.

The school continues to develop spending plans that are based on fulfilling the mission of the school and achieving targeted outcomes. This approach supports the continuing efforts to market the school which builds a strong enrollment base which brings in the revenues needed to maintain fiscal solvency.

Accounting System

BAACS operates the accounting system on a modified accrual basis of fund accounting in compliance with GAAP, GASB, and the manual of accounting for Pennsylvania public Schools. The software used is from TENEX, a Pennsylvania company whose clients include numerous Pennsylvania Public Schools.

Preliminary Statements of Revenues, Expenditures & Fund Balances - Attachment

- BAACS SS

Audit Firm, Date of Last Audit, Auditor's Opinion, and Any Findings Resulting From the Audit

Audit Firm:

Cottrill, Abrutina & Associates, P.C.
1475 Third Ave
New Brighton, PA 15066

Date of Last Audit:

The last audit was completed was completed and submitted on September 27, 2006 for the 2005 - 2006 School year.

Opinion and Findings:

The opinion stated "In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Beaver Area Academic Charter School Career as of June 30, 2006"

No findings are stated.

Citations and follow-up actions for any State Audit Report

No citations

SECTION VII. FACILITY RESPONSIBILITIES

Acquisition of Facilities, Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment During the Last Fiscal Year

During 2006-2007 school year the Beaver Area Academic Charter School leased modular classroom space from the Beaver Area School District. The charter school acquired furniture and technology to operate our academic programs. Each student has an individual workspace with appropriate technology. The staff has been provided the technology necessary to support the students learning.

Future Facility Plans and Other Capital Needs

Our future plans include acquiring a structure for our Core Education Academic Recovery program in grades 9-12. Additionally we intend to lease space from the Beaver Area School District at a vacant elementary school to begin our developmental kindergarten.

SECTION VIII. HEALTH AND SAFETY RESPONSIBILITIES

Compliance With Health and Safety Requirements and Maintenance of Health and Immunizations Records for Students

Currently the Beaver Area Academic Charter School leases instructional space from the Beaver Area School District. The charter school participated in all safety drills conducted by the Beaver Area High School.

Health and immunization records:

The Beaver Area Academic Charter School requires that prior to admission to school for the first time that the parent(s) or guardian shall complete a medical history report form which shall include information regarding known communicable diseases. The nurse or school physician may use such reports to advise the parent of the need for further medical care .

The school nurse(s) shall report the presence of suspected communicable diseases to the appropriate local health authority as required by the Department of Health.

All health records shall be confidential and their contents shall be divulged only when necessary for the health of the child or at the request of the parent or guardian to a physician.

As part of the health record, a certificate of immunization for each child enrolled shall be maintained as established by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

Compliance With Health and Safety Requirements and Maintenance of Health and Immunizations Records for Students - Attachments

- REQ 1
- REQ 2
- REQ 3
- REQ 4
- REQ 5
- REQ 6
- REQ 7
- REQ 8
- REQ 9
- REQ 10
- REQ 11
- REQ 12

Current School Insurance Coverage Policies and Programs

Hartford Casualty Insurance Company

Hartford Spectrum Business Insurance Policy:

- Property Coverage
- Liability Coverage
- Educator's Legal Liability Coverage

High Mark Blue Cross Blue Shield

- Point of Service Select Blue

Delta Dental

- Dental Insurance

Creed & PSBA Insurance Trust

- Workers Comp

School Employees Insurance Trust

- Life Insurance

SECTION IX. ADMINISTRATIVE NEEDS

Quality of Teaching and Other Staff

The teaching staff for the 2006-2007 school year all held Pennsylvania teaching certificates. All contracted instructional services were performed by individual's certified in Pennsylvania.

Quality of Teaching and Other Staff - Attachments

- 1

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Student Enrollment

Students will be admitted if they complete the general admission process. The *Beaver Area Academic Charter School* will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, age, gender, religion, disability, or because a person is disabled.

The *Beaver Area Academic Charter School* will annually determine the number of seats available. Students, who meet admission requirements, will be admitted as long as the number of qualified applicants does not exceed the number of seats. A lottery will be used to choose students if the number of qualified applicants exceeds the number of seats available. The available number of seats was not exceeded for the 2005-2006 school year.

General Process:

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1. Parents/Guardians enrolling a student must provide general information on registration form.
2. Parents/Guardians must provide proof of residency.
3. Parents/Guardians must provide all required health records.
4. Parents/guardians must sign a release enabling the charter school to seek previous educational and disciplinary records.

Transportation

The Beaver Area Academic Charter School does not have a transportation program.

Food Service Program

The Beaver Area Academic Charter School food service program is contracted with the Beaver Area School District.

Student Conduct

Student Responsibility Code:

Parents should impress their children with the importance of an education, encourage their children to respect the rights and property of other, and encourage their children to be regular and prompt in their school attendance and to complete their homework assignments and tests in a timely fashion. They should teach their children that disciplined behavior is necessary at home, at

school, and in the community at large.

