



## Polk County's VPSC Update

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During year one of the Voluntary Public School Choice (VPSC) grant award, Polk County worked to promote and develop language for inter-district agreements for the movement of students between Polk, Osceola and Hillsborough counties. Year one baseline for inter-district transfer data demonstrated that 61 students were transferring between these districts. Marie Sneed, an expert in desegregation and the Supreme Court ruling regarding student assignment, reviewed current practices and choice options for students. An agreement with Four Corners Charter School in Osceola established seats for 250 Polk students to attend.

In the Summer, an exciting Choice Summit was also held July 16-17, 2008. The Choice Summit held sessions for district administrators who work with magnet, choice and charter programs. Best Practices were shared and discussed with presentations from other districts, such as Sarasota County on AYP, Brevard County on Strategic Planning: Linking District Planning to School Results, and Duval County on the Magnet School Kit: Avoiding a Marketing Train Wreck. Their presentations and more are now available on the Polk VPSC Website, which can be found by visiting the FPSCC website at [www.FPSCC.net](http://www.FPSCC.net) and clicking on the link for [Polk Voluntary Public School Choice](#). Polk is looking forward to hosting the same event again in the Summer of 2009 while adding sessions for Career Academies. Mark your calendars as this training is available to all district choice staff!

During year two, Polk plans to work with their nine coalition districts in central Florida to develop and print various marketing materials to help promote all choice options available in each district. These marketing materials will include brochures, flyers, and videos that will include both generalized marketing for all forms of choice as well as specific marketing to certain types of choice.

The Polk VPSC Grant also offers professional development opportunities to its nine coalition districts. In November 2008, district staff from Polk County and Osceola County were sent to the National Association of Charter School Authorizer's (NACSA) conference in Indianapolis, IN. Many best practices were learned and shared at this conference, which were brought back to district charter school authorizers.

In February 2009, Polk County has worked with Stanford University and the CREDO Group as well as NACSA to arrange for an intensive workshop to examine Progress Monitoring as it relates to accountability in Florida for the nine coalition districts. Then, in April NACSA will facilitate a workshop for all district charter school authorizers to design Accountability models for Florida.

In April 7-9, 2009, district staff from all nine coalition districts will be sent to the Career Academies on the Hill Conference in Tallahassee, FL. They are looking forward to this opportunity to learn more about Career Academies and see what other districts are doing to meet the requirements in this exciting form of choice.