

## **BlueSky Charter School**

**HISTORY:** BlueSky has grown from about 50 ADMs in 2005, to 150 ADMs in 2006, and will finish 2007 around 450 ADMs. We have moved from a staff of 5 to a staff of 50. We have received the state finance award for 2006. Our board has set a policy of a 25% reserve, which BlueSky has met. Our students are actively engaged in learning, plus taking the state BSTs and MCAs, and the Stanford 9 exams. We have surveyed our parents and students, and the results show very high levels of satisfaction with BlueSky.

**In short, BlueSky is fiscally sound, staff are well qualified and there is little staff turnover, students are learning, and parents and students are highly satisfied. And our governing board now meets all requirements of state law with no requirement for a variance.**

**In addition, the vast majority of students attracted to BlueSky are, for lack of a better word, at-risk. Many have already quit school. Many of those currently enrolled in other schools are failing. But at BlueSky, these students are succeeding as shown by our increasing graduation rates, and our increasing retention rates. BlueSky staff have identified our most successful group of students to be young moms.**

**Plus, BlueSky is still improving.**

**We have contracted with TIES to provide a wide ranging student data base that will enable us to better track our successes, and our areas needing improvement.**

**We have hired a full time professional registrar, Dennis Perry.**

**We have hired a full time professional director of student services, Chris Kerno. Our board is committed to counselor and social worker : student ratios of 1:150; Special Ed teacher to case management ratios of 1:25 and home base teacher to student ratios of 1:30. We are in the process of hiring a total of 6 social workers, 10 counselors, and 8 special education teachers to start the 2007 school year.**

**We are also in the planning stages of offering a student transition services area that will plan for the successful transition of all BlueSky graduates into the areas of community participation, self advocacy, careers and work, post secondary education, and life long recreation. With a high school diploma.**

**READ 2/3 LETTERS**

**For nearly the past 3 months, I and other staff at BlueSky have spent a considerable amount of time and effort answering concerns and questions raised by department staff. These have included payments for OLL students from last year, which I appealed, and I believe have been resolved, but which we have not been**

**reimbursed. And I want to emphasize here that this is but a very small piece of what is occurring at BlueSky, but it seems to be what is generating a lot of concern.**

**We have heard questions of alignment to standards, which we have answered.**

**We have heard questions about work experience, which we have answered, and still hold that as a charter school we are not subject to all the laws of secondary public schools.**

**We have heard questions about the number of courses our students are enrolled in, and we have corrected the department's misperceptions, which you acknowledge.**

**Our registrar, Dennis Perry, has been accused of making "inappropriate remarks" at an OLL conference, which turned out to be totally false. His comments were true and accurate, and he has received no apology.**

**We have been told there have been criticisms and allegations, but they have never been stated, nor their source revealed. This has now become, in my opinion, a source of vicious rumors about BlueSky that has created concerns with Keith Lester, Supt of our sponsoring school.**

**It is time to end this vicious rumor mill.**

**How can BlueSky possibly answer the complaints when we do not know what they are, or who they are coming from?**

**It is time to tell us who is complaining, who they are complaining to, and what the complaints are? Not only is this a responsible, reasonable way to proceed, but due process demands it.**

**Plus, it is time for department staff to quit threatening BlueSky with an audit, or other dire measures if we do not "cooperate." We have, and are cooperating. We have treated department staff with respect, but I do not feel it has been reciprocated, and it is time for it to stop.**