



Florida Charter
Institute



Access This Deck:



fci.fyi/25finance

Strengthening Charter School Finances: Introducing the Finance Leaders Fellowship

Susie Miller Carello
Judith Marte
Celene Torres
Curtis Fuller

Powered by Miami Dade College

Your Presenters Today



Susie Miller Carello
Executive Director
Florida Charter Institute



Judy Marte
CEO
Finops Education Advisors, Inc



Celene Torres
Project Manager
Florida Charter Institute



Curtis Fuller
Chief Operating Officer
Florida Charter Institute



**Florida Charter
Institute**

How We Got Here: Statutory Foundation

- Florida now has college authorizers
- FCI at MDC is positioned to cultivate the next generation of leaders to safeguard financial health of Florida's charter schools
- This fellowship initiative aligns with statutory responsibility and our commitment to building capacity in schools.



The Need: Why This Fellowship Matters

- Financial stewardship is mission critical.
- Strong financial leadership safeguards schools.
- Leadership gap.

We must address this gap by training and retaining high-level finance leaders who are committed to charter school success.



Florida Charter
Institute

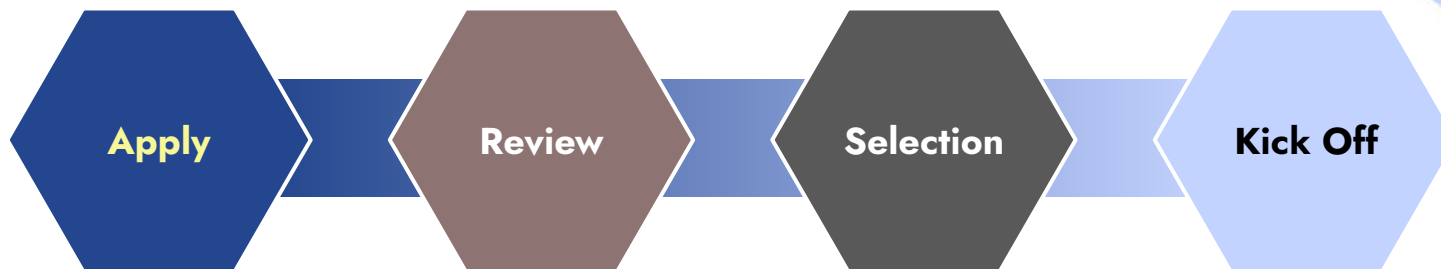
The Solution: The Financial Fellowship



- **Program Overview:** The Financial Fellowship is a selective professional development program designed to cultivate exceptional financial leadership.
- **Target Participants:**
 - Current charter school staff with demonstrated financial aptitude and leadership potential.
 - Experienced finance professionals who are eager to transition into the charter sector.
- **Selection Criteria:** Applicants will be evaluated based on professional background, commitment to charter school mission, leadership capacity, and readiness to assume senior-level fiscal roles.



Application Timeline



October

Applications are available now.



fci.fyi/finfellow

November

We will be reviewing applications through November.

Depending on how many we may ask additional questions.

December

We will reach out to the selected fellows to invite them to participate in December.

We will ask schools to confirm support to the program.

January

First In Person Cohort Begins

Tentatively looking at January 13.



Florida Charter
Institute

Tentative Fellowship Schedule



Enrollment Projections

... and their financial implications



- Creating realistic enrollment numbers
- Important measurement dates
- Adjusting budget proactively



Florida Charter
Institute

Strategic Financial Planning



- Facilities maintenance and planning
- PECO and capital millage funds
- Strategic borrowing



Florida Charter
Institute

Responsible Financing and Risk Mngmt



- How much insurance do you need vs cost?
- Employee benefits
- Rainy day (reserve) funding



Board Leadership & Oversight



- Budget accountability belongs to the Board.
- Important information they need monthly.
- How to communicate financial information.



