



# Illinois State Board of Education

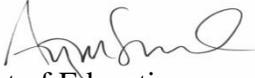
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**James T. Meeks**  
Chairman

**Tony Smith, Ph.D.**  
State Superintendent of Education

January 13, 2016

**TO:** The Honorable Bruce Rauner, Governor  
The Honorable John Cullerton, Senate President  
The Honorable Christine Radogno, Senate Republican Leader  
The Honorable Michael J. Madigan, Speaker of the House  
The Honorable Jim Durkin, House Republican Leader

**FROM:** Tony Smith, Ph.D.   
State Superintendent of Education

**SUBJECT:** Illinois State Board of Education Biennial Charter School Report

Pursuant to its obligation under Section 27A-12 of the Illinois Charter Schools Law [105 ILCS 5/27A-12], the Illinois State Board of Education submits this Biennial Charter School Report for 2016.

If you have questions or comments, please contact Claudia Quezada, Director of Quality School Options, at (312) 814-1614.

cc: Tim Mapes, Clerk of the House  
Tim Anderson, Secretary of the Senate  
Legislative Research Unit  
State Government Report Center

# ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



## **2013-2014 and 2014-2015 Illinois Charter School Biennial Report**

**Submitted January 2016**

## Table of Contents

1.	Charter Background .....	1
	Section 1.1 - Statutory and Regulatory Modifications.....	2
	Section 1.2 – Charter Landscape – District Authorizers.....	3
	Section 1.3 – Charter Landscape – State Charter School Commission .....	4
	Section 1.4 – Charter Landscape – Charter Highlights.....	4
2.	Number of Charter Schools and Enrollment Trends.....	9
	Section 2.1 – Charter School Growth.....	9
	Section 2.2 – Charter School Closures .....	15
3.	Composition of Charter Schools .....	16
4.	Charter School Operations.....	22
5.	Charter School Student Performance .....	23
6.	Suggested Statutory Changes .....	32
7.	Authorizer Information .....	34

## **1. Charter Background**

Charter schools are public schools governed by an independent board of directors that come into existence through a contract with an authorized public chartering agency. The charter—or contract—establishes the framework within which the school operates and provides public support for the school for a specified period of time. At the end of the contract period, the charter may be renewed or revoked.

Charter schools have been part of the Illinois public education landscape since April 1996, when the General Assembly passed its first charter law, the 20<sup>th</sup> in the nation. Under the Illinois Charter Schools Law, Public Act 89-450, codified at 105 ILCS 5/27A-1 et seq. (eff. April 10, 1996), school districts are the primary authorizers of charter schools. Section 105 ILCS 5/27A-2 sets forth the intent of the Charter Schools Law as follows:

*[T]o create a legitimate avenue for parents, teachers, and community members to take responsible risks and create new, innovative, and more flexible ways of educating children within the public school system. The General Assembly seeks to create opportunities within the public school system of Illinois for development of innovative and accountable teaching techniques.*

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has promulgated a set of regulations at 23 Ill. Admin. Code 650 to implement the Charter Schools Law, where necessary. Such regulations include procedures for: the review, submission, and execution of charter agreements; the certification of charters; biennial reporting requirements; the monitoring of charter school authorizers; and closure of charter schools. Such regulations also provide principles and standards for authorizing charter schools.

To help them meet their goals, charter schools are afforded significant flexibility under the Charter Schools Law. The law exempts charter schools from nearly all mandates and restrictions applicable to public schools and school districts, except for those that are designed to protect the well-being and privacy of students and staff. Charter schools are operated by an independent governing board, and each charter school has complete autonomy over its educational plan and operations, provided that it adheres to the terms and conditions of its charter. Key components of the charter school's education plan, such as curriculum, staffing, professional development, length of school day and year, and "seat time," are left to the discretion of the charter school. In exchange for autonomy and flexibility in operations, charter schools are subject to rigorous accountability standards set forth by the charter authorizer and can be closed if they are not performing or meeting their contractual obligations.

ISBE monitors charter schools and authorizers on an ongoing basis and by statute must compile information and data on the charter school sector into a single report every two years. Known as the Illinois Charter School Biennial Report, this report provides law and policymakers, educators, and the general public with information regarding the state of the charter school sector. In compliance with Section 27A-12 of the Charter Schools Law [105 ILCS 5/27A-12], it contains information that (i) compares the academic performance of charter school students to the performance of their peers in traditional public schools; (ii) analyzes whether or not exemption from certain regulations allows charter schools to better meet their stated goals and objectives; and (iii) recommends any changes to the Charter Schools Law. This report will also include authorizer-specific information in the state, including (i) the authorizer's strategic vision for chartering and progress toward achieving that vision; (ii) the status of

each authorizer's charter school portfolio; and (iii) the authorizing functions provided by the authorizer to the charter schools under its purview, including its operating costs and expenses.

## **Section 1.1 - Statutory and Regulatory Modifications**

A number of modifications to the Charter Schools Law and its implementing regulations have been enacted since the last edition of this report in 2014. Statutory and regulatory modifications to the Charter Schools Law include:

**Public Act 98-0639.** Charter schools must comply with all federal and state laws and rules applicable to public schools that pertain to special education and the instruction of English learners, referred to in the School Code as children of limited English-speaking ability.

**Public Act 98-0640.** If a charter school dismisses a pupil from the charter school after receiving a quarterly payment from the school district, the charter school shall return to the school district an amount equal to 100 percent of the school district's per capita student tuition, on a pro rata basis, for the time the student is not enrolled at the charter school.

**Public Act 98-0669.** Charter schools are required to adopt bullying policies consistent with the requirements of Section 27-23.7 of the School Code [105 ILCS 5/27-23.7].

**Public Act 98-1048.** The beginning of the fiscal year for charter schools is aligned with state and school district fiscal years. Other changes are made with respect to the review of material modifications to charter agreements.

**Public Act 98-1059.** The moratorium on virtual charter schools is extended from April 1, 2014, to December 31, 2016.

**Public Act 98-1102.** Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, school districts, including charter schools, that rank in the top 20 percent in statewide counts for three consecutive years in the use of exclusionary discipline (suspensions and expulsions), including metrics for racial disproportionality, must submit a plan to ISBE to identify how exclusionary discipline, or racial disproportionality in its use, will be reduced.

**Public Act 99-0245.** Charter schools must comply with Section 22-80 of the School Code regarding student athlete concussions, concussion protocol, and procedures.

**Public Act 99-0325.** Charter schools must comply with all non-curricular health and safety requirements applicable to public schools. ISBE is required to promulgate a list of non-curricular health and safety requirements. The full list of the requirements is available on [www.isbe.net](http://www.isbe.net).

**Public Act 99-0334.** Any organization seeking to open a charter school must disclose any civil or criminal investigation at the local, state, or federal levels. Additionally, any member of the governing body must disclose any criminal investigation.

**Public Act 99-0456.** Charter schools must comply with the student discipline requirements of Sections 24-24 and 34-84a of the School Code [105 ILCS 5/24-24 and 105 ILCS 5/34-84a].

**Public Acts 98-0783, 98-0972, 99-0030, and 99-0078** revised several outdated provisions and made technical changes to the Charter Schools Law.

The rules implementing the Charter Schools Law [23 Ill. Admin. Code 650] were modified twice since the last report as described below:

**38 Ill. Reg. 21916.** New Sections 650.55 and 650.65 address two provisions contained in Section 27A-12 of the School Code: biennial reporting to ISBE by authorizers of charter schools and ongoing monitoring of charter school authorizers by the agency to ensure compliance with laws and rules governing charter schools. The changes further set forth the procedures ISBE will use to sanction charter school authorizers or charter schools that are chronically underperforming.

**39 Ill. Reg. 8298.** Rulemaking was promulgated to implement Public Acts 98-0783 regarding procedures for the disposition of unspent public funds and other property and assets at the time that a charter school closes and Public Act 98-1048 regarding material revisions to certified charter contracts.

## Section 1.2 – Charter Landscape – District Authorizers

Charter schools are a continuously growing sector of Illinois’ public educational system. There are currently 63 charter schools and 146 charter school campuses operating across the state, with a total charter student enrollment of 63,892. At the beginning of school year 2014-2015, there were 11 Illinois State Authorizers and 13 Illinois school districts with at least one charter school. This number includes four school districts—City of Chicago School District 299 (CPS), Rich Township High School District 227, Waukegan Community Unit School District 60, and Woodland School District 50—served by state-authorized charter schools. The vast majority of charter schools are located within the City of Chicago.

Illinois School District Authorizers
Beardstown CUSD 15 (Charter closed at the end of school year 2014-2015)
CPS District 299
City of Peoria School District 150
Community Unit School District 300
Decatur School District 61
East St. Louis School District 189
Independent Authority of North Chicago School District 187
Jacksonville School District 117
McLean County Unit School District No. 5
Rockford School District 205
Springfield School District 186

### **Section 1.3 – Charter Landscape – State Charter School Commission**

The State Charter School Commission (the “Commission”) is an important part of the Illinois charter sector. Public Act 97-0152, effective July 1, 2011, amended the Charter Schools Law to create the Commission. As an independent state commission with statewide chartering jurisdiction and authority, the Commission is tasked with: (i) promulgating best practices in charter school authorizing; (ii) hearing, investigating, and deciding appeals in cases where a school district fails to act on a charter application or denies the application; (iii) overseeing charter schools authorized by the Commission; and (iv) submitting biennial reports to the State Board of Education and local school boards on best practices in charter school authorizing, oversight, and renewal.

