

# DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION CHARTER SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT

## CHARTER SCHOOL INFORMATION

Charter School Name: Academy of Dover Charter School

Mailing Address: 104 Saulsbury Road  
City/State/Zip: Dover, DE 19904

Email: [cheri.marshall@aod.k12.de.us](mailto:cheri.marshall@aod.k12.de.us)  
Telephone: 302-674-0684  
Fax: 302-674-3894  
Website: [www.aodcharter.org](http://www.aodcharter.org)

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Head of School

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Date

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Head of School

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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Board President

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Date

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: December 1<sup>st</sup> (September 30<sup>th</sup> for renewing charter schools)**

**All schools submit one (1) signed copy (PDF via email preferred) to the DDOE Charter School Office**

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The Academy of Dover (AOD) Charter School opened in September 2003, following the approval of its charter in 2000 by the Delaware Department of Education. Initially chartered as a K-6 school, the 2007 charter renewal reduced the school's grade configuration to serve students in Kindergarten through Grade 4. A request was later made to increase to a K-5 school. This request was granted at the last charter renewal in 2012. Today, Academy of Dover houses 300 students in grades Kindergarten through grade 5.

### **MISSION**

The mission of the Academy of Dover Charter School is to open portals of opportunity for children and adults in the community through excellence in public education.

### **VISION**

Academy of Dover Charter School will serve as a community pillar for life-long learning, pride, and self-actualization. Looking to the past to prepare students for the future, the Academy of Dover Charter School will combine the beneficial rigors of a classical education with the latest technology and the best teaching and learning practices worldwide. The Academy of Dover Charter School student will cultivate and promote multi-cultural and global awareness. Students will be prepared and encouraged to be entrepreneurs, well informed, and responsible world citizens with purpose, passion, and proficiency.

At Academy of Dover, students enroll from the Kent County area including Capital, Caesar Rodney, Smyrna, Lake Forest, and Milford. The total enrollment for the 2013-2014 school years was 308 students. Our student makeup was 85.4% African American, 0.3% American Indian, 1.0% Asian, 2.9% Hispanic, and 10.4% Caucasian. This demographical breakdown stays fairly consistent from year to year.

**ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE:**

What are the school's academic performance outcomes that will demonstrate student growth, proficiency, and college and career readiness levels as measured by the Performance Framework? Provide an analysis of strengths, challenges, and opportunities for growth in these areas.

The Academy of Dover continues to make forward progress and academic growth. During the 2013-2014 school year, the Academy of Dover met the Annual Yearly Progress (AYP), and has done so for the past five years. The following data represents the academic performance of students at AOD on the DCAS in 2013-2014 for grades 3-5.

<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Reading</b>	Overall	Students with Disabilities	African American	Caucasian	Other Minorities	Low SES
State	70%	32%	57%	82%	79%	57%
AOD	49%	20%	50%	100%	100%	37%

<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Math</b>	Overall	Students with Disabilities	African American	Caucasian	Other Minorities	Low SES
State	72%	36%	56%	84%	82%	58%
AOD	49%	40%	53%	N/A	N/A	43%

<b>4<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading</b>	Overall	Students with Disabilities	African American	Caucasian	Other Minorities	Low SES
State	73%	34%	61%	84%	84%	62%
AOD	67%	38%	64%	83%	N/A	56%

<b>4<sup>th</sup> Grade Math</b>	Overall	Students with Disabilities	African American	Caucasian	Other Minorities	Low SES
State	75%	36%	61%	85%	86%	64%
AOD	65%	33%	62%	83%	N/A	59%

<b>5<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading</b>	Overall	Students with Disabilities	African American	Caucasian	Other Minorities	Low SES
State	76%	36%	66%	87%	88%	65%
AOD	82%	67%	79%	100%	100%	79%

<b>5<sup>th</sup> Grade Math</b>	Overall	Students with Disabilities	African American	Caucasian	Other Minorities	Low SES
State	71%	31%	56%	82%	87%	58%
AOD	50%	33%	47%	100%	N/A	29%

In almost all areas and subgroups, the state outperformed AOD students. Fifth grade proved to be the opposite for reading. Reading continues to be a stronger area than Math. However, this is an area of concern, and one that we intend to improve as we move forward.

