



MEMORANDUM

To: School Board Members
From: Natalie Roca, Executive Director *NR*
Date: February 15, 2013
Re: Board Work Session for Charter Schools Applying for Renewal

The review of charter school renewal applications is on the agenda for the February 19, 2013 Board Work Session. Three charter schools with terms ending on June 30, 2013 currently seek renewal: Sarasota Military Academy (SMA), Sarasota School of Arts and Sciences (SSAS) and the Suncoast School for Innovative Studies (SSIS).

As the charter sponsor, renewing charters is the responsibility of the School Board of Sarasota County. As authorized in Florida Statute 1002.33 (8), the sponsor may choose not to renew or may terminate a charter on any of the following grounds:

1. Failure to participate in the state's education accountability system created in F.S. 1008.31, as required in this section, or failure to meet the requirements for student performance stated in the charter.
2. Failure to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management.
3. Violation of law.
4. Other good cause shown.

The charter renewal process consists of reviews of the following areas of accountability: business operations and fiscal management, student performance, and compliance.

Business Operations and Fiscal Management: The review of this area of accountability primarily consists of examining the annual financial and compliance reports filed by the charter holder with School Board of Sarasota County. The sponsor will evaluate whether the charter holder has filed all of the required reports and whether the reports demonstrate that the charter holder has satisfied generally accepted accounting standards of fiscal management under the applicable statutes and rules.

Student Performance: The review of this area of accountability is primarily based on examining state and Federal accountability ratings that have been issued since the charter school began operating and determining whether the charter holder has satisfied the student performance requirements under the applicable statutes and rules.

Compliance: The review of this area of accountability involves evaluating the charter holder's compliance with the initial charter contract, federal and state requirements, and reporting requirements. This review includes but is not limited to services provided to ESE and ELL

students, health and safety requirements, class size requirements and general services to parents and students at the school. This review also consists of evaluating the information provided in the completed renewal application.

The district's charter renewal review parallels the process used to initially evaluate charter school applicants. To date, the following steps have been taken or are expected in this year's renewal process:

- Each charter school submitted a renewal application by January 7, 2013.
- The district's Charter Review Committee (CRC) met on January 17 and 24, 2013 to review each school's application and to review results of routine annual monitoring conducted by the district and other documented evidence of school compliance with requirements and policies.
- Based on the CRC's review and discussions, some schools were asked to provide clarifying or updated information.
- On February 19, 2013, each charter school's administrator and governing board member(s) will meet with the School Board to present their renewal request. The School Board may ask questions or request additional information from the school or district staff.
- The School Board will vote on each charter's renewal at the March 19 or April 2, 2013 School Board Meeting.
- If the Board approves a charter's renewal, a new charter agreement will be negotiated with the charter school's Governing Board and voted upon by the School Board of Sarasota County at a subsequent meeting. The new term of the charter would take effect on July 1, 2013.

The following charter school renewal information is submitted for your review:

- Charter Review Committee Summary and Background Information
- Charter Review Committee's Clarification Questions and School Responses
- Charter School Renewal Application

Please call me if I can answer any questions about this material or process before the workshop.

cc: Lori White
Katrina Ward

Sarasota County Public Schools
2012-2013 Charter Renewal Application for

Suncoast School for Innovative Studies

Information Considered to Determine Recommendation for Charter School Renewal

- The Suncoast School for Innovative Studies (SSIS) is seeking a 10 year charter extension.
- SSIS currently serves students in Pre-K through grade 8. The December 2012 enrollment is at 387 with 55% minority students and 81% on free/reduced lunch. SSIS is a Title I school.
- SSIS would like to expand enrollment to 700 students by 2016. The student enrollment history and projected enrollment for SSIS is attached.

School Finances and Financial Viability

The audited financial statements as of June 30, 2012 indicate the unassigned fund balance of Suncoast School for Innovative Studies, INC. was \$69,585 or 2.92% of total Governmental Fund program revenues. The total ending gross fund balance was \$91,926. The school has renegotiated the lease payments on the Tuttle Avenue property for the fiscal year 2012-2013 to reduce lease payments by approximately \$13,000 per month or \$156,000 per year. In the 2011-2012 fiscal year the school spent \$125,980 for one time capital improvements. As of December 31, 2012 revenues exceed expenditures by \$127,428 increasing the ending gross fund balance to \$219,354 and the unassigned fund balance has increased to \$197,013 or 7.23% of total revenues.

Appropriate information and supporting documentation is in place that the school is in compliance with the requirements of financial accounting, including evidence of financial accounting procedures, evidence that monthly financial statements are filed timely with the District, evidence that the annual audit is consistent with GASB 34 requirements and submitted by the required date, evidence that capital projects allocations are expended in accordance with an approved plan and the school has an established system of accounting for fixed assets in accordance with Rules of the State Chief Financial Officer.

SSIS is a Title I school. Documentation of Title I expenditures and budget records are maintained and submitted appropriately.

Student Achievement and Accountability

SSIS is rated a “B” school in 2012. Over the past 5 years SSIS has received a school grade of A or B, with the exception of 2010 when the school received a grade of C. A chart of the school grades history for SSIS and all other charter and non-charter schools is attached.

