



Polk County Public Schools

Method for Determining Comparable Populations

Revised: 2011-2012

Please find below the method to be used to determine comparable populations for each charter school. Data will be pulled each year from the Survey 3 (February) Final FIRN Report for demographic data on students.

The compiled report will contain the following six indicators: % Free & Reduced Lunch, % Black, % White, % Hispanic, % Students with Disability, and % English Language Learners.

Once this data has been placed in an Excel file, the following steps will take place in order to determine comparable populations for each charter schools. Each school should have a minimum of three comparable schools, to the extent possible.

Step 1: Filter by Grade Level served

Step 2: Run report for each charter school showing comparable schools identified with similar demographics for 4 or more of the 6 categories listed above within 5%.

Step 3: For those schools who do not have at least two comparable schools using the method described in Step 2, filter within 10%

Step 4: For those schools who still have more than five comparable schools using the method described in Steps 2, additionally filter using 5 or more of the 6 categories.

Please Note: At times, using the above Steps exceptions may occur and will be determined on a case by case basis and noted at the bottom of the spreadsheet.