The Commission is composed of nine members nominated by the Governor and appointed by the State Board of Education. Collectively, Commissioners should represent the geographic diversity of Illinois and possess experience and expertise across various fields, including public and nonprofit governance, management and finance, public school leadership, higher education, assessments, curriculum and instruction, and public education law. The statute also requires that at least three Commissioners have prior experience with urban charter schools. Commissioners typically serve terms of four years, but to ensure staggered terms of office, three of the inaugural members were appointed for initial terms of three years and another three members were appointed for initial terms of two years. The remaining three Commissioners have initial terms of four years.

The State Board made its initial nine appointments to the Commission on September 28, 2011, and each Commissioner’s term went into effect November 1, 2011. The terms of the three inaugural members with four-year terms expired on October 31, 2015, and ISBE appointed three new members to fill those seats and one new member to fill a seat vacated by a Commissioner who resigned in mid-term.

Since the Commission was established, it has received 47 appeals from charter school development teams. Of the 47 appeals, the Commission has so far only granted charter appeals for three schools. Four appeals are currently pending before the Commission – three from existing charter operators and one from a potential new operator. The Commission has denied three other applications, and all other applicants voluntarily withdrew their applications before the Commission rendered a decision. Currently, the Commission oversees five charter schools: the three charter schools authorized by the Commission following appeal and two charter schools that were previously authorized by ISBE.

### **Section 1.4 – Charter Landscape – Charter Highlights**

One of the most important developments in 2015 was the federal Quality School Options grant. Illinois was one of eight states awarded a federal grant to expand high-quality public school options. Over the next five years, Illinois will receive more than \$42 million from the federal government to support the development and growth of new, high-quality public school options, including charter schools, across the state. Funds from the grant will provide financial assistance for the program design and initial implementation of charter schools. The funds will also support the dissemination of best practices by schools that have achieved student body diversity with strong student outcomes or schools that have successfully implemented educational innovation, increased student achievement or narrowed achievement gaps between student subgroups. This grant will build on ISBE’s current initiatives to help schools promote academic excellence by providing equitable options for all students to ultimately close the achievement gap.

Due to some of the autonomies granted to charter schools, some charter schools have made it a goal to ensure that every student is able to receive adequate attention while in school. This allows charter school students to have the utmost success on their journey to college and beyond. Some charter schools have a class period in which students are divided by gender and have a teacher or other school leader of the same gender who is responsible for a small group of students. The teachers, known as advisors, follow the students throughout their four years. These advisors ensure that their students are being successful throughout their years in school by setting individual goals and learning effective study habits. In addition to ensuring a student's academic success, the advisors are also responsible for ensuring that there are minimal external factors affecting a student's academic success. As part of making sure that students have a smooth transition through each grade, their teachers keep close contact with parents to inform them of academic progress. By establishing relationships with parents, the advisors have a holistic understanding of their students and provide students the opportunity to better connect with another adult who can provide additional supports. Advisors have the opportunity to relate more with their students on a personal level and help them with character development and life decisions that may go beyond teaching.

Other charter schools are ensuring that all of their students not only graduate but are prepared for college and have incorporated a class that teaches seniors all they need to know about higher education to ensure a successful and smooth transition. Additionally, the class provides students with feedback on college and scholarship applications and introduces various college and university options. Having a class that solely focuses on college gives students a designated time to concentrate on the college process, and the students receive active help from the school in this effort.

Other interesting charter facts are:

- Charter schools can be established by creating a new school or converting an existing public school or attendance center to charter school status (known as conversion schools).
- Under the Charter Schools Law, schools *outside* of Chicago have the ability to create new campuses under an existing charter (i.e., to “replicate”) if authorized under their negotiated charter contract.
- No charter schools outside of Chicago have replicated to date. Conversely, a 2003 amendment to the Charter Schools Law restricts charter schools within Chicago to one campus per charter, but this did not apply to charter schools granted replicating status prior to 2003.
- There are now 13 charter schools in CPS with the ability to create multiple campuses under the same charter. Including all campuses of these multi-campus charter schools, there are 146 charter school campuses in current operation.
- Statewide, there were 62,055 charter school students in the 2014-2015 school year with just over 3 percent of public school students enrolled in charter schools.
- During the 2015-2016 school year, there are 63,862 students enrolled charter schools within Illinois.
- Within Chicago, in the 2014-2015 school year, just over 15 percent of public school students were enrolled in charter schools. This number includes students enrolled in the two Commission-authorized schools located within Chicago.

<b>2013-2014 Charter Schools Landscape</b>	
	<b>School Name</b>
<b>CPS New Charters</b>	- Chicago Collegiate Charter School - Christopher House Charter School - Intrinsic Charter School
<b>Commission New Charters</b>	- Horizon Science Academy – Belmont - Horizon Science Academy – McKinley Park
<b>Authorizers New Charters</b>	- Not Applicable
<b>Campus Expansions</b>	- Instituto Justice and Leadership Academy High School - Rudy Lozano Leadership Academy-Mastery (CPS) - KIPP Chicago-Bloom (CPS) - LEARN Charter School #7 (CPS) - Noble Network of Charter Schools – Baker College Prep (CPS) - Noble Network of Charter Schools – Butler College Prep (CPS) - UCSN Charter School Network – Brighton Park (CPS) - UCSN Charter School Network – Rogers Park (CPS)
<b>Conversions</b>	- Frazier Preparatory Academy Charter School (CPS contract to charter)
<b>Closures</b>	- Chicago Talent Development Charter High School (CPS) - Tomorrow’s Builders YouthBuild Charter School (East St. Louis SD 189)

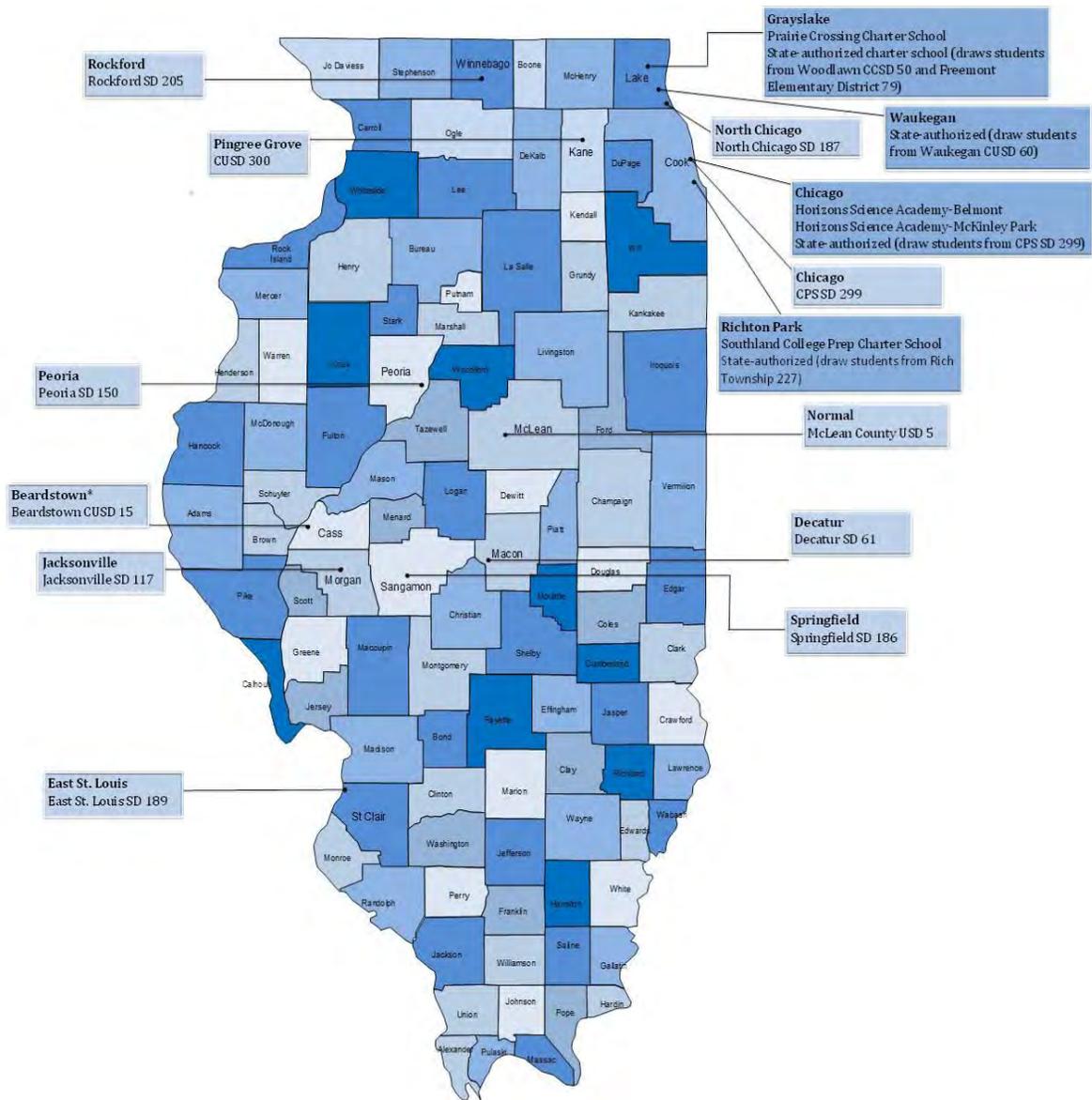
<b>2014-2015 Charter Schools Landscape</b>	
	<b>School Name</b>
<b>CPS New Charters</b>	- Foundations Charter School - Great Lakes Academy Charter School - Horizon Science Academy - Southwest
<b>Commission New Charters</b>	- LEARN Charter School – Waukegan
<b>Authorizers New Charters</b>	- Not Applicable
<b>CPS Campus Expansions</b>	- KIPP Ascend Primary - Noble Network of Charter Schools – The Noble Academy - Noble Network of Charter Schools – ITW David Speer Academy
<b>Conversions</b>	- Not Applicable
<b>Closures</b>	- ASPIRA-Mirta Ramirez - Beardstown Charter School (Beardstown CUSD 15) - Catalyst Charter School - Howland (CPS) - Henry Ford Academy Powerhouse High School (CPS) - KIPP Ascend Academy (CPS) - Tomorrow’s Builders (East St Louis District 117)
<b>2014-2015 CPS RFP Cycle</b>	- Final proposals submitted to the CPS Board of Education in August 2015): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 12 proposals to open 22 school charters</li> <li>- 4 proposals to create 9 new campuses of existing charter schools (1 of the 9 proposed “campuses” is from a proposed charter school that does not have replicating status)</li> <li>- Proposals to create 13 new charter schools classified as</li> </ul>