School performance levels in reading and mathematics have fluctuated over the years. Please see the attached charts showing the percent of students proficient in mathematics and reading, for grades 3 – 5 and grades 6 – 8. SSIS showed significant improvement in the percent proficient at the elementary level from 2003 through 2007, then declined, fluctuated, and is recently back on the upward trend. Performance patterns of improvement and declines at the middle school level have also fluctuated over time. The state implemented the new FCAT 2.0 in 2011, and many schools including SSIS experienced declines in scores from 2010 to 2011. SSIS is showing improvement in meeting the proficiency goals set forth in the 2011-12 School Improvement Plan for reading, science and writing, and the learning gains goals for reading.

The school participates in all district and state-required assessments and adheres to all school improvement planning and school grades reporting requirements.

ESE and ELL Services

Procedures are in place and followed for determining eligibility and placement in the least restrictive environment and the provision of special education and related services to ESE students as set forth in the IDEA guidelines. ESE education and related services are being delivered as indicated on the student’s IEP. Service delivery models implemented at the school align with the level of service indicated in the application.

In 2011 the district conducted an on-site review and findings revealed that SSIS was not in full compliance with the provision of services and the maintenance of required documentation for ESE students. The school took the appropriate corrective action to address the concerns and is now in full compliance.

SSIS follows the district ELL plan and in general meets all requirements to ensure compliance with the META Consent Decree. ESOL education and related services are being delivered as indicated on the student’s ELL Plan. Results of the district’s routine 2012 ELL monitoring found that in some cases that the school was not in full compliance with maintaining appropriate documentation and coding. The school is

presently working with district staff to address these discrepancies and to bring all areas into compliance with state requirements.

Human Resources

Instructional staff meets the teacher certification and/or the highly qualified requirements. ESOL and ESE endorsed teachers serve the needs of ELL and ESE students, respectively. As per the 2012-13 Opening of School Checklist, a complete list of SSIS employees is on file and all employees have been fingerprinted and have background screenings on record. SSIS' personnel handbook is made available to their employees.

Business Operations

SSIS has submitted documents and evidence that transportation services and food services are consistent with requirements. Evidence of fire, safety and health inspections are on file and meet facilities requirements. Insurance policies are on file documenting active coverage for all of the required areas of insurance.

Future Plans for Facilities

SSIS is pursuing a plan to add a modular building to the elementary school on School Avenue for the 2014-2015 school year. In addition, plans are underway to relocate the middle school (on Tuttle Ave) to the new site (4311 Wilkinson Road) in time for the start of the 2013-2014 school year. District staff will work with the school to ensure that the additions and new facilities are in compliance with state and federal requirements.

Contract Compliance

The school has a good track record of submitting all required documents, manuals, handbooks, as listed on the Opening of School Checklist and all state-required reports in a timely fashion.

The School Board of Sarasota County, Florida Suncoast School for Innovative Study - Charter School

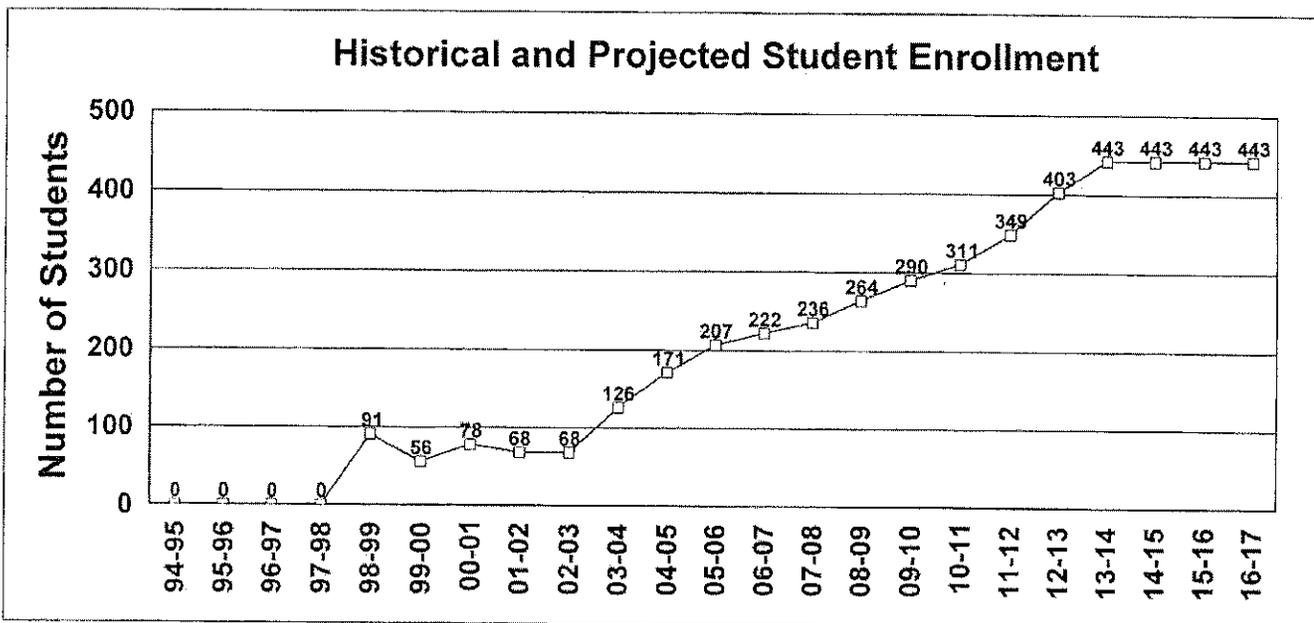
School Principal: Mr. Stephen Evans
 School Address: 845 S School Ave. Sarasota FL 34237
 School Phone: (941) 952-5277
 School Web Site: suncoastschool.org

