



**Why Can't We All Be Friends?:
Creating partnerships with virtual charter schools
for success for ALL students**

Marci Cammann, Laura Dillon, Candyce Farthing, Tom Luba, Gareth Pooleon



AGENDA



- Introductions and Purpose
- Overview of Oregon Connections Academy
- Myths and Facts
- Ideas for Partnership
- Questions and Answers

The Connections Academy Model



TEACHERS



PARENTS



CURRICULUM



TECHNOLOGY



How We Are Structured



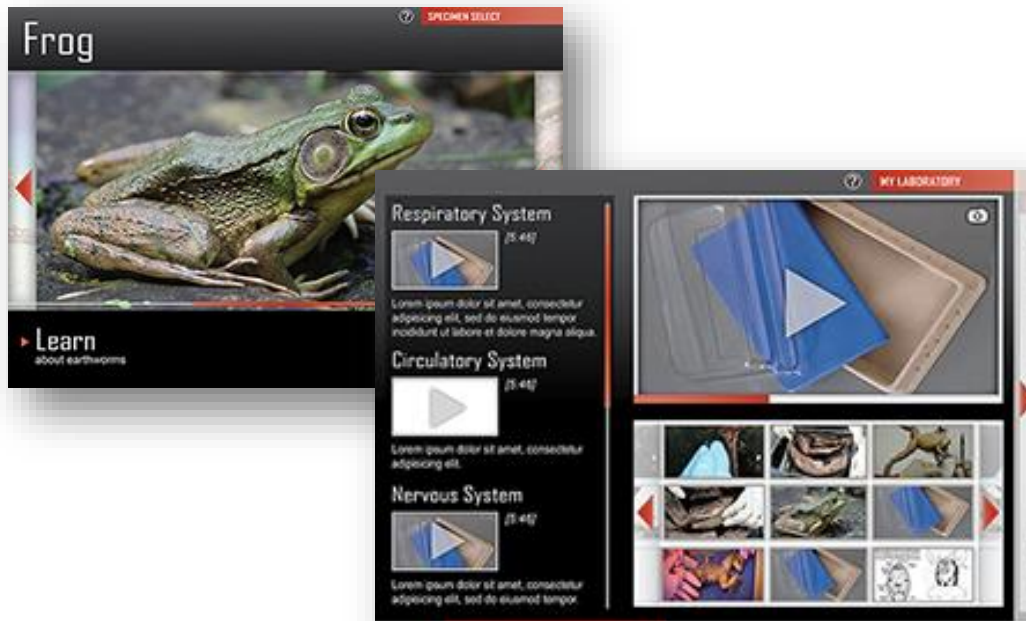
- Public charter school
- Sponsored by Scio School District
- Grades K-12
- Open to all students in Oregon
- Oregon licensed, HQ teachers
- Online curriculum
- Learning Coaches
- “LiveLessons” (Adobe Connect)
- Loaned computers and Internet subsidies
- Fully accredited (Northwest Accreditation Commission)



Our Curriculum



- Exceptionally comprehensive and flexible
- Meets rigorous state and national standards
- Materials from the best academic publishers
- A rich mix of online and print resources
- Interactive online tools bring concepts to life.



Engaging Electives



WORLD LANGUAGES

VISUAL PERFORMING ARTS

TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING

STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

ENGLISH AND SOCIAL STUDIES

MATH AND SCIENCE

HEALTH AND P.E.

NEW! CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION



Opportunities for Gifted Students



- Specialized teachers match students to their learning level.

Special Gifted and Talented, Honors, and AP Courses

GRADES K–2

- Flexible instruction by student's ability

GRADES 3–8

- Math
- Language Arts
- Science

GRADES 9–12

- Honors courses in most subjects
- Advanced Placement courses

Resources for Struggling Students



- Ongoing assessments
- Personalized learning plan according to student needs
- Success and support in challenge areas
- Extensive Advisory team
- Academic Coaching for at-risk students
- Reading and math remediation
- High School credit recovery

“He started caring about and taking responsibility for his own education, wanting to do well in school.”