	<p>new charters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1 proposal from a replicating charter proposed to add 2 alternative charter campuses</li> <li>- No proposals to convert an existing public school or attendance center to charter school status</li> </ul>
<b>2014-2015 Outside of Chicago RFP Cycle</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Outside of Chicago, charter development teams submitted charter proposals to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Elgin School District U-46</li> <li>- Chicago Heights School District 60</li> <li>- Waukegan Community Unit School District 60</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<b>2015-2016 Charter Schools Landscape</b>	
	<b>School Name</b>
<b>CPS New Charters</b>	- Moving Everest Charter School
<b>Commission New Charters</b>	- L.E.A.R.N. Waukegan
<b>Authorizers New Charters</b>	- Not Applicable
<b>CPS Campus Expansions</b>	- ASPIRA-Business & Finance
<b>Voluntary Suspension</b>	- Youth Connection Charter School-Virtual HS at Malcolm X College
<b>Conversions</b>	- Not Applicable
<b>Anticipated Closures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 8 Points Charter School (Jacksonville District 117)</li> <li>- Amandla Charter School (CPS)</li> <li>- Betty Shabazz-Sizemore (CPS)</li> <li>- Betty Shabazz-DuSable Leadership (CPS)</li> <li>- Bronzeville Lighthouse (CPS)</li> <li>- CICS-Hawkins (CPS)</li> </ul>

<b>2016-2017 Charter Schools Landscape (to date)</b>	
	<b>School Name</b>
<b>CPS New Charters</b>	- Not Applicable
<b>Commission New Charters</b>	- Not Applicable
<b>Authorizers New Charters</b>	- Not Applicable
<b>CPS Campus Expansions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- KIPP Chicago-#5</li> <li>- Intrinsic Charter School #2</li> <li>- Noble Network of Charter Schools-Campus #17</li> </ul>
<b>Voluntary Suspension</b>	- Not Applicable
<b>Conversions</b>	- Not Applicable
<b>Closures</b>	- Not Applicable

# Illinois Charter Locations



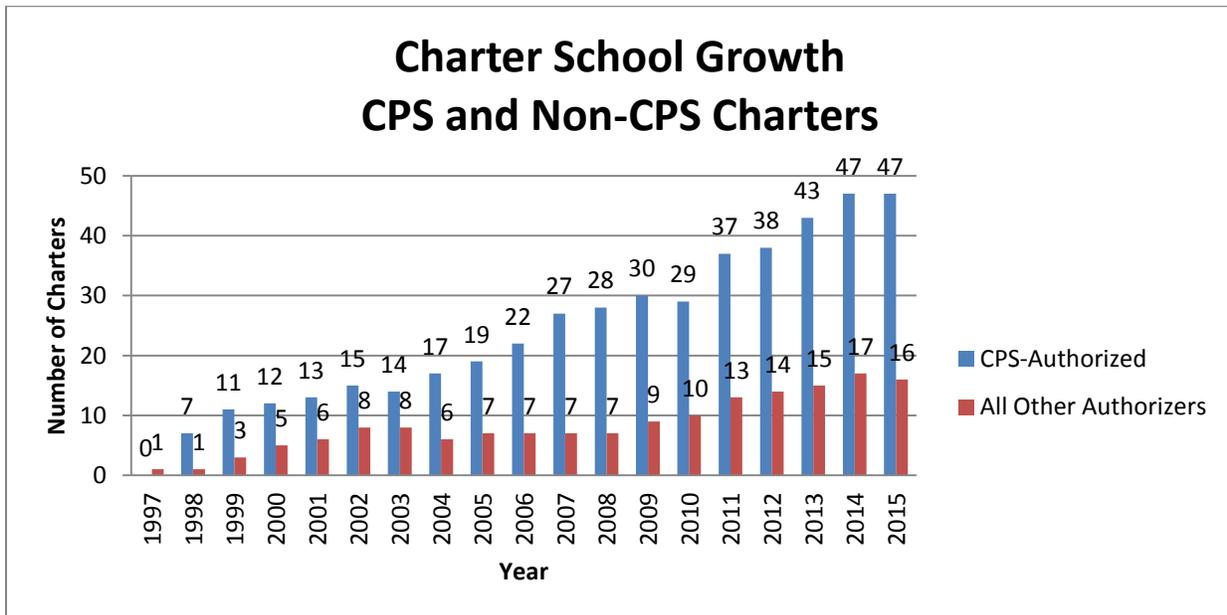
\*Charter Closed 2014-2015

## 2. Number of Charter Schools and Enrollment Trends

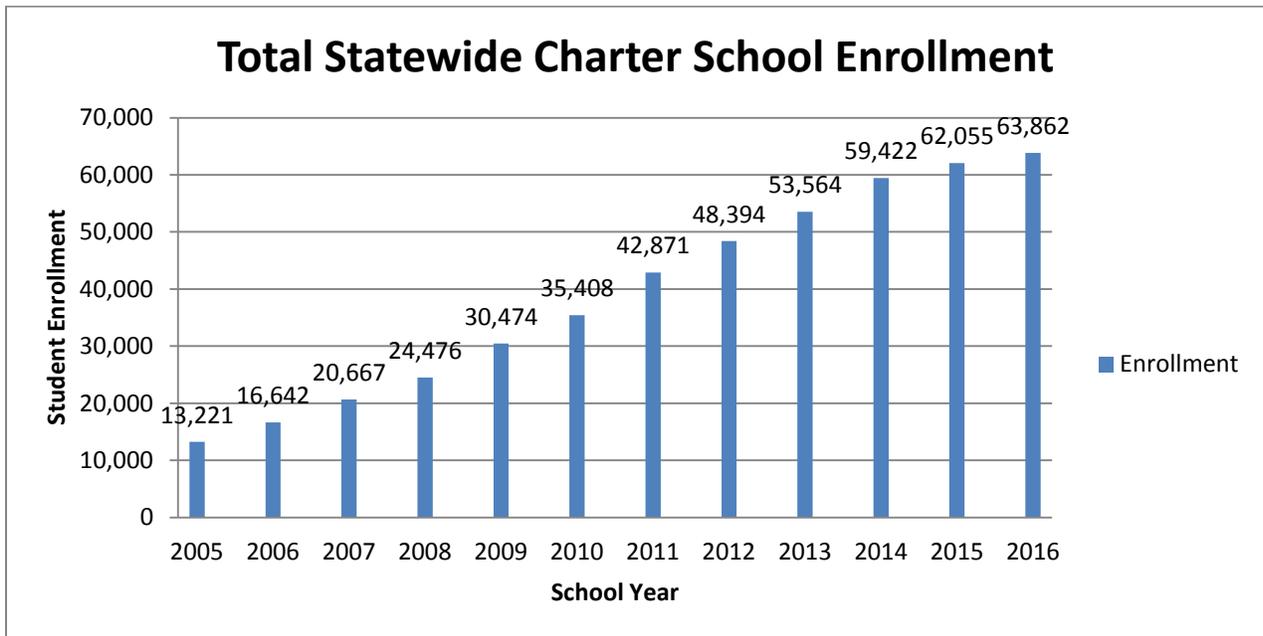
### Section 2.1 – Charter School Growth

The Illinois Charter Schools Law is structured to establish separate “caps” for the number of charter schools that may operate at one time in Chicago and in the remainder of the state. Since the law passed, the Illinois General Assembly has voted twice to increase the charter cap for CPS (from 15 to 30 in 2003 and from 30 to 75 in 2009, including five charters devoted exclusively to re-enrolled high school dropouts and students at risk of dropping out) in response to Chicago reaching the cap in the preceding years. In 2009, the cap also increased outside of Chicago, from 30 to 45. As a result, the number of charter schools in Illinois has grown steadily, from one charter school in 1996-1997 to 63 charter schools (47 schools under CPS and 16 schools authorized by either a local school board or the Commission) and 146 campuses operating during the 2015-2016 school year.