Year School Opened: 1998
 Buildings are leased and Owned
 Free / Reduced Lunch Percentage: 80.76%
 Title One School: Yes

Student Enrollment for the Period 2010-2011 through 2017-2018

Historical Student by enrollment by Grade level information (Based upon October of each school year)

Student Enrollment by Grade Level								
Grade Level	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
PreKindergarten	15	27	20	20	20	20	20	20
Kindergarten	30	39	41	43	43	43	43	43
First	27	39	38	45	45	45	45	45
Second	40	26	36	36	36	36	36	36
Third	34	45	34	46	46	46	46	46
Fourth	24	33	44	34	34	34	34	34
Fifth	42	27	41	51	51	51	51	51
Sixth	36	48	54	57	57	57	57	57
Seventh	25	41	51	57	57	57	57	57
Eighth	38	24	44	53	53	53	53	53
Ninth								
Tenth								
Eleventh								
Twelfth								
Total by Grade	311	349	403	443	443	443	443	443
Students by Program funded through the Florida Education Finance Program								
Basic Education	227	262	284	312	312	312	312	312
Dropout Prevention								
E.S.O.L.	13	22	40	44	44	44	44	44
Students with Disabilities k-3	16	11	7	8	8	8	8	8
Students with Disabilities 4-8	36	31	55	61	61	61	61	61
Students with Disabilities 9-12								
ESE Level 4								
ESE Level 5								
Vocational								
Total Students by Program	291	326	387	425	425	425	425	425



OCTOBER 2012 MEMBERSHIP REPORT ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

*Shows the number of students attending their zoned school plus
the students that have transferred into this school from another attendance zone.*

SCHOOL ATTENDING	ZONED SCHOOL	PK	KG	G01	G02	G03	G04	G05	TOTAL
SUNCOAST SCH INNOVATIVE ST	Addresses not on the map	1	0	1	2	0	3	1	8
SUNCOAST SCH INNOVATIVE ST	ALTA VISTA ELEMENTARY	4	11	8	7	11	7	11	59
SUNCOAST SCH INNOVATIVE ST	ATWATER ELEMENTARY	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
SUNCOAST SCH INNOVATIVE ST	BRENTWOOD ELEMENTARY	1	1	5	3	2	2	5	19
SUNCOAST SCH INNOVATIVE ST	EMMA E BOOKER	3	10	7	3	9	9	7	48
SUNCOAST SCH INNOVATIVE ST	ENGLEWOOD ELEMENTARY	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
SUNCOAST SCH INNOVATIVE ST	FRUITVILLE ELEMENTARY	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	3
SUNCOAST SCH INNOVATIVE ST	GLENALLEN ELEM	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
SUNCOAST SCH INNOVATIVE ST	GOCIO ELEMENTARY	0	7	4	7	3	5	5	31
SUNCOAST SCH INNOVATIVE ST	GULF GATE ELEMENTARY	2	0	1	0	0	0	2	5
SUNCOAST SCH INNOVATIVE ST	LAUREL NOKOMIS K-8	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
SUNCOAST SCH INNOVATIVE ST	PHILLIPPI SHORES ELEM	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	8
SUNCOAST SCH INNOVATIVE ST	SOUTHSIDE ELEMENTARY	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	3
SUNCOAST SCH INNOVATIVE ST	TATUM RIDGE ELEMENTARY	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
SUNCOAST SCH INNOVATIVE ST	TUTTLE ELEMENTARY	3	7	8	8	5	7	4	42
SUNCOAST SCH INNOVATIVE ST	WILKINSON ELEMENTARY	4	3	2	2	2	4	5	22
								TOTAL**	254

*Numbers attending zoned school (Row 3 Enrollment Analysis)

**Total equals True Membership (Row 10 Enrollment Analysis)

OCTOBER 2012 MEMBERSHIP REPORT MIDDLE SCHOOLS

"Shows the number of students attending their zoned school plus those that have transferred into this school from another attendance zone."