Connections Academy Parent



Socialization and Extended Learning

Online Clubs and Activities



Volunteer, Service, and Leadership Options



Family Social Events



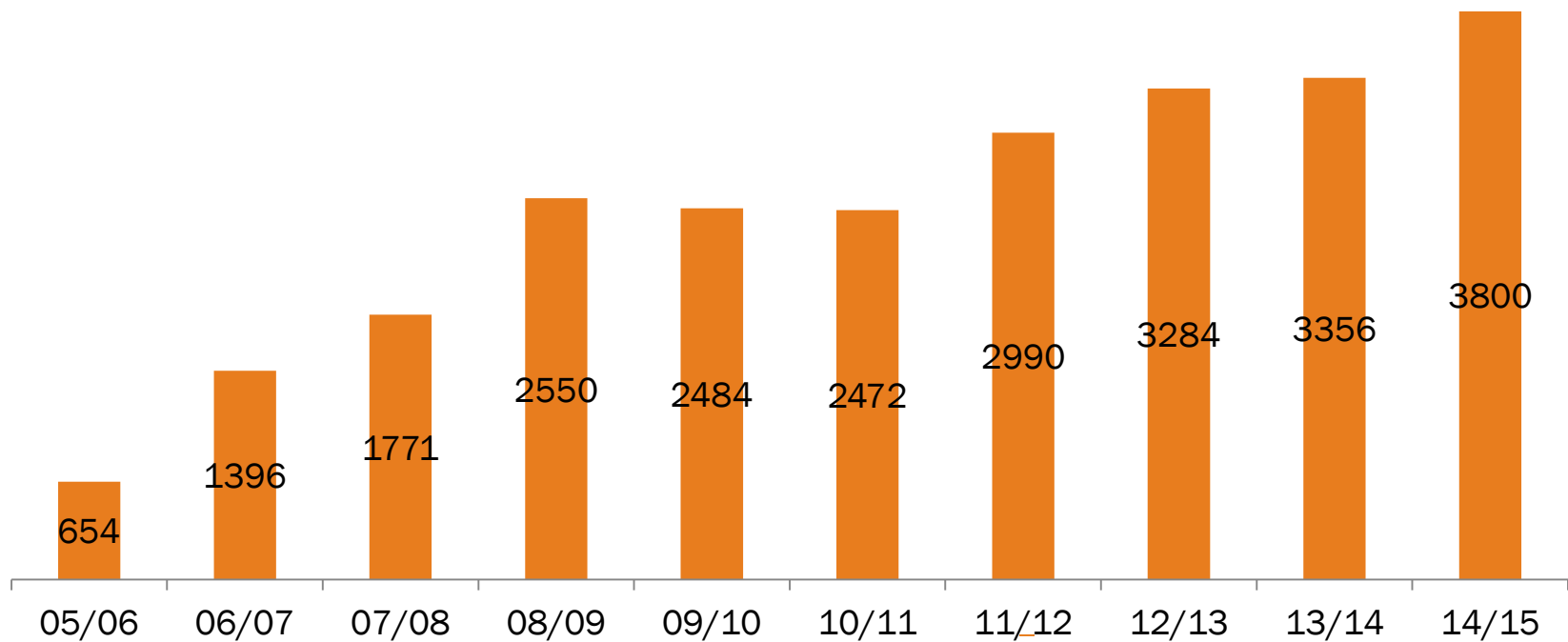
Numerous Field Trips



ORCA Demographics



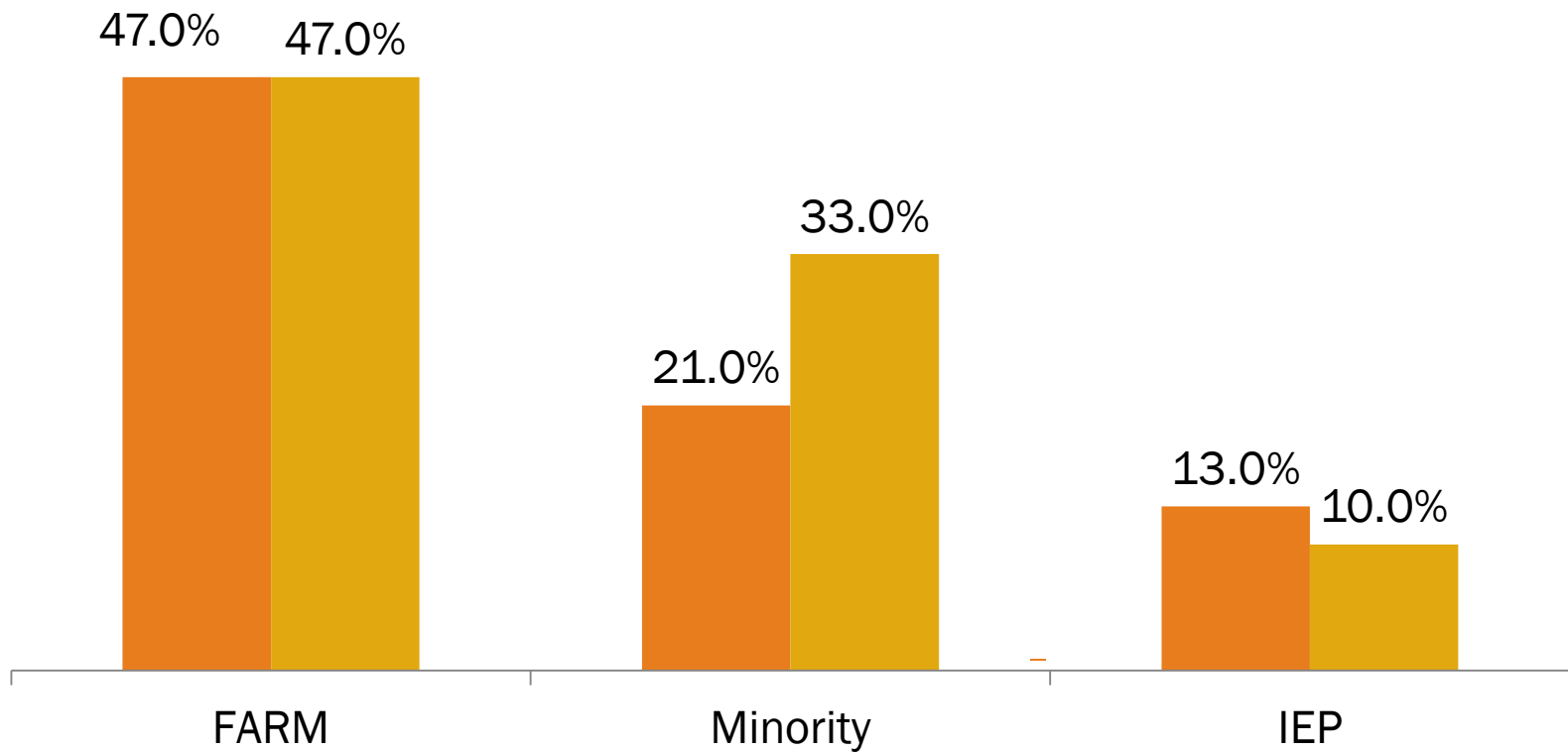
Enrollment



ORCA Demographics



ORCA CA schools



Myths and Facts

Myth #1



- ORCA is nothing more than glorified homeschooling.
 - Grade level or subject matter teachers for every student.
 - Robust interactive curriculum with built in formative and summative assessments
 - Cutting edge Education Management System
 - Multiple modes of teacher-student communication
 - Flipped classroom models
 - Mentoring program for Learning Coaches
 - Extensive technical support

Myth #2



- ORCA sends state tax dollars out of Oregon for corporate profits.

- ORCA purchases content and services from CE:

- Payroll
- CCSS-aligned online curriculum
- Textbooks (paper and virtual)
- Technology
- HR
- Legal
- Teacher professional development
- Help desk
- Special education
- Business/Financial
- State reporting and compliance
- State relations
- Etc.....

Myth #3



- ORCA's overall student performance is worse than most school districts in the state.

Subject	N Tested	Proficient	State %	Grades ORCA Exceeds	Equiv. Grades	Grades ORCA Behind
Reading	1799	72.9%	70.7%	6,7	3,4,8,11	5
Math	1796	52.1%	62.1%	None	6,7	3,4,5,8,11
Science	887	64.7%	65.1%	5	11	8
Writing	311	60.1%	59.5%	NA	11	NA

Myth #4



- ORCA does a poor job of serving special needs students.

- 9 full-time special education teachers
- 5+ district-based sped case managers
- Extensive support from CE