**Table 2A: Growth in Number of Charters Since 1997**



**Table 2B: Growth in Charter School Enrollment Since 2005**



**Table 2C: District and Charter 5-Year Enrollment Trends**

District/Charter Schools (# of campuses 2011-2016)	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016
<b>CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT 299</b>	400,931	395,071	373,233	370,933	367,656
Academy for Global Citizenship (AGC) Charter School	246	293	347	391	450
Alain Locke Charter Academy Charter School	588	584	490	501	487
Amandla Charter School	344	310	349	325	318
Architecture, Construction, and Engineering (ACE) Tech Charter School	502	468	473	443	432
ASPIRA Charter School (3 campuses)	1,483	1,454	1,272	1,165	1,139
Betty Shabazz International Charter School (3 campuses)	995	917	837	706	634
Bronzeville Lighthouse Charter School	454	468	482	467	470
Catalyst Elementary Charter School - Circle Rock	520	525	520	513	520
Catalyst Charter School – Howland	507	493	470	461	
Catalyst Maria Charter School		557	829	955	1,094
Chicago Collegiate Charter School			113	173	238
Chicago International Charter School (CICS) (15 campuses)	8,879	8,793	8,676	8,347	8,410
Chicago Math & Science Academy (CMSA) Charter School	588	589	605	606	602
Chicago Talent Development Charter High	206	276	178		
Chicago Virtual Charter High School	590	594	686	675	676
Christopher House Charter School			95	166	222
EPIC Academy Charter High School	362	481	476	422	434
Erie Elementary Charter School	350	414	422	440	424
Foundations College Prep Charter				110	163

District/Charter Schools (# of campuses 2011-2016)	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016
Frazier Preparatory Academy Charter School			440	379	399
Galapagos Charter School	350	341	340	339	330
Great Lakes Academy Charter School				125	196
Henry Ford Academy: Power House Charter High School	454	338	177	95	
Horizon Science Academy – Southwest				446	558
Instituto Health Sciences Career Academy (IHSCA) Charter High School	336	532	761	769	764
Instituto Justice Leadership Academy (IJLA) Charter High School (2 campuses)		160	232	229	179
Intrinsic Charter High School			182	448	822
KIPP Ascend Elementary Charter School	546	661	738	724	
KIPP Ascend Primary Charter School				108	N/A
KIPP Bloom Charter Elementary School			84	165	N/A
KIPP Create Charter School		78	166	234	1,352
Kwame Nkrumah Charter Academy	214	243	217	311	304
L.E.A.R.N. Charter School (7 campuses)	1,888	2,055	2,588	2,991	3,057
Legacy Charter School	512	503	456	455	460
Legal Prep Academy Charter High School		194	222	249	287
Montessori Englewood Charter School		91	137	193	216
Namaste Charter School	452	465	478	485	488
Noble Street Charter School (16 campuses)	6,544	7,842	9,013	10,195	11,380
North Lawndale College Preparatory Charter High School (2 campuses)	875	863	841	820	806
Passages Charter School	424	418	414	419	419
Perspectives Charter School (4 campuses)	2,313	2,211	2,159	2,007	1881
Polaris Charter Academy	335	381	433	420	436
Prologue - Joshua Johnston Charter School for Fine Art and Design	190	198	231	240	175
Providence Englewood Charter School	404	452	472	510	493
Rowe Elementary Charter School	349	481	588	694	810
University of Chicago Charter School (UCCS) (4 campuses)	1,707	1,799	1,813	1,834	1,796
UNO Charter School Network (UCSN) Charter School (15 campuses)	5,373	6,518	7,591	7,923	8,035
Urban Prep Academy for Young Men Charter High School – Bronzeville	268	403	496	470	420
Urban Prep Academy for Young Men Charter High School – Englewood	482	493	449	472	440
Urban Prep Academy for Young Men Charter High School – West	370	415	470	412	341
Young Women’s Leadership Charter School (YW LCS)	323	345	328	327	338
Youth Connection Charter School (YCCS) (20 “locations”)	3,669	3,763	3,902	3,906	3,583
HORIZON SCIENCE ACADEMY (HSA) – BELMONT			292	361	398
HORIZON SCIENCE ACADEMY (HSA) – MCKINLEY PARK			441	561	638
BEARDSTOWN CUSD 15	1,439	1,479	1,685	1,426	
Beardstown Charter Academy	31	36	35	27	

District/Charter Schools (# of campuses 2011-2016)	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016
CUSD 300	20,566	20,525	20,130	20,141	20,176
Cambridge Lakes Charter School	738	827	936	869	868
DECATUR SD 61	8,547	8,613	8,410	8,442	8,480
Robertson Charter School	335	376	333	332	329
EAST ST. LOUIS SD 189	6,820	6,392	6,147	5,921	5,827
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville - East St. Louis Charter School	109	118	114	114	113
Tomorrow's Builders YouthBuild Charter School	80	63	98		
JACKSONVILLE SD 117	3,462	3,419	3,694	3,364	3,372
8 Points Charter School	83	96	96	106	114
MCLEAN CUSD 5	13,214	13,538	13,395	13,340	13,364
YouthBuild McLean County Charter School	45	43	48	35	59
NORTH CHICAGO SD 187	3,814	3,681	3,659	3,444	3,424
L.E.A.R.N. 6 – North Chicago Campus	0	248	359	490	496
PEORIA SD 150	14,042	13,976	13,486	13,371	12,966
Quest Charter Academy	299	377	453	502	571
FREMONT SD 79	2,206	2,213	2,230	2,091	2,060
WOODLAND CCSD 50	6,549	6,508	6,347	6,000	5,730
PRAIRIE CROSSING CHARTER SCHOOL	391	390	384	395	415
ROCKFORD SD 205	26,980	27,249	26,709	26,363	26,271
CICS Jackson (formerly CICS Rockford Patriots)	350	395	516	501	488
Galapagos Rockford Charter School	255	273	294	315	342
Legacy Academy of Excellence Charter School	337	381	443	315	308
RICH TOWNSHIP HSD 227	3,905	3,656	3,465	3,303	3,227
SOUTHLAND COLLEGE PREP CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL	249	370	471	494	508
SPRINGFIELD SD 186	14,328	14,367	14,482	14,298	14,093
Springfield Ball Charter School	377	377	376	378	377

Table 2D: Grades Served, Number of Campuses 2013-2015

Charter School	Grades Served		Number of Campuses	
	2013-2014	2014-2015	2013-2014	2014-2015
CPS DISTRICT 299	PK-12	PK-12	607	611
AGC	K-6	K-7	1	1
Alain Locke	PK-8	PK-8	1	1
Amandla	5-10	5-11	1	1
ACE Tech	9-12	9-12	1	1
ASPIRA	6-12	6-12	3	3
Betty Shabazz	K-12	K-12	3	3
Bronzeville Lighthouse	K-8	K-8	1	1
Catalyst - Circle Rock	K-8	K-8	1	1
Catalyst – Howland	K-8	K-8	1	1
Catalyst – Maria	K-6, 10	K-12	1	1

Charter School	Grades Served		Number of Campuses	
	2013-2014	2014-2015	2013-2014	2014-2015
Chicago Collegiate	4-5	4-6	1	1
CICS	K-12	K-12	15	15
CMSA	6-12	6-12	1	1
Chicago Talent	9-12	0	1	0
Chicago Virtual	K-12	K-12	1	1
Christopher House	K-1	K-2	1	1
EPIC	9-12	9-12	1	1
Erie Elementary	K-8	K-8	1	1
Foundations		6-7		1
Frazier Prep	K-8	K-8	1	1
Galapagos – Chicago	K-8	K-8	1	1
Great Lakes		K-1		1
Henry Ford Academy	11-12	12	1	1
HSA - Southwest		K-8		1
IHSCA Charter High	9-12	9-12	1	1
IJLA Charter High	9-12	9-12	1	1
Intrinsic	7-9	7-10	1	1
KIPP Ascend Elementary	K-3, 5-8	K-8	1	1
KIPP Ascend Primary	K	K	1	1
KIPP Bloom	5-6	5-6	1	1
KIPP Create	5-7	5-7	1	1
Kwame Nkrumah	K-6	K-7	1	1
L.E.A.R.N. - Chicago	K-8	K-8	7	7
Legacy – Chicago	PK-8	PK-8	1	1
Legal Prep	9-10	9-11	1	1
Montessori Englewood	K-3	K-4	1	1
Namaste	K-8	K-8	1	1
Noble Street	6-12	6-12	14	16
North Lawndale	9-12	9-12	2	2
Passages	PK-8	PK-8	1	1
Perspectives	6-12	6-12	4	4
Polaris	K-8	K-8	1	1
Prologue – Joshua Johnston	9-12	9-12	1	1
Providence Englewood	K-8	K-8	1	1
Rowe Elementary	K-6	K-7	1	1
UCCS	PK-12	PK-12	4	4
UCSN	K-12	K-12	15	15
Urban Prep – Bronzeville	9-12	9-12	1	1
Urban Prep – Englewood	9-12	9-12	1	1

