

Introduction

Welcome to the **Best Practices Florida – Education** monthly newsletter. As the official information source for the **Best Practices Florida – Education** website, the purpose of this newsletter is to provide useful performance improvement information to all Florida educators.

June proved to be an exciting month for the **Best Practices – Education** Initiative and the Sterling Council. June also represented the beginning of a new chapter and opportunity for all Florida organizations, private, public, and not-for-profits, as the Sterling Council established key strategic partnerships to improve performance in six sectors of the State to help ensure Florida does, in fact, become a “State of Excellence.”

The first year of the **Best Practices Florida – Education** Initiative culminated with the first Annual Education Summit at the Sterling Conference in Orlando on June 1. More than 80 education leaders and others listened to, learned, and shared winning approaches with each other. Overviews of some of the presented topics are included in this newsletter. The rest will follow next in next month’s edition.

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Taking cues from the Summit and Conference attendees, the Sterling Council is targeting a higher level of Performance Excellence by expanding the scope and application of its products and services. By partnering with key organizations throughout Florida, including the Department of Education, the Florida Lottery, ets, inc., and affiliated consultants, the Sterling Council will launch major improvement initiatives in six sectors of Florida’s economy to improve organizational performance and the quality of life for all Floridians. If you want to make a difference for yourself, your organization, or your community, learn more about Sterling’s **Florida Education Initiative** in this newsletter.

Exciting times, indeed!

Regards,

Bob Seemer, President **ets, inc.** and Sterling Council Board Member



More than 80 participants from 23 Florida school districts met at the Summit.

2010 Education Summit Presentation Overviews

Following are highlights from four (4) of the presenters during the one-day Education Summit:

Dr. Mary Jane Tappen – Deputy K-12 Chancellor, Florida Department of Education

Dr. Tappen provided an overview of the “State of the State” for Florida’s Public Education, as well as next generation initiatives and strategic vision.

State of the State: Florida has made dramatic improvement since 2006 in numerous key areas, such as:

- Tied for first in closing the math poverty gap,
- 4th in the nation for the teaching profession,
- 5th in the nation for standards, assessment, and accountability,
- 7th in the nation for K-12 student achievement gap,
- 9th in the nation for math progress.

[Click here for the complete presentation.](#)

Mr. Bob Seemer – President, ets, inc. and Sterling Council Board Member

Bob provided an overview and live demo of the Best Practices Florida – Education Website. Key points included the following:

- The website is available at no cost to any educator, public or private, from anywhere and any time.
- It can be a valuable tool for sharing knowledge and developing district strategic plans and School Improvement Plans.
- Performance Improvement tools, such as six sigma and process management, are integrated with the site.
- It incorporates the Baldrige and Sterling Criteria enabling district and school leaders to prioritize best practice implementation based on organizational assessment findings.
- Best practices are also categorized using an education-specific process taxonomy enabling leaders to target best practices based on process needs.
- 33 school districts submitted 42 best practices, and satisfaction levels with the site exceeded 95% overall.

[Click here for the complete presentation.](#) To access the Best Practices Florida – Education website, go to www.bestpracticesfl.com.

Dr. Terry Holliday, Commissioner of Education, Kentucky

Commissioner Holliday demonstrated how the Baldrige Management System model provides a comprehensive framework for Race to the Top initiatives, and longer term strategies for education leaders. Areas addressed in the presentation included:

- Leadership,
- Strategic Planning,
- Customer Focus,
- Measurement, Analysis, and Knowledge Management,
- Workforce Focus,
- Process Management,
- Performance Results.

[Click here for the complete presentation.](#)

Ms. MaryEllen Elia, Hillsborough County Public Schools Superintendent

Superintendent Elia presented Hillsborough’s nationally acclaimed approach for empowering effective teachers, and why it was chosen among more than 16,500 school districts nationwide as an Intensive Partnership Site for the Gates Foundation’s efforts to create effective teachers.