<u>SCHOOL ATTENDING</u>	<u>ZONED SCHOOL</u>	<u>G06</u>	<u>G07</u>	<u>G08</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
SUNCOAST SCH INNOVATIVE ST	Addresses not on the map	3	5	3	11
SUNCOAST SCH INNOVATIVE ST	BOOKER MIDDLE	28	22	25	75
SUNCOAST SCH INNOVATIVE ST	BROOKSIDE MIDDLE	18	17	9	44
SUNCOAST SCH INNOVATIVE ST	MCINTOSH MIDDLE	3	4	7	14
SUNCOAST SCH INNOVATIVE ST	SARASOTA MIDDLE	1	3	1	5
				TOTAL**	149

*Numbers attending zoned school (Row 3 Enrollment Analysis)
 **True membership (Row 10 Enrollment Analysis)

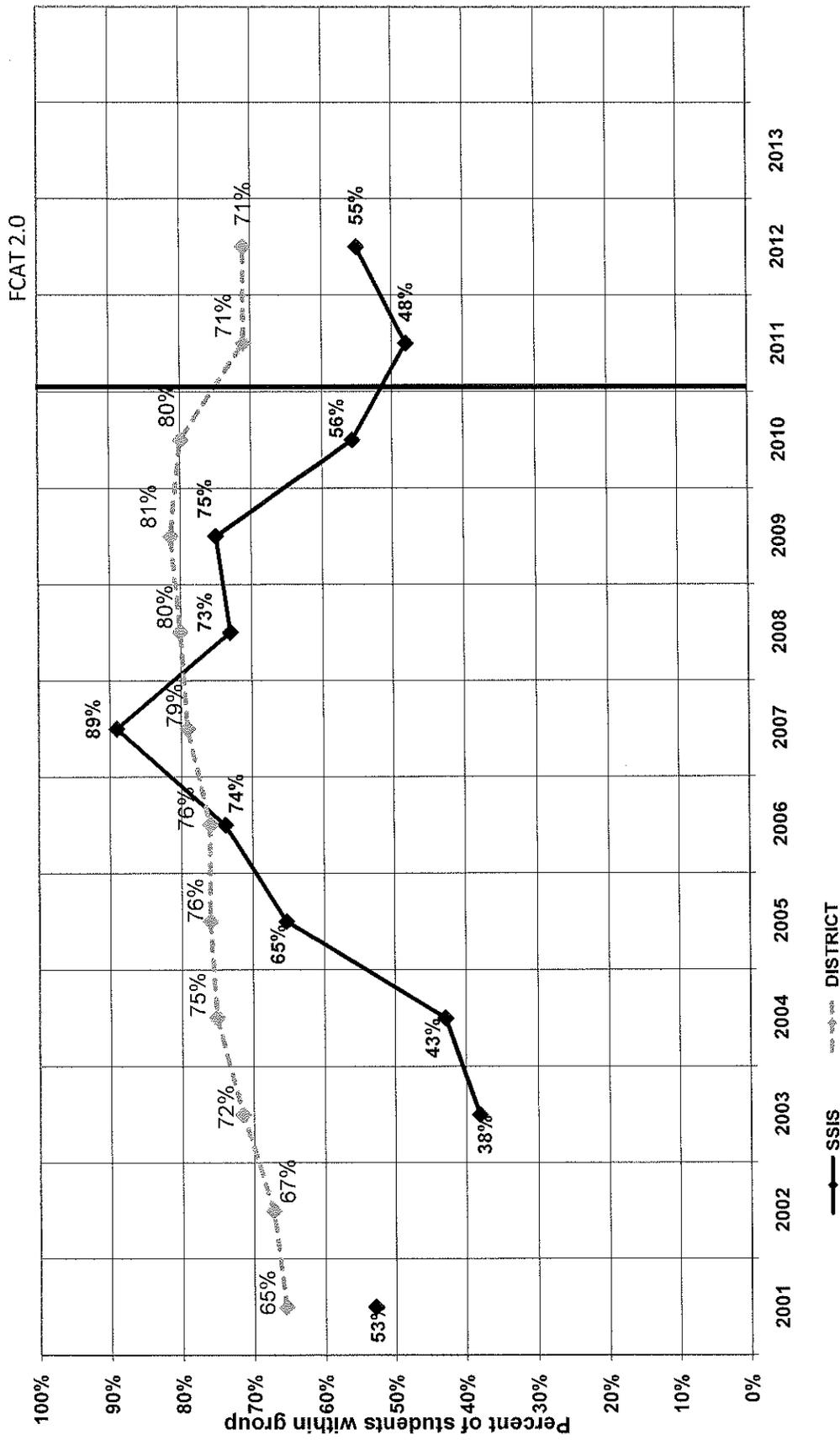
**SARASOTA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL GRADES REPORT
1999-2012**