Charter School	Grades Served		Number of Campuses	
	2013-2014	2014-2015	2013-2014	2014-2015
Urban Prep – West	9-12	9-12	1	1
YWLCS	7-12	8-12	1	1
YCCS	9-12	9-12	19	20
HSA – BELMONT		K-7		1
HSA – MCKINLEY PARK		K-10		1
BEARDSTOWN CUSD 15	K-12	K-12	4	4
Beardstown Charter	9-12	9-12	1	1
CUSD 300	PK-12	PK-12	25	25
Cambridge Lakes	K-12	K-12	1	1
DECATUR SD 61	PK-12	PK-12	21	21
Robertson	K-8	K-8	1	1
EAST ST. LOUIS SD 189	K-12	K-12	15	11
SIUE - East St. Louis Charter School	9-12	9-12	1	1
Tomorrow's Builders	9-12	0	1	0
JACKSONVILLE SD 117	K-12	K-12	10	9
8 Points	5-7	5-8	1	1
MCLEAN CUSD 5	PK-12	PK-12	23	23
YouthBuild McLean County	9-12	9-12	1	1
NORTH CHICAGO SD 187	PK-12	PK-12	9	9
L.E.A.R.N. 6 – North Chicago		K-2, 6-7		1
PEORIA SD 150	PK-12	PK-12	25	24
Quest	5-8	5-9	1	1
FREMONT SD 79	PK-8	PK-8	3	3
WOODLAND CCSD 50	PK-8	PK-8	4	4
PRAIRIE CROSSING	K-8	K-8	1	1
ROCKFORD SD 205	PK-12	PK-12	45	46
CICS Jackson (f/k/a Rockford Patriots)	K-6	K-6	1	1
Galapagos - Rockford	K-5	K-6	1	1
Legacy – Rockford	K-7	K-8	1	1
RICH TOWNSHIP HSD 227	9-12	9-12	3	3
SOUTHLAND COLLEGE PREP	9-10	9-11	1	1
SPRINGFIELD SD 186	PK-12	PK-12	34	33
Springfield Ball Charter	K-8	K-8	1	1

## Section 2.2 – Charter School Closures

Under the Charter Schools Law, a charter may be revoked or not renewed by its authorizer in cases where the charter school failed to comply with any of the requirements of Article 27A, or in the following specifically-enumerated circumstances: (1) the charter committed a material violation of its charter agreement; (2) the charter failed to meet or make reasonable progress toward achievement of the goals and objectives set forth in its charter; (3) the charter failed to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management; and/or (4) the charter violated any other provision of law from which it was not exempted. A charter school may also terminate operations by mutual agreement with the authorizer.

**Table 2E: Charter Schools That Have Closed/Suspended Operations Since 1998**

School Year	Total # Closed	CPS	Non-CPS	School Name(s)/Authorizer
1998-1999	2	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chicago Preparatory Charter School (CPS District 299)</li> <li>Peoria Alternative Charter School (Peoria District 150)</li> </ul>
1999-2000	0	0	0	
2000-2001	0	0	0	
2001-2002	1	0	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Governor’s State University Charter School (Crete-Monee District 201-U)</li> </ul>
2002-2003	4	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nuestra America Charter High School (CPS District 299)</li> <li>Global Villages Charter School (CPS District 299)*</li> <li>Thomas Jefferson Charter School (ISBE)**</li> <li>KEYS (Keep Every Youth Successful) Charter School (Edwardsville District 7)</li> </ul>
2003-2004	0	0	0	
2004-2005	1	1	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Triumphant Charter Middle School (CPS District 299)</li> </ul>
2005-2006	0	0	0	
2006-2007	1	0	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lincoln Charter School (Venice CUSD 3)</li> </ul>
2007-2008	0	0	0	
2008-2009	2	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children’s Choir Academy Charter School (CPS District 299)</li> <li>Ft. Bowman Charter School (Cahokia CUSD 187)</li> </ul>
2009-2010	1	1	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Academy of Communications &amp; Technology (ACT) Charter High School (CPS District 299)***</li> </ul>
2010-2011	0	0	0	
2011-2012	0	0	0	
2012-2013	3	3	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>YCCS-Howard Leadership Academy (CPS District 299)</li> <li>YCCS-Options Laboratory (CPS District 299)</li> <li>YCCS-Paul Simon Academy (Job Corps) (CPS District 299)</li> </ul>
2013-2014	1	1	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chicago Talent Development Charter School (CPS District 299)</li> </ul>
2014-2015	6	4	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ASPIRA Charter School- Mirta Ramirez High School (CPS District 299)</li> <li>Beardstown Charter School (Beardstown CUSD 15)</li> <li>Catalyst Charter School – Howland (CPS District 299)</li> <li>Henry Ford Academy Power House High (CPS District 299)</li> <li>Tomorrow’s Builders (East St Louis District 117)</li> <li>YCCS-Virtual High School (CPS District 299)****</li> </ul>
2015-2016	6	5	1	<p><b>Anticipated School Closures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8 Points Charter School (Jacksonville District 117)*****</li> <li>Amandla Charter School (CPS District 299) *****</li> <li>Betty Shabazz Charter School, Barbara A. Sizemore Academy (CPS District 299) *****</li> <li>Betty Shabazz Charter School, DuSable Leadership (CPS District 299)</li> <li>Bronzeville Lighthouse Charter School (CPS District 299) *****</li> <li>Chicago International Charter School-Larry Hawkins (CPS District 299)</li> </ul>

With the exception of Chicago Preparatory Charter School, Nuestra America Charter High School, and YCCS, Paul Simon Academy (Job Corps), each of these charter schools closed at the end of the school year indicated. Chicago Prep, Nuestra America, and YCCS, Paul Simon Academy (Job Corps) each closed mid-school year. This data comes from ISBE's Public School Directory.

- \* Global Villages closed after 2003 and became: Passages Charter School (still open) and Children's Choir Academy Charter School (closed after 2008-2009 school year).
- \*\* The 2012 Biennial Report mistakenly listed Community Consolidated School District 59 (Des Plaines) as the authorizer of Thomas Jefferson Charter School. In fact, ISBE authorized Thomas Jefferson on appeal from District 59's decision to deny the charter proposal. The school operated from SY1999 through SY2003, and was ordered by ISBE to close in August 2003.
- \*\*\* ACT Charter School did not technically close. Rather, it suspended operations at the end of SY2010 for a two-year period (school years 2011 and 2012), and was renewed by CPS in 2012 under new management. The Charter School is now referred to as KIPP Chicago Schools.
- \*\*\*\* YCCS-Virtual High School temporarily suspended operations after the end of SY2014-2015.
- \*\*\*\*\* At the time of printing these four schools have submitted appeals to the Commission.

### **3. Composition of Charter Schools**

One of the primary goals of the Illinois Charter Schools Law continues to be focused on increased learning opportunities for all pupils, with a special emphasis on expanded learning opportunities for at-risk pupils. The law provides the only definition for "at-risk pupils" found in the Illinois School Code, defining the term as pupils who, because of physical, emotional, socioeconomic or cultural factors, are less likely to succeed in a conventional educational environment. Likewise, under the law, local school boards and the Commission must give preference to charter proposals that are designed to enroll and serve a substantial proportion of at-risk children.

At the same time, as public schools of choice, the student body of a charter school is determined by parent selection plus a lottery process when the school is oversubscribed. The orientation of charter schools in Illinois varies widely, and such orientation may drive the student population (e.g., a charter school whose mission is to educate English Learner (EL) students may have a higher population of Hispanic students than another school within the same district). With the confluence of these factors, a charter school's demographics may not necessarily mirror the district's population.

A number of interrelated socioeconomic factors impact student achievement. Perhaps the most documented indicator for student achievement is poverty. In order to assist educationally disadvantaged students and other students to meet Illinois academic content standards and student achievement standards, ISBE has supported the development of high-quality charter schools as schools of choice in areas of the state with some of the highest concentrations of low-income students.

The following data highlights:

- Student demographic data by charter school and as compared to student demographics of the school district where the charter schools are located.
- Percentage of low-income students in charter schools in Chicago is generally reflective of the school district. Outside of Chicago, the proportionality varies widely from district to district. Some charter schools served a significantly smaller proportion of low-income students than the district in which they are located.
- Charter schools continue to serve a disproportionately smaller number of English Learners than the school district where they are located.
- The data with respect to students with disabilities is more mixed: Charters are sometimes overrepresented, sometimes underrepresented, and sometimes reflective of the district where they are located.