The following data table shows results from the 2013-2014 DIBELS Benchmark Assessments. The chart shows that from September until March, the average growth for each grade level increased.

## **DIBELS Data from Benchmark I – Benchmark III** **2013-2014 School Year**

### **Kindergarteners' average growth in each skill area:**

- Letter Naming Fluency DIBELS (**LNF**) from **Sept - March +32**
- Phoneme Segmenting Fluency DIBELS (**PSF**) from **Dec - March +11**
- First Sounds Fluency DIBELS (**FSF**) from **Sept - Dec +32**
- Nonsense Word Fluency DIBELS (**NWF**) from **Dec – March +6**

### **First Graders' average growth in each skill area:**

- Nonsense Word Fluency DIBELS (**NWF**) from **Sept - March +46 correct letter sounds & +20 whole words read (with complete & correct blending)**
- Oral Reading Fluency DIBELS (**ORF**) from **Dec - March +13**
- **Accuracy rate during on ORF from Dec - March +7%**
- **Retelling following the ORF from Dec - March +10**

### **Second Graders' average growth:**

- Oral reading Fluency DIBELS (**ORF**) from **Sept - March +29**
- **Accuracy rate during on ORF from Sept - March +8%**
- **Retelling following the ORF from Sept - March +15**

### **Third Graders' average growth in each skill area:**

- Oral reading Fluency DIBELS (**ORF**) from **Sept - March +20**
- **Accuracy rate during on ORF from Sept - March +2%**
- **Retelling following the ORF from Sept - March +16**
- **Daze (DIBELS Cloze assessment) from Sept. –March +11**

### **Fourth Graders' average growth in each skill area:**

- Oral reading Fluency DIBELS (**ORF**) from **Sept - March +32**
- **Accuracy rate during on ORF from Sept - March +3%**
- **Retelling following the ORF from Sept - March +11**
- **Daze (DIBELS Cloze assessment) from Sept. –March +10**

### **Fifth Graders' average growth in each skill area:**

- Oral reading Fluency DIBELS (**ORF**) from **Sept - March +8**
- **Accuracy rate during on ORF from Sept - March +1%**
- **Retelling following the ORF from Sept - March +17**
- **Daze (DIBELS Cloze assessment) from Sept. –March +8**

Moving forward into 2014-2015, Academy of Dover's top priority is to improve student achievement. With the new Smarter Balanced Assessment, we will hopefully get a clear picture of the areas that are the weakest and work to improve those areas from one year to the next. We have purchased a new math curriculum (Go Math), which is fully aligned to the Common Core. With this new curriculum and new technology, we hope to build more excitement into our math program and in turn increase student achievement.

**FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE:**

What are the school's financial performance expectations that will demonstrate viability and sustainability as measured by the Performance Framework? Provide an analysis of strengths, challenges, and opportunities for growth in these areas.

Academy of Dover continues to provide the Department of Education monthly financial updates as required by conditions set forth in the 2012 renewal. The Academy of Dover continues to be independently audited from the 2013-14 school year. Results of this audit will be forwarded to the Department of Education.

The Academy of Dover continues to work with Innovative Schools in ensuring that financial reporting is conducted and budget plans are strictly adhered to. The Board of Directors reviews and approves the financial report on a monthly basis. In addition, Board approved Financial Reports are posted on our website. Beginning in 2014-2015 the Citizen's Budget and Oversight Committee will meet monthly to review the budget and ensure the financial stability of the school.

## ORGANIZATIONAL PERFORMANCE:

What are the school's performance expectations in meeting its organizational responsibilities including, but not limited to, administrative operations, reporting, and legal responsibilities as measured by the Performance Framework? Provide an analysis of strengths, challenges, and opportunities for growth in these areas.