School Number	School Name		2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
0021	Pine View	COMBO	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
0293	Oak Park School	COMBO	F	NA											
1211	Laurel Nokomis School	COMBO	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	C
1281	Phoenix Academy	COMBO	NG	NG	D	C	C	C	C	F	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1311	Oak Park South	COMBO	NA												
0012	Alta Vista Elementary	E	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	C	C	C
0301	Ashton Elementary	E	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B
1241	Atwater Elementary	E	A	A	C	NA									
0071	Bay Haven Basics Plus	E	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B
0101	Brentwood Elementary	E	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	C	A
1271	Cranberry Elementary	E	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	NA	NA	NA	NA
0501	Emma E. Booker Elementary	E	C	C	C	B	C	B	B	C	B	B	C	C	D
0121	Englewood Elementary	E	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	B
0131	Fruitville Elementary	E	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	C	A
0381	Garden Elementary	E	A	B	B	A	A	A	B	A	B	A	A	A	A
0461	Glenallen Elementary	E	A	A	B	A	A	A	B	B	B	A	A	C	A
0261	Gocio Elementary	E	B	A	A	A	A	A	B	B	B	C	C	B	A
0271	Gulf Gate Elementary	E	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A
0471	Lakeview Elementary	E	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
1341	Lamarque Elementary	E	A	B	A	A	A	A	NA						
0171	Phillippi Shores Elementary	E	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	C	C
0191	Southside Elementary	E	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A
1282	Tatum Ridge Elementary	E	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
0491	Taylor Ranch Elementary	E	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	C
1231	Toledo Blade Elementary	E	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	C	A
0201	Tuttle Elementary	E	B	A	A	A	A	A	B	B	A	A	A	C	C
0211	Venice Elementary	E	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	B
0291	Wilkinson Elementary	E	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	C
0085	Booker High	H	B	B	A	D	C	D	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
1251	North Port High School	H	A	B	B	C	B	C	C	C	C	C	NA	NA	NA
0181	Riverview High	H	A	B	B	B	A	B	A	B	A	A	A	A	C
1391	Suncoast Polytechnical	H	A	A	B	A									
0051	Sarasota High	H	A	B	B	C	C	B	B	B	C	B	B	A	C
0221	Venice High	H	B	B	A	C	A	B	A	C	B	B	A	C	C
0084	Booker Middle	M	C	B	C	C	C	C	B	C	C	C	B	C	C
0111	Brookside Middle	M	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	C	A	A	A	A	C
1261	Heron Creek Middle	M	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	C	B	NA	NA	NA	NA

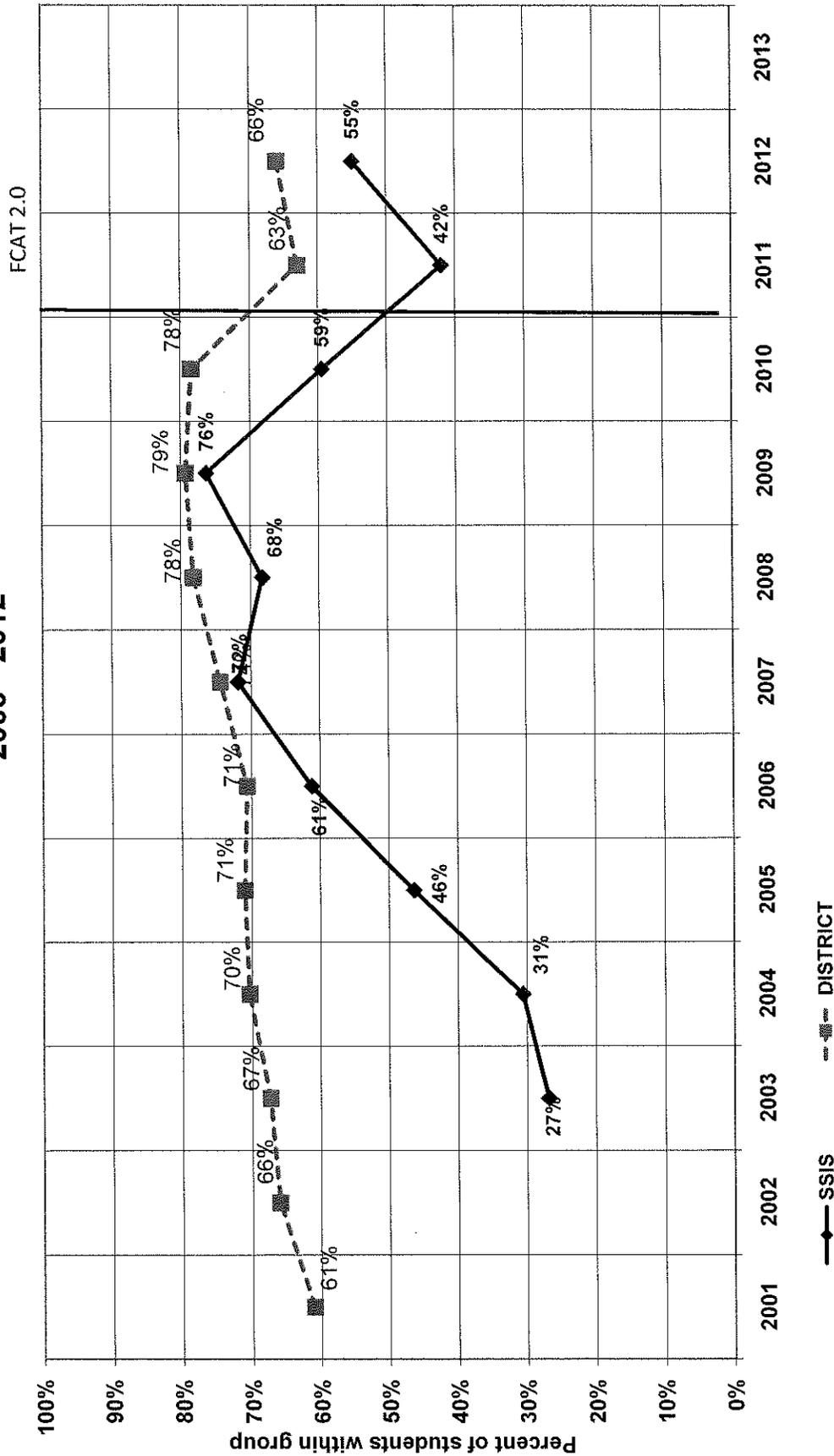
**SARASOTA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL GRADES REPORT
1999-2012**