Florida Charter
Institute

Budget Development & Monitoring



- Realistic
- Clear, concise and transparent
- How resource allocation was determined
- Public input



Florida Charter
Institute

Managing Cash Flow Projections



**CASH
FLOW**

- Importance of managing cash flow
- When to expect monthly revenue payments
 - FEFP
 - Grants
 - Capital Outlay
 - Other



Florida Charter
Institute

Audits and Compliance



- Workpapers
- Documentation
- Addressing findings
- Due date to Sponsor



Florida Charter
Institute

Building for Financial Teams



- Team building
- Importance of trust
- Managing conflict



Florida Charter
Institute

Real-world Case Studies



- Evaluating actual scenarios from charters
- Preparing a financial report for your board
- Responding to financial emergencies



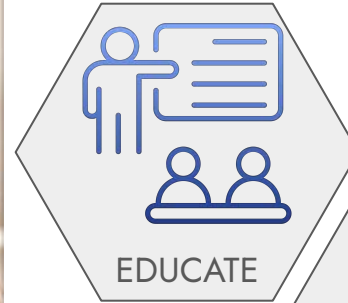
Florida Charter
Institute

The Fellowship's Impact

- **Stronger Schools:** Fellows will leave equipped to ensure financial stability, enabling schools to focus on student outcomes rather than fiscal crises.
- **Statewide Benefit:** By elevating financial leadership, the program helps strengthen Florida's entire charter sector, protecting taxpayer dollars and ensuring transparency.
- **Long-Term Sustainability:** Fellows will serve as mentors and resources for future cohorts, creating a pipeline of highly skilled financial leaders committed to Florida's charter school movement.



FCI "At a glance"



Florida Charter
Institute

Nov 3, 2025 - Teach Like A Champion Opportunities

A full-day of research-based workshops designed to equip educators with proven, classroom-ready strategies grounded in cognitive science. Select the workshop that best aligns with your instructional focus.

fci.fyi/25reading



The Science of
READING

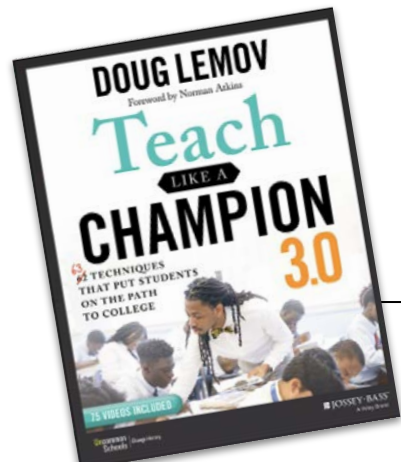


The Science of
MATH



fci.fyi/25math

Miami Dade College - Wolfson Campus Chapman Center.
Breakfast and lunch provided. Business casual.
Registration is limited, reserve your spot ASAP.
\$250 per participant.



Florida Charter
Institute

FCI FINANCIAL FELLOWSHIP

A PREMIER PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL FINANCE LEADERSHIP

STRONG SCHOOLS START WITH STRONG FINANCE

HIGHLIGHTS:

- ✓ MENTORSHIP FROM FINANCE LEADERS & NATIONAL EXPERTS
- ✓ PEER COLLABORATION
- ✓ IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL TRAINING SESSIONS



APPLICATIONS OPEN OCTOBER 2025 | SCAN TO **LEARN MORE**



fci.fyi/finfellow



FCI Connect



Florida Charter
Institute

flcharterinstitute.org/fci-connect/

Monthly Newsletter



Join Our Mailing List

flcharterinstitute.org/about-fci/signup/



Stay Up To Date

- Monthly Newsletter Links
- Weekly Updates (*webinars, trainings, and other opportunities*)
- Special Announcements



Looking For A Great Educator??

 **FLCharterJobs**

Charter School focused job board available at no cost to Florida's Charters.

Register Today at: FLCharterJobs.org



Contact Us

We are Florida's premier hub for charter excellence and insight by providing research-based best practices, resources, and support. If there is anything we can do to help, please contact us:



(786) 384-8100



info@flcharterinstitute.org



www.flcharterinstitute.org



**Florida Charter
Institute**



Follow Us



LinkedIn

Florida Charter Institute



Facebook

FloridaCharterInstitute



Instagram

floridacharterinstitute



Florida Charter
Institute



Florida Charter
Institute

**THANK
YOU**

Powered by Miami Dade College