Based on Academy of Dover's 2013-2014 Delaware Performance Framework, we have received an overall rating of "Does Not Meet Standard". As shown from the data below, this is a change from the last two years.

Year	1.a.	1.b.	2	3.a.	3.b.	3.c.	4.a.	4.b.	4.c.	4.d.	5.a.	5.b.	6	OVERALL RATING
11-12	M	M	DNM	M	M	M	DNM	DNM	N/A	M	M	M	M	Meets
12-13	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	DNM	M	M	M	M	M	Meets
13-14	DNM	M	TBD	DNM	M	DNM	M	M	DNM	M	M	DNM	M	Does Not Meet

Academy of Dover is undergoing a change within the Administration. With the search for a new Head of School in the Fall of 2014, the school is operating under the knowledgeable expertise of Interim Head of School, Dr. John Leone. With a successful career as a school administrator, Dr. John will serve in this capacity until a permanent candidate is in place.

The areas of noncompliance as listed in the Performance Framework are as follows:

### **1a: Is the school implementing the essential terms of the charter's education program as defined in the current charter, and complying with applicable state and federal requirements?**

The Title IIA desk audit was not completed in a timely manner.

Race to the Top expenditure information for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter was not provided, but has since been submitted to Lakeside Consulting.

### **2: Is the school meeting financial reporting and compliance requirements?**

Monthly financial statements had not been posted on the school website. This has since been corrected, and will continue to meet requirements.

Citizen Budget Oversight Committee information has not been posted on the school website. This too has been corrected and will continue to meet requirements.

### **3a: Is the school complying with governance training?**

School Board meeting information, as well as Bylaws, had not been posted on the school website. This has been updated with monthly dates for board meetings as well as Board Governance Training.

### **3c: Is the school complying with reporting requirements?**

Parent Involvement Policy was not submitted to Department of Education upon request. Academy of Dover will provide the information requested in a timely fashion moving forward for 2014.

**4c: Is the school meeting all staff credentialing requirements?**

Highly Qualified Teacher percentage did not meet the statutory requirement of 100%. This is a concern and we are working to correct this immediately.

**5b: Is the school complying with health and safety requirements?**

A Safety plan was not submitted. This plan has since been submitted and has fulfilled the requirements.

**STATUS OF CONDITIONS PLACED UPON THE CHARTER:**

Academy of Dover has met all conditions placed on it during its last renewal.

## STUDENT RETENTION GOALS AND TARGETS:

The Academy of Dover retains approximately 90% of its students from one year to the next. The Academy of Dover loses approximately 10-15 students after the school year begins. Some of the losses are due to acceptance in other Charter Schools where they have siblings, or are leaving the area. On the average 1% of students are retained, many of which are Special Needs students who have not met their goals.

In the 2013-14 school year, a fifth grade was added in hopes to increase enrollment. During that time our enrollment went to 308 students. The school will continue to do recruiting each year to help keep the enrollment up.

## INNOVATION:

With the change to Common Core, Academy of Dover purchased a new math and reading curriculum that is aligned to those standards. This curriculum was purchased during the 2013-2014 school year. Math and writing continue to be a weakness for most of our students. Teachers have attended professional development for these areas to help strengthen their understanding of the concepts taught. Also, for the 2014-2015 school year, a Math Coach has been hired to work with students in Math RTI. The Math Coach assesses students in each grade level and determines their areas of weakness. The students are grouped into Tiers and receive additional instruction in their specific area of focus.

Through the use of newsletters, AOD nights, and our Passport Program, we continue to increase the level of parental involvement. In the future, we hope to have a Band Boosters as well as a PTO.

Academy of Dover continues to have an Elementary Marching Band and chorus for grades 2-5. Parents have the opportunity to rent instruments from the school at the beginning of the year. Band and chorus both meet after school from 3:30-4:30.

Academy of Dover was recognized as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School for Exemplary Closing of the Achievement Gap. Staff and students are committed to helping the school improve and continue to be a school of excellence.