School Number	School Name		2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
0141	McIntosh Middle	M	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	B	A	A	A	C
0031	Sarasota Middle	M	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	C
0451	Venice Middle	M	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	C	C
1291	Woodland Middle	M	A	A	A	A									
	Charter Schools														
0074	Sarasota Military Academy	H	A	B	A	C	B	B	B	B	C	NA	NA	NA	NA
0110	Sky Academy	M	A	NA											
0081	Suncoast School for Innovative Studies	COMBO	B	A	C	A	B	B	C	B	C	NA	NA	NA	NA
0083	Sarasota School for Arts and Sciences	M	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	B	A	A	B	NA
0090	Island Village Montessori	COMBO	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
0100	Sarasota Suncoast Academy	E	A	A	A	A	A	NA							
0102	Student Leadership Academy	M	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	C	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
0103	Imagine at North Port	COMBO	A	A	A	C	NA								
0106	Imagine at Palmer Ranch	COMBO	A	B	B	NA									

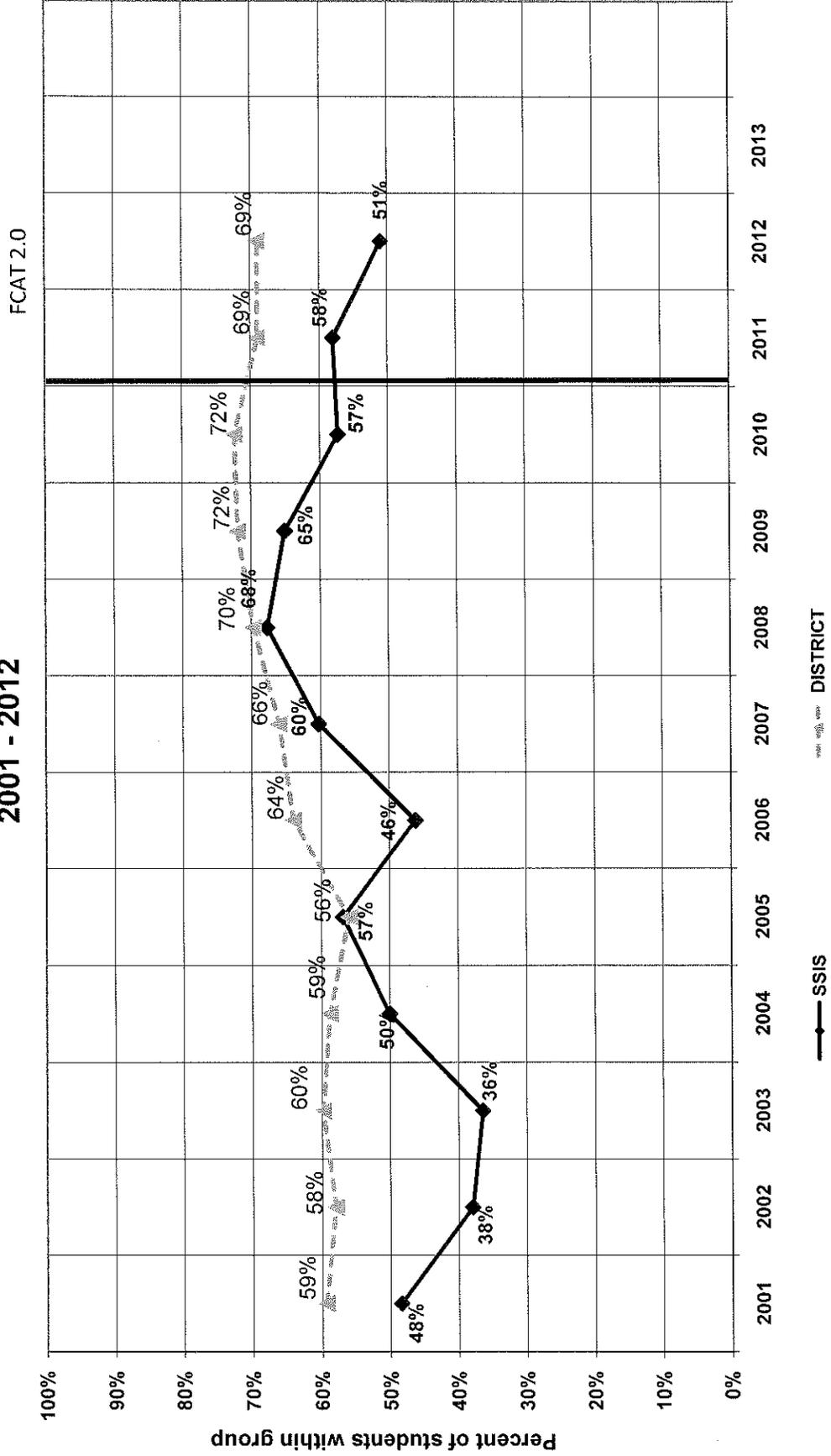
SUNCOAST SCHOOL FOR INNOVATIVE STUDIES
FCAT READING
Percent of Students Level 3 and Above
Grades 3-5
2001 - 2012