The professional staff will work with parents to encourage maximum student achievement and assist the administration and the Board of Trustees in enforcing both academic and disciplinary standards. They shall serve as a positive example or model for their students at all times while working to promote a climate of mutual respect between staff and students.

The school administration will participate in developing a sound and helpful atmosphere of mutual respect between parents, students, teachers, and administrators by working closely with parents in establishing a healthy wholesome relationship between home and school, by using auxiliary staff and community agencies where appropriate to help parents and students identify problems and seek solutions, and by enforcing the Disciplinary Code so as to achieve an atmosphere most conducive to learning.

Students should attend school regularly and be prompt to all classes. They should be accountable for their actions, respect the rights of other students, and recognize that school teachers and administrators assume the authority of parents to all school children during school hours and at all school functions requiring supervision.

Students should respect school property and the property of others. They should respect the right of other students to pursue their education without distraction.

Number of Suspensions:

12 students were involved in 14 suspensions.

Student Conduct - Attachment

- HANDBOOK

CHARTER SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY DATA

Charter School Annual Report Summary Data 2007 - 2008

Name of School: Beaver Area Academic CS

Date of Local Chartering School Board/PDE Approval: April 27, 2005

Length of Charter: 5 years **Opening Date:** August 24, 2005

Grade Level: 9-12 **Hours of Operation:** 7:30 a.m. - 3:15

Percentage of Certified Staff: 100% **Total Instructional Staff:** 2*

Student/ Teacher Ratio: n/a **Student Waiting List:** 0

Attendance Rate/Percentage: 95.86

Enrollment: 49 **Per Pupil Subsidy:** \$7104

Student Profile

American Indian/Alaskan Native: 0

Asian/Pacific Islander: 0

Black (Non-Hispanic): 11

Hispanic: 3

White (Non-Hispanic): 35

Multicultural: 0

Percentage of Students from Low Income Families Eligible for a Free or Reduced Lunch: 33%

Provide the Total Unduplicated Number of Students Receiving Special Services (Excluding Gifted) as of Previous December: 8

Number of:	K (AM)	K (PM)	K (FTIME)	ELEM	MIDDLE	SEC.	TOTAL
Instructional Days	0	0	0	0	0	180	180
Instructional Hours	0	0	0	0	0	1004.41	1004.41

ASSURANCE FOR THE OPERATION OF CHARTER SCHOOL SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

School Year: 2007

The Beaver Area Academic CS within Beaver Valley IU 27 assures that the charter school will comply with the requirements of 22 PA Code Chapter 711 and with the policies and procedures of Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). PDE will specify, in writing, policies and procedures to be followed. Requests for any deviations from these regulations, policies, and procedures must be made in writing to PDE. The charter school assures:

1. There are a full range of services, programs and alternative placements available for placement and implementation of the special education programs in the charter school.
2. The charter school has adopted a "child find" system to locate, identify and evaluate children who are thought to be a child with a disability eligible for special education residing within the charter school's jurisdiction. "Child find" data is collected, maintained, and used in decision-making. Child find process and procedures are evaluated for effectiveness. The charter school implements mechanisms to disseminate child find information to the public, organizations, agencies, and individuals on at least an annual basis.
3. The charter school has adopted policies and procedures that assure that students with disabilities are included in general education programs and extracurricular and non-academic programs and activities to the maximum extent appropriate in accordance with an Individualized Education Program.
4. The charter school will comply with the PA Department of Education annual report requirements including special education information.
5. The charter school follows the state and federal guidelines for participation of students with disabilities in state and charter school-wide assessments including the determination of participation, the need for accommodations, and the methods of assessing students for whom regular assessment is not appropriate.
6. The charter school assures the Pennsylvania Department of Education that funds received through participation in the medical assistance reimbursement program, ACCESS, will be used to enhance or expand the current level of services and programs provided to students with disabilities in this local education agency.

This assurance must be signed by the Board President and the Chief Executive Officer for the charter school to operate services and programs.

Board President

Date

Chief Executive Officer

Date

2007 - 2008 Annual Report for Pennsylvania Charter Schools

Verify that all DATA reports to PDE are complete

YES _____ **NO** _____

SIGNATURE PAGE

Identify the charter school's Chief Executive Officer.

Name Brian White

Title CAO

Phone (724) 774-4021

Fax (724) 774-8770

E-mail whiteb@basd.k12.pa.us

Signature of the Chief Executive Officer and Date

Identify the charter school's President of the Board of Trustees.

Name Dr. Curt Feldmeir

Title President

Phone (724)774-4021

Fax (724) 774-8770

E-mail NA

Signature of the President of the Board of Trustees and Date

Identify the charter school's Special Education Contact Person.

Name Terr Fleeson

Title Director Of Student Services

Phone 724)774-4021

Fax (724) 774-8770

E-mail fleesont@basd.k12.pa.us

Signature of the Special Education Contact Person and Date