- 2015 4-Year Graduation Rate:
  - Among all charters: 64.7%
  - Among Chicago charters only: 64.1%
  - Among traditional public schools (excluding charters): 86.4%
- 2015 5-Year Graduation Rate:
  - Among all charters: 72.7%
  - Among Chicago charters only: 72.5%
  - Among traditional public schools (excluding charters): 88.3%
- 2015 High School Dropout Rate:
  - Among all charters: 8.1%
  - Among Chicago charters only: 8.4%
  - Among traditional public schools (excluding charters): 2.0%

**Table 3A: Student Demographics – Ethnicity and District Comparison**

Charter School	White		Black		Hispanic		Asian		Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander		American Indian		Multi-Racial	
	2013-2014	2014-2015	2013-2014	2014-2015	2013-2014	2014-2015	2013-2014	2014-2015	2013-2014	2014-2015	2013-2014	2014-2015	2013-2014	2014-2015
<b>CPS DISTRICT 299</b>	9.2	9.5	40.1	39.6	45.5	45.7	3.5	3.6	.1	.2	.2	.3	6.4	1.2
AGC	8.9	7.2	3.2	3.6	85	87.7	0.3	0.3	0	0	0.6	0.5	2	0.8
Alain Locke	0	0	99.2	99.4	0.8	0.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amandla	0.3	0.3	98	98.5	1.1	0.9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.6	0.3
ACE Tech	2.1	2.5	76.1	81.3	20.9	15.6	0	0	0	0	0.6	0.5	0.2	0.2
ASPIRA	1.8	1.7	3.5	2.9	91.8	92.2	1.5	1.7	0.1	0.2	0.8	0.9	0.5	0.4
Betty Shabazz	0	0	89.7	97.6	0.6	1	0	0	0	0.1	0.1	0.1	9.6	1.1
Bronzeville Lighthouse	0	0	98.1	95.3	0.4	0.6	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	1.2	4.1
Catalyst - Circle Rock	0	0	84.2	98.2	0.2	0.8	0	0	0	0	0.2	0.2	15.4	0.8
Catalyst - Howland	0	0	98.5	96.3	1.1	1.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.4	2.2
Catalyst – Maria	1	0.6	45.7	45	45.6	46.5	0	0	0	0	0.4	0.3	7.4	7.5
Chicago Collegiate	0	0	97.3	98.8	2.7	0.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.6
CICS	3.7	3.8	66.6	65.5	26.5	27.4	1.9	2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	1.1	1
CMSA	4.1	4	26.9	29.9	56.2	53.8	10.4	10.4	0.2	0.2	0.7	0.7	1.5	1.2
Chicago Talent	0		96		2.9		0		0		0		1.1	
Chicago Virtual	17.2	17.6	54.1	55.6	16.5	16.3	7.3	6.7	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	4.5	3.6
Christopher House	1.1	1.2	5.3	5.4	81.1	91.6	1.1	0.6	0	0.6	0	0	11.6	0.6
EPIC	0.4	0.2	58.6	56.2	39.9	42.4	0	0	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0.6	0.9
Erie Elementary	1.9	1.6	17.5	15.5	77.5	80.5	0.5	0.2	0	0	0	0	2.6	2.3
Frazier Prep	0.2	0	90.5	98.9	0.7	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	8.6	0.5
Galapagos – Chicago	0.6	0.9	93.8	92.9	5.6	6.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Henry Ford Academy	0.6	0	91	90.5	5.6	6.3	0	0	0	0	0.6	0	2.3	3.2
HSA -		0.9		36.8		57.2		0		0		0.4		4.7

Charter School	White		Black		Hispanic		Asian		Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander		American Indian		Multi-Racial	
	2013- 2014	2014- 2015	2013- 2014	2014- 2015	2013- 2014	2014- 2015	2013- 2014	2014- 2015	2013- 2014	2014- 2015	2013- 2014	2014- 2015	2013- 2014	2014- 2015
Southwest														
IHSCA Charter High	1.4	0.8	4.5	4.6	93.8	94.4	0.1	0.1	0	0	0.1	0.1	0	0
IJLA Charter High	1.3	3.5	2.6	1.3	92.7	93	0.4	0	0	0	0.9	0.9	2.2	1.3
Intrinsic	8.2	7.8	23.6	14.5	63.7	74.1	2.2	2.5	0.5	0	0.5	0.4	1.1	0.7
KIPP Ascend Elementary	0.3	0.3	93.5	93.9	5.7	5.4	0	0	0	0	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.1
KIPP Ascend Primary		0.9		92.6		6.5		0		0		0		0
KIPP Bloom	0	0	97.6	98.8	0	1.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.4	0
KIPP Create	0	0.4	96.4	96.6	3.6	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kwame Nkrumah	0	0	98.6	98.4	0.5	0.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.9	1
L.E.A.R.N.	0	0.1	94.6	95.1	3.5	4.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.7	0.5
Legacy – Chicago	0.2	0	94.7	96.7	2.6	2.6	0	0	0	0	0.4	0.2	2	0.4
Legal Prep	0	0.4	97.3	98.4	2.3	1.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.5	0
Montessori Englewood	0	0.5	95.6	96.4	2.9	2.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.5	1
Namaste	8.6	9.5	4.2	3.5	85.4	84.7	1	1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.6
Noble Street	1.3	1.1	45.8	47.8	50.6	48.5	1.3	1.2	0	0	0.3	0.2	0.7	1.1
North Lawndale	0	0.1	99	99.1	0.7	0.6	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0.1	0.1
Passages	5.6	6	49	49.4	20.3	19.1	17.1	19.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.5	6.5	4.8
Perspectives	0.9	0.6	91.9	93.2	5.2	4.7	0.4	0.5	0		0	0	1.4	0.9
Polaris	0.2	0.2	91	90.5	7.6	8.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.2	0.7
Prologue – Joshua Johnston	0	0	97.8	99.6	1.7	0.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.4	0
Providence Englewood	0	0	90.9	97.5	1.7	1.6	0	0	0.4	0.4	0	0	7	0.6
Rowe Elementary	2.7	2	13.9	13.5	82	83.4	0.3	0.3	0	0	0.2	0.1	0.9	0.6
UCCS	0.6	0.5	96.3	97.7	0.6	0.8	0	0	0.1	0.1		0.1	2.5	0.9
UCSN	0.8	0.8	2.1	2.3	95.7	96.2	0.2	0.2	0	0	0.3	0.4	1	0.1
Urban Prep - Bronzeville	0	0	98	99.4	1.6	0.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.4	0.2
Urban Prep - Englewood	0	0	98.9	98.3	0.4	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.7	1.5
Urban Prep - West	0.2	0	97.4	98.3	1.5	1.2	0	0	0	0	0.2	0	0.6	0.5
YWLCS	3.7	1.5	83.5	87.2	5.8	7.6	0	0	0	0	0.6	0.3	6.4	3.4
YCCS	1.7	1.5	73	71.8	24.3	25.8	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.5
HSA – BELMONT	0	1.4	0	75.1	0	21.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.9
HSA – MCKINLEY PARK	0	5.3	0	7.1	0	84.1	0	0.9	0	0	0	0.7	0	1.8
BEARDSTOWN CUSD 15	0	41	0	7.6	0	48.9	0	0.4	0	0	0	0.1	0	2.1
Beardstown	0	59.3	0	3.7	0	33.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.7

Charter School	White		Black		Hispanic		Asian		Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander		American Indian		Multi-Racial	
	2013-2014	2014-2015	2013-2014	2014-2015	2013-2014	2014-2015	2013-2014	2014-2015	2013-2014	2014-2015	2013-2014	2014-2015	2013-2014	2014-2015
CUSD 300	51.8	50.5	5.1	5	33.8	35.3	5.9	6	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	3	3
Cambridge Lakes	49.3	47.9	3.6	4.4	22	22.3	18.5	19.2	0.3	0.3	0	0.1	6.3	5.8
DECATUR SD 61	39	38.2	46.4	46.6	3.1	3.1	0.8	0.8	0	0.1	0.2	0.2	10.5	11
Robertson	4.5	6.6	84.4	84.3	0.3	0.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	10.8	8.7
EAST ST. LOUIS SD 189	0.6	0.7	98.2	97.5	1	1.4	0	0.1	0	0	0	0.1	0.1	0.2
SIUE - East St. Louis Charter School	0	0	100	98.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.8
Tomorrow's Builders	1		99		0		0		0		0		0	
JACKSONVILLE SD 117	0	77.7	0	8.7	0	3.7	0	0.5	0	0.1	0	0.1	0	9.2
8 Points	0	70.8	0	17.9	0	0.9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10.4
MCLEAN COUNTY USD 5	67.4	67.3	11.3	11.5	6.6	6.5	8.7	8.6	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.3	5.6	5.7
YouthBuild McLean County	33.3	28.6	43.8	68.6	18.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4.2	2.9
NORTH CHICAGO SD 187	5.5	5.9	40.2	38	50	52.5	0.9	0.7	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.3	2.7	2.3
LEARN 6 - North Chicago	14.2	16.3	49.9	42.7	31.2	35.7	1.9	1.6	0.3	0.8	0.3	0.4	2.2	2.4
PEORIA SD 150	24.2	23.4	55.9	56.5	9.6	9.8	1.7	1.6	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	8.2	8.1
Quest	19.2	15.7	64.7	67.7	7.1	7.2	1.1	0.6	0	0.2	0.7	0.4	7.3	8.2
FREMONT SD 79	70.1	70.7	1.9	1.8	12	11.9	10.3	10.3	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.2	4.8	4.7
WOODLAND CCSD 50	48.4	46.8	7.2	6.9	27.4	28.7	12.1	12.2	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.4	4.5	4.9
PRAIRIE CROSSING	68.8	66.6	2.6	3.0	6.8	6.3	16.7	18.2	0	0	0.5	0.3	4.7	5.6
ROCKFORD SD 205	33	32.1	29.7	30.3	26.5	26.9	4.1	3.9	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	6.4	6.5
CICS Jackson (f/k/a Rockford Patriots)	11	10.6	70	67.5	8.5	9.8	1.2	1.6	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	8.9	10
Galapagos – Rockford	10.5	11.1	60.5	58.4	18.7	21	0.3	0.3	0	0	0.3	0.3	9.5	8.9
Legacy – Rockford	17.4	14.9	62.3	65.1	15.3	14.6	0	0	0	0	0.2	0	4.7	5.4
RICH TOWNSHIP HSD 227	3.5	3.4	90.2	89.7	3.9	4.5	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3	1.7	1.8
SOUTHLAND COLLEGE PREP	1.3	0	95.5	0	1.1	0	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	1.9	0
SPRINGFIELD SD 186	46.9	46	38.8	39.3	2.6	2.7	2	2.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	9.4	9.6