SUNCOAST SCHOOL FOR INNOVATIVE STUDIES
FCAT MATH
Percent of Students level 3 and above
Grades 3-5
2003 - 2012



SUNCOAST SCHOOL FOR INNOVATIVE STUDIES
FCAT READING
Percent of Students Level 3 and Above
Grades 6-8
2001 - 2012



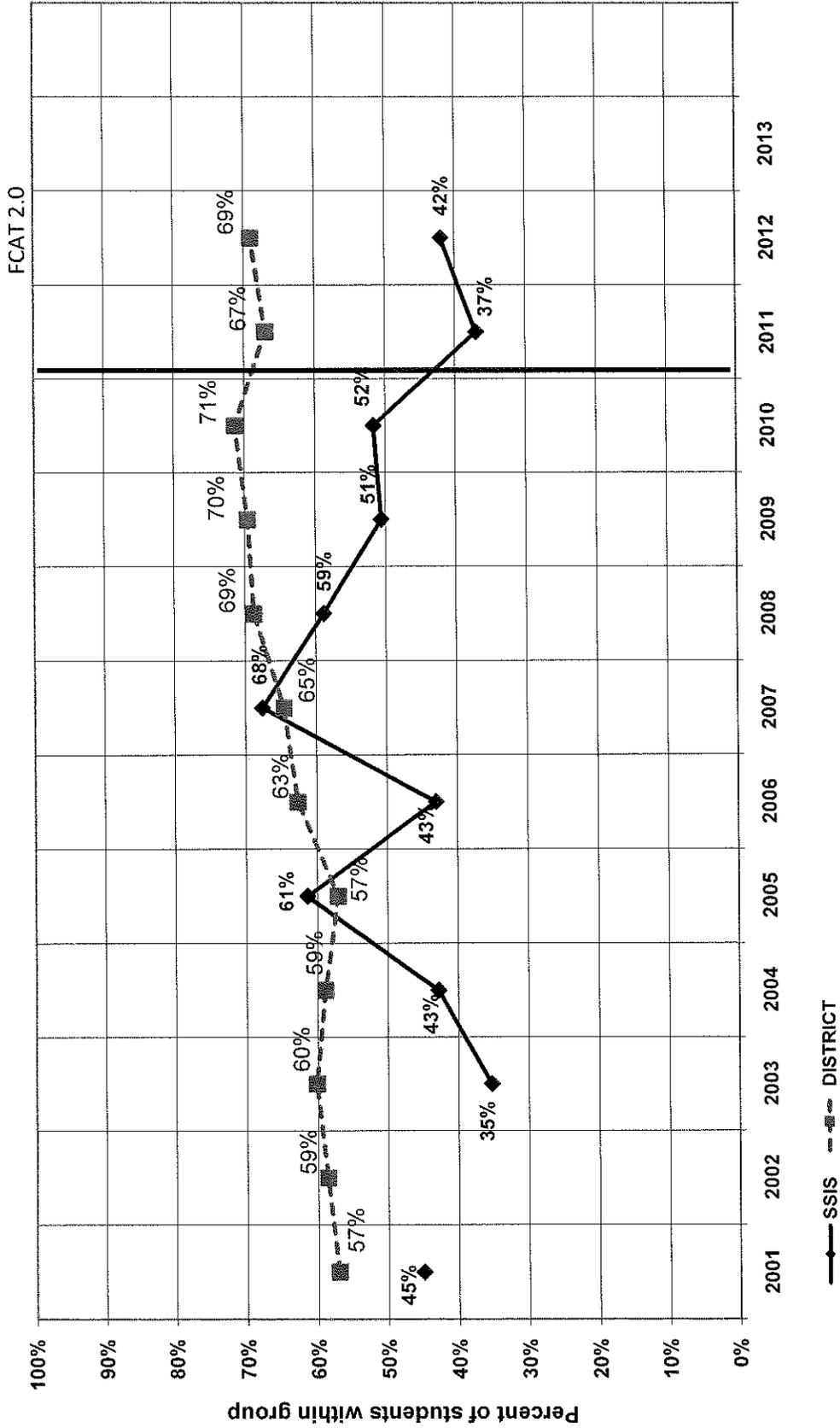
SUNCOAST SCHOOL FOR INNOVATIVE STUDIES

FCAT MATH

Percent of Students Level 3 and Above

Grades 6-8

2001 - 2012



Sarasota County Public Schools

2012-2013 Charter School Renewal Application Review

The following questions and/or request for additional information is based upon the review of the Charter Renewal Application submitted by the school as well as the current Charter Agreement, results of routine annual monitoring conducted by the district, and other evidence of documentation that the school is in compliance with requirements and policies. Please respond to the Charter Review Committee’s questions and submit any additional information or documentation requested.