The district’s Empowering Effective Teachers initiative consists of two major areas:

- Drivers of student outcome goals, such as recruitment and placement, induction, evaluation, professional development, career ladders, and compensation.
- Foundational Infrastructure which includes instructional supports and assessments, employee communications, human resource capabilities, and performance management.

[Click here for the complete presentation.](#)

Dr. Julie Janssen, Pinellas County Public Schools Superintendent

Superintendent Janssen’s presentation focused on expanding Community Investments by systematically managing volunteers, business and corporate partners, teachers, parents, and other key groups. Important outcomes from this effort were also discussed which included:

- Developing reciprocal relationships with businesses,
- Increasing teacher and parental involvement,
- Increasing accountability, district-wide communication, and program development.

[Click here for the complete presentation.](#)

The following presentations will be highlighted in greater detail in the July Newsletter:

[Polk](#) - “Interactive Data Evaluation Assessment Systems (IDEAS), from Data to Classroom Teacher.”

[Volusia](#) - “STARTS: Skills, Tips, and Routines for Teacher Success.”

[Charter Schools USA](#) - “Monitoring of Research-based Instructional Practices.”

[Florida Virtual School](#) - “Increasing Learning Gains and Reducing Costs through Virtual Learning”.

Click on any of the links above for each presentation.

Website Enhancements

The **Best Practices Florida – Education** website continues to add value as more districts access and contribute to it. More than half of Florida's 67 school districts and more than two hundred schools have accessed the site, as more best practices continue to be submitted. The website is in the process of being upgraded with increased capability, more features, and a new look which incorporates the broader strategic focus of the Sterling Council – which is to make Florida a "State of Excellence," with Education as one of the six key sectors and areas of focus.

Along with a growing inventory of documented best practices, other features and services include:

- Performance improvement tools including problem solving, statistical, team-building, process management, measurement systems, and data analysis methodologies;
- Sterling Navigator Self-Assessments;
- Strategic Planning;
- Performance Management;
- And much more.

This is your site and resource for performance improvement. Feedback and suggestions for other features to help organizations improve performance and sustain excellence are encouraged. You are the customer. Your vision is our goal. Contact us at info@bestpracticesfl.com.

Florida Education Initiative

Aligned with the Florida Department of Education's strategic vision, Sterling's Florida Education Initiative is a true business – government – not-for-profit collaboration designed to transcend short term initiatives and one-time stimulus funding boosts. Capitalizing on proven methodologies, technology, and non-traditional funding sources, as many as ten Florida school districts will embark on a systematic and facilitated process to create a foundation for long term improvement built around the Baldrige-based Sterling Management System. Five key elements of the initiative include:

1. An organizational self-assessment to define prioritized strengths and gaps,
2. Strategic Planning,
3. Process Management and measures,
4. Data Analysis and Problem Solving, and
5. Documented Performance Results.

Pilot districts will utilize common tools but focus on different processes which are key to education excellence. Improvement strategies proven effective will be documented on the **Best Practices Florida – Education** website for sharing, and replication by all of Florida's learning institutions. To learn more about Florida's Education Initiative, or to be considered as a pilot district, contact us at info@bestpracticesfl.com. There is no cost for any district to participate.

Funders & Supporters

Best Practices Florida – Education is the result of a partnership spanning all sectors – public, private, and not-for-profit. The organizations below have contributed valuable resources to provide this service at no cost to all Florida Educators.



Florida
Department of
Education



Events

- **Best Practices Florida – Education** website demo webinar: 10:00 a.m. July 23, 2010. Invitation will be emailed by July 16.
- **Sterling Criteria Training** – One day workshop to understand the Sterling Management System in a classroom setting.
 - August 25th Tallahassee
 - August 26th Tampa
 - August 26th St. Augustine
 - August 31st Orlando
 - September 2nd Ft. Lauderdale

Go to http://www.floridasterling.com/traininganddevelopment_schedule.html to view the entire Sterling Training Schedule.

Contact Us

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