Charter School	White		Black		Hispanic		Asian		Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander		American Indian		Multi-Racial	
	2013- 2014	2014- 2015	2013- 2014	2014- 2015	2013- 2014	2014- 2015	2013- 2014	2014- 2015	2013- 2014	2014- 2015	2013- 2014	2014- 2015	2013- 2014	2014- 2015
Springfield Ball Charter	42.8	42.6	41.5	41.3	5.6	5	0.3	0.5	0.8	0.8	0	0	9	9.8

**Table 3B: School-By-School Comparison of Low-Income, English Learners and Students with Disabilities, Results 2013-2014 and 2014-2015**

Charter School	Percent Low-Income		Percent English Learners		Percent Students with Disabilities	
	2013-2014	2014-2015	2013-2014	2014-2015	2013-2014	2014-2015
CPS DISTRICT 299	85.7	86.9	15.6	16.4	13.9	14.2
AGC	77.8	78.8	25.6	29.4	12.7	12
Alain Locke	93.7	94.4	0	0	6.9	7.4
Amandla	96.3	97.5	.6	2.5	20.9	21.2
ACE Tech	97.7	97.7	3.2	4.3	18.6	20.3
ASPIRA	97	97.9	20	22.8	16.3	16
Betty Shabazz	94.7	96.9	.2	0	12.5	12.9
Bronzeville Lighthouse	90.7	94.2	.2	0	12.7	13.3
Catalyst - Circle Rock	95	97.5	0	0	12.5	14.8
Catalyst – Howland	99.1	98.7	.2	.7	17	18
Catalyst - Maria	94.5	93.3	16	16.8	16.5	18.2
Chicago Collegiate	92	91.3	1.8	0	15	15
CICS	88.3	89.1	5.8	7.2	14.2	14.3
CMSA	94.2	94.2	15.4	15.3	11.6	11.1
Chicago Virtual	67.1	76.1	2.8	5.6	13.6	14.1
Christopher House	88.4	95.2	78.9	61.4	10.5	11.4
EPIC	95.8	96.2	8.8	11.8	18.3	17.3
Erie Elementary	89.3	91.4	36	39.5	17.3	15.7
Foundations College Prep		96.4		0		21.8
Frazier Prep	93.2	98.2	0	0	7.7	11.1
Galapagos – Chicago	95.9	96.5	.9	.9	8.5	11.2
Great Lakes Academy		95.2		3.2		4.8
Henry Ford Academy	98.3	98.9	.6	0	18.1	13.7
HSA – Southwest		93.9		27.4		12.8
IHSCA Charter High	96.3	97.5	11.7	13.8	14.3	12.9
IJLA Charter High	95.7	96.8	8.2	20.1	15.5	13.5
Intrinsic	85.7	84.8	5.5	6	17.6	15.2
KIPP Ascend Elementary	95.8	96.1	2	1.2	10.8	11.5
KIPP Ascend Primary	0	98.1	0	2.8	0	4.6
KIPP Bloom	86.9	93.9	0	0	13.1	12.7
KIPP Create	96.4	96.6	0	0	10.8	10.3
Kwame Nkrumah	85.3	87.8	0	.3	10.1	9.6
L.E.A.R.N. – Chicago	95.7	95.8	1.8	2.8	10.5	12.2
Legacy – Chicago	94.3	94.5	.4	.4	14	15.8
Legal Prep	93.7	97.2	.9	0	14.4	17.7
Montessori Englewood	85.4	95.3	0	.5	17.5	18.7
Namaste	84.5	85.2	30.5	32	18.8	18.1
Noble Street	89.7	91.6	3.7	4.7	14.1	15.1
North Lawndale	95.5	96.5	0	.2	12.5	13.7
Passages	91.1	74.2	28.5	32.7	10.6	10.7
Perspectives	92.5	94.7	.5	1.1	17	17.9

Charter School	Percent Low-Income		Percent English Learners		Percent Students with Disabilities	
	2013-2014	2014-2015	2013-2014	2014-2015	2013-2014	2014-2015
Polaris	91	94.3	0	0	12.5	15.5
Prologue – Joshua Johnston	91.3	97.1	0	0	13	8.3
Providence Englewood	90.5	91.8	.4	.8	10.4	10.4
Rowe Elementary	87.4	87.6	27.9	28.8	10.5	9.8
UCCS	81.6	84.8	.1	.2	11	10.3
UCSN	96.2	97.1	38.2	40.2	9.4	10.8
Urban Prep – Bronzeville	78.6	85.1	0	0	14.9	17
Urban Prep – Englewood	83.1	82.4	0	0	18.7	20.8
Urban Prep – West	89.1	90.3	.2	.2	20.4	20.6
YWLCS	84.8	91.4	.3	.6	14.9	21.1
YCCS	95.2	97.1	2.8	3.9	15.9	17.1
HSA – BELMONT	93.5	95.6	5.1	14.4	10.3	11.6
HSA – MCKINLEY PARK	94.3	87.9	37	33.5	8.4	7.5
BEARDSTOWN CUSD 15	77.6	78	27.5	29.6	18.6	18.7
Beardstown Charter	74.3	77.8	11.4	7.4	22.9	14.8
CUSD 300	45.4	46.7	11.9	12.9	13.4	13.5
Cambridge Lakes	25.2	23.6	3.2	4.5	6.6	5.5
DECATUR SD 61	76.6	77.3	.9	1	14.5	14.9
Robertson	79.9	85.2	0	0	6	7.2
EAST ST. LOUIS SD 189	99.5	99	.7	1	13.4	8.2
SIUE - East St. Louis Charter School	99.1	99.1	0	0	9.6	6.1
Tomorrow’s Builders	99		0		8.3	
JACKSONVILLE SD 117		65.1		2.1		18.6
8 Points		99.1		1.9		1.9
MCLEAN CUSD 5	30.3	31.9	3.4	3.8	12.5	13.3
YouthBuild McLean County	62.5	68.6	2.1	0	22.9	17.1
NORTH CHICAGO SD 187	84.9	82.5	24.7	26.7	15	14.9
L.E.A.R.N. 6 – North Chicago	63.8	54.1	13.6	16.3	10.3	9.2
PEORIA SD 150	72.6	74.9	5.1	5.4	15.6	16.3
Quest	54.7	74.3	.4	.8	9.7	9.4
FREMONT SD 79	8.6	7.2	7.8	8.4	12.8	12.5
WOODLAND CCSD 50	30.6	36.8	12.9	14.5	8.7	9.7
PRAIRIE CROSSING	.5	2.8	0	4.6	14.8	13.9
ROCKFORD SD 205	78.8	83	11.3	12.1	13.3	13.8
CICS Jackson (f/k/a Rockford Patriots)	65.9	68.1	3.7	4.2	16.7	18.4
Galapagos - Rockford	85.7	81.6	5.8	5.7	15.3	13.7
Legacy – Rockford	88.3	87.6	5.9	4.4	12.9	13
RICH TOWNSHIP HSD 227	77.4	80.2	0.4	0.6	19.1	19.9
SOUTHLAND COLLEGE PREP	51.2	57.3	.2	.4	10.4	12.1

Charter School	Percent Low-Income		Percent English Learners		Percent Students with Disabilities	
	2013-2014	2014-2015	2013-2014	2014-2015	2013-2014	2014-2015
<b>SPRINGFIELD SD 186</b>	67.9	67.6	.8	.9	19.1	19.6
<b>Springfield Ball Charter</b>	61.4	60.3	.5	.3	18.4	19.3

#### 4. Charter School Operations

Charter schools are afforded significant flexibility under the Illinois Charter Schools Law. The law exempts charter schools from almost all state laws and regulations in the School Code governing public schools and local school boards except for those designed to protect the well-being and privacy of students and staff, such as Sections 10-21.9 and 34-18.5 of the School Code regarding criminal background investigations of applicants for employment, and Sections 24-24 and 34-84A of the School Code regarding discipline of students.

Charter schools are operated by independent governing boards, and each charter school has complete autonomy over its educational plan and operations, provided that it adheres to the terms and conditions of the approved charter agreement. Key components of the charter school’s education plan, such as curriculum, staff, professional development, length of school day and year, and “seat time” are left to the discretion of the charter school. In this way, charter schools may serve as testing grounds for innovative educational approaches that address the unique needs of students who may not succeed in a conventional educational environment

In 2013-2014, each charter school received a survey from ISBE asking the school to report certain data for that academic year. In 2014-2015, each authorizer received a survey from ISBE asking the authorizer to report certain data for that academic year. Reports by charter school campuses were voluntary in 2014-2015. As a result, only 36 charter school campuses responded to the survey in 2014-2015 compared to 114 charter schools in 2013-2014. Among other data pieces, the surveys asked each charter school to identify the key areas of flexibility the charter school utilized in that school year. Results are aggregated in table 4A below. Although the total number of schools responding varied greatly between the two school years, the results suggest that the large majority of charter schools are utilizing the flexibility to set unique school day and school year schedules, design independent curriculum, manage their own fiscal affairs, set employee compensation, and use new or different teaching methods.