Name of Charter School: **Suncoast School for Innovative Studies (SISS)**

Date: 2/8/13

Question or Concern	Location in Renewal Document Or source of information	Additional Information or Documents Requested
<p>Teacher Qualifications The CRC is concerned that there are no teachers in grades 6 – 8 with reading endorsement. All teachers 6-8 have specific content area certification. Although they are not reading endorsed, they are considered highly qualified according to NCLB.</p> <p>How are the Level 1 students receiving their intensive reading instruction and who is their reading endorsed or certified teacher?</p> <p>How are the Level 2 students receiving the required reading instruction and who is their reading endorsed, certified, or NGCARPD-trained teacher? Level 1 and 2 students receive intensive reading instruction by a certified teacher at both our elementary and middle school campuses. They receive intensive reading instruction through pull-out services in addition to their 90 minute reading blocks. They receive intensive math instruction through push-in services during their math classes. Our elementary teacher has Elementary Ed K-6 and ESOL Endorsement. Our middle school teacher has Elementary Ed K-6 and English 6-12.</p>	<p>Page 9 in application</p>	
<p>Teacher Qualifications The CRC is concerned that there are no teachers with ELL endorsement at grades 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8. Please expand on the brief statement provided on page 9 of the application. It is correct that our 4, 6, 7, and 8 grade teachers do not have ELL endorsements. Currently, two of our 6-8 grade teachers have completed courses for ELL endorsement and are in the process of</p>	<p>Page 9</p>	

<p>having it put on their teaching certificates. All grade 5 teachers are ELL Endorsed.</p> <p>How are these ELL students receiving instructional services? Our ELL population has increased 12.1% over the past 5 years. Due to this increased ESOL population, it is our goal to hire an additional ESOL provider. We currently have this position posted. Are students pulled out for all content areas for the entire block? ELL students receive pull-out instructional support services in reading and math by our ESOL liaison. These services are provided outside of the 90 minute reading block.</p>		
<p>One of strategies mentioned is that ELL students are pulled out and provided support on their class work in students' heritage language. SSIS is following the district ELL plan which does not include bilingual or dual language education. To be in compliance, ELL students must be taught the curriculum in English using ESOL strategies.</p> <p>Please clarify. SSIS follows the district ELL plan and does not provide bilingual or dual language education. ELL students are taught their curriculum in English and provided clarification in their heritage language by the ESOL teacher on an as needed basis. They are also taught how to independently use an approved heritage language dictionary.</p>	<p>Section VI, no page number Under "area of improvement section"</p>	
<p>ELL Requirements</p> <p>The ESOL liaison has missed several training meetings this fall; required documentation is not up-to-date. Due to late hire date, relocation from another area, and technical difficulties relating to A number and email account status, the ESOL liaison did miss several trainings. He has been working with ESOL administrators at the district office, such as Susan Gordon and Jamie Rodriguez to make-up and complete the necessary training.</p> <p>In some cases the school is not in full compliance with 3-year re-evaluation and post-reclassification ELL monitoring requirements. The ESOL liaison is using all necessary procedures in order to correct this issue. Due to the large increase in our ELL population there has been a delay in forwarding all the necessary documentation. We are working toward correcting all compliance issues, and plan to hire an additional ESOL provider.</p>	<p>District ELL monitoring findings August 2012</p>	<p>Please contact your ELL school contact for additional details and to obtain assistance to remedy the discrepancies. Please provide a brief description of the school's plan to address these concerns.</p>

<p>Future growth plans Please provide more detail regarding the stated plan to increase student enrollment. Please see attached 5 year student enrollment projections by grade level.</p> <p>Is SSIS pursuing the plan to add the modular building to the elementary school? If so, what is the projected time line? Yes, the projected timeline is the 2014-2015 school year.</p> <p>What is the timeline for the proposed plan to relocate the middle school to the new site? 2013-2014 school year</p>	<p>Section IX</p>	<p>Please provide 5 year student enrollment projections by grade level.</p> <p>Please provide plans for the new additions and/or relocation to the new site.</p>
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You may respond directly on this Word document or provide a separate document that will be amended to your application. Please respond by February 15, 2013. Please contact Dr. Natalie Roca, Executive Director, Integrated Instructional Services, if you have any questions or need additional time to respond. Dr. Roca may be reached at 941-927-9000, ext. 32250.

SSIS 5-Year Class Growth by Grade Level

		NUMBER OF CLASSES				
School Year:		2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Class Size (Max)						
ELEMENTARY:						
		(Current)	Elem Add-on			
K	18	2	2	3	3	3
1st	18	2	2	3	3	3
2nd	18	2	2	2	3	3
3rd	18	2	2	2	3	3
4th	22	2	2	2	2	3
5th	22	2	2	2	2	3
Total Classes		12	12	14	16	18
Increased Classes			0	2	2	2
Student count at Max.		232	232	268	304	348
Student Increase			0	36	36	44
MIDDLE:						
		New School				
6th	22	3	4	4	4	4
7th	22	3	4	4	4	4
8th	22	3	4	4	4	4
Total Classes		9	12	12	12	12
Increased Classes			3	0	0	0
Student Count at Max		198	264	264	264	264
Student Increase			66	0	0	0
TOTAL SSIS:						
Total Classes		21	24	26	28	30
Increased Classes			3	2	2	2
Student Count at Max *		430	496	532	568	612
Student Increase			66	36	36	44

* Not all classes are currently filled