- Tiered intervention model (RTI)
- Specialized services
 - Speech/language therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and counseling
- Assistive technology
 - Braille texts, text-to-speech/speech to text, digital tablets, graphing calculators, etc....
- Accommodations and Modifications
 - Extended time, oral response, visual aids, graphic organizers, off-grade level curriculum, alternative activities, etc...
- School psychologist and SLP testing support from LBL ESD

Myth #6



- ORCA steals good students from districts and causes those districts significant financial difficulty.

- State law requires school districts to release no more than 3% of their students to virtual charters
- 72% of ORCA's enrolling high school students are seriously credit deficient
- ORCA receives a disproportionately high number of highly mobile and at-risk students
- Many families would homeschool or private school if it were not for ORCA
- Families choose ORCA because of safety, bullying, social indoctrination, bad schools, sports, music, flexibility, and other needs
- ORCA works to counsel students into the best fit
- Overall parent satisfaction with ORCA exceeds 90%

Ideas for Partnership



Ideas for Partnership



- Put students and families first
- Work together to find best fit
- Counsel students into and out of ORCA depending on need
- Collaborate with revenue share for local opportunities (sports, music, etc.)
- Share SpEd services when appropriate
- Share Title 1 funding to best serve all students
- Keep lines of communication open

Question and Ideas

Thank You!

Contact:

tluba@connectionseducation.com

Website:

<http://www.connectionsacademy.com/oregon>