**Table 4A: Key Areas of Flexibility Utilized by Illinois Charter Schools, 2013-2014 and 2014-2015**

Area of Flexibility	Number of Charters Reporting Use	
	2013-2014	2014-2015
Teacher Certification	96	31
Administrator Certification	86	28
Autonomy to set educational priorities	99	33
Autonomy to design curriculum independent from the school district	106	36
Autonomy to allow teaching methods that are new or different from the school district	100	32
Autonomy to design different, additional performance standards	71	29
Autonomy to set unique school day and school year schedules	109	36
Autonomy to manage fiscal affairs independent of the school district	103	32
Autonomy to set employee compensation rates and/or bonuses	101	32
Autonomy to contract with external providers for various services	94	31
Other	0	0

Under the Illinois Charter Schools Law, charter schools have the ability to hire administrators who do not hold an administrative license under Article 21B of the School Code, as well as a certain percentage of instructional personnel who do not hold a teaching license under Article 21B of the School Code but meet other rigorous requirements, including: graduation with a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education; employment of at least five years in an area requiring application of the individual's education; and successfully passing the required basic skills and subject matter knowledge tests necessary for teacher licensure.

The law has been upgraded to require that beginning in 2012-2013 (for charter schools established before July 30, 2009), or by the beginning of the fourth year of the charter school's operations (for charter schools established after July 30, 2009), at least 75 percent of individuals employed in instructional positions in all charter schools—both within and outside of Chicago—must hold teaching licenses.

Charter schools also rely heavily upon the ability to set independent employee compensation rates and/or to provide bonuses. In many cases, charter schools tailor their compensation schedules or bonuses to student achievement benchmarks.

## ***5. Charter School Student Performance***

In the 2013-2014 school year, Illinois administered the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) and Prairie State Achievement Examination (PSAE). Then in the 2014-2015 school year, Illinois implemented a new assessment, the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) exam. Because of the implementation of a new statewide assessment, 2014-2015 was a baseline year for all students with respect to academic performance. Below the assessment results are summarized separately for 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 with overall results and by special populations. The assessment results are also shown for the charter schools as compared to the school district.

**Table 5A: Student Assessment Results for All Tests–2014-2015**

Charter School	All Students	Low Income	Minority
<b>CPS DISTRICT 299</b>	<b>24.5</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>21.9</b>
AGC	24.8	24.3	23.1
Alain Locke	42.9	41.5	42.9
Amandla	2.4	2.5	2.4
ACE Tech	2.8	N/A	2.9
ASPIRA	17.7	18	17.7
Betty Shabazz	11.3	11.1	11.3
Bronzeville Lighthouse	17.1	15.8	17.1
Catalyst – Circle Rock	10.6	10.3	10.6
Catalyst – Howland	6.6	5.7	6.6
Catalyst – Maria	14.3	13.1	14.1
Chicago Collegiate	12.6	10.8	12.6
CICS	22.1	20.8	21.6
CMSA	29	28.9	28.8
Chicago Talent	9.5	9.5	9.5
Chicago Virtual	32.5	25.8	28.3
Christopher House	N/A	N/A	N/A
EPIC	10.7	10	10.8
Erie Elementary	21.3	19.2	21.4
Foundations	9.5	9.5	9.5
Frazier Prep	12.9	12.5	12.9
Galapagos – Chicago	20.4	20.1	19.9
Great Lakes	N/A	N/A	N/A
Henry Ford Academy	N/A	N/A	N/A
HSA – Southwest	25.9	25.9	25.8
IHSCA Charter High	15.6	15.4	15.6
IJLA Charter High	<10	N/A	N/A
Intrinsic	17.4	16.2	15.4
KIPP Ascend Elementary	16.7	16	16.5
KIPP Ascend Primary			
KIPP Bloom	34.5	32	34.5
KIPP Create	35	35	35
Kwame Nkrumah	13.8	13.7	13.8
L.E.A.R.N. – Chicago	20.8	20.2	20.9
Legacy – Chicago	14.2	12.4	14.2

Charter School	All Students	Low Income	Minority
Legal Prep	1.3	N/A	1.3
Montessori of Englewood	1.7	1.9	1.7
Namaste	26	23.9	23.9
Noble Street	22.2	21.9	22.1
North Lawndale	0.8	0.5	0.8
Passages	33.6	33.3	33.3
Perspectives	8.2	8.5	8.1
Polaris	12.4	10.7	12.4
Prologue - Joshua Johnston	<10	N/A	N/A
Providence Englewood	21.3	19.9	21.3
Rowe Elementary	28.9	27	28
UCCS	20.8	19.2	20.6
UCSN	24.6	24.3	24.6
Urban Prep – Bronzeville	0.5	N/A	0.5
Urban Prep - Englewood	1.7	N/A	1.7
Urban Prep - West	1	N/A	1
YWLCS	7.6	6.1	7.6
YCCS	2.2	1.9	2.2
HSA – BELMONT	9.7	9.9	9.9
HSA – MCKINLEY PARK	30.3	28.7	30.4
BEARDSTOWN CUSD 15	7.2	4.9	5.9
Beardstown Charter	10.0	11.5	N/A
CUSD 300	39.3	25.5	31
Cambridge Lakes Charter School	48	29.2	52
DECATUR SD 61	12.4	9	7.7
Robertson	4	2.9	4
EAST ST LOUIS SD 189	3.1	3.2	3.1
SIUE - East St Louis Charter School	14.5	14.5	14.5
Tomorrow's Builders	7.1	7.1	7.1
JACKSONVILLE SD 117	29	23	18.9
8 Points	5.3	5.4	4.2
MCLEAN COUNTY CUSD 5	37	15	32.2
YouthBuild McLean County	N/A	N/A	N/A
NORTH CHICAGO SD 187	10.7	10	10.1
L.E.A.R.N. 6 - North Chicago	21.1	22.5	20.5
PEORIA SD 150	16	9.4	10.1
Quest	11.8	9.8	10.2
FREMONT SD 79	57.8	28.2	54.0
WOODLAND CCSD 50	43.4	21.9	34.3

Charter School	All Students	Low Income	Minority
PRAIRIE CROSSING	57.3	N/A	63.3
ROCKFORD SD 205	22.5	17.3	16.6
CICS Jackson (f/k/a Rockford Patriots)	5.2	4.3	3.8
Galapagos - Rockford	23.7	19.9	21.6
Legacy – Rockford	18.3	18.1	17.6
RICH TOWNSHIP HSD 227	9.1	8.3	8.9
SOUTHLAND COLLEGE PREP	44.6	36.1	44
SPRINGFIELD SD 186	25.7	15.6	17.3
Springfield Ball Charter School	30.6	23.6	24.8

**Table 5B: Student Assessment Results for All Tests–2013-2014**

Charter Name	% Proficient in ISAT			% Proficient in PSAE		
	Overall	Low Income	Minority	Overall	Low Income	Minority
CPS DISTRICT SD 299	49.5	45	46.8	36.8	31.8	33.7
AGC	51.9	48.1	49.4	N/A	N/A	N/A
Alain Locke	70.6	69.4	70.6	N/A	N/A	N/A
Amandla	24.5	24.3	24.6	N/A	N/A	N/A
ACE Tech	N/A	N/A	N/A	18	18.2	18.2
ASPIRA	48.7	48	48.6	11.2	11.4	11.6
Betty Shabazz	36.4	36.2	36.4	8	7.7	8
Bronzeville Lighthouse	40.9	39.7	40.9	N/A	N/A	N/A
Catalyst Charter - Circle Rock	39.8	39.1	39.8	N/A	N/A	N/A
Catalyst - Howland	20.3	20.4	20.3	N/A	N/A	N/A
Catalyst - Maria	31.5	31.1	31.3	30	31	30
Chicago Collegiate	19	19.2	19	N/A	N/A	N/A
CICS	46.7	44.6	46.2	29.3	24.8	26.9
CMSA	51.8	49.8	51.7	51.3	50	52.2
Chicago Talent	N/A	N/A	N/A	9.5	9.5	9.5
Chicago Virtual	54.6	46.7	49.3	45.9	50	40.6
EPIC	N/A	N/A	N/A	15.9	15.4	16.2
Erie Elementary	43.3	42.6	42.8	N/A	N/A	N/A
Foundations	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Frazier Prep	37.3	36.8	37.2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Galapagos - Chicago	34.3	33.9	33.7	N/A	N/A	N/A
Great Lakes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Henry Ford Academy	N/A	N/A	N/A	22.5	22.2	22.5
HSA - Southwest				N/A	N/A	N/A

Charter Name	% Proficient in ISAT			% Proficient in PSAE		
	Overall	Low Income	Minority	Overall	Low Income	Minority
IHSCA Charter High	N/A	N/A	N/A	31.7	30.8	31.6
IJLA Charter High	N/A	N/A	N/A	9.2	8.9	8.3
Intrinsic	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
KIPP Ascend Elementary	37.8	37.4	37.6	N/A	N/A	N/A
KIPP Ascend Primary						
KIPP Bloom	34.5	32	34.5	N/A	N/A	N/A
KIPP Create	35	35	35	N/A	N/A	N/A
Kwame Nkrumah	64.4	62.6	64.4	N/A	N/A	N/A
L.E.A.R.N. - Chicago	48.7	47.7	48.7	N/A	N/A	N/A
Legacy - Chicago	48.8	46.8	48.7	N/A	N/A	N/A
Legal Prep	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Montessori of Englewood	11.5	13.6	11.5	N/A	N/A	N/A
Namaste	57	54.4	55.4	N/A	N/A	N/A
Noble Street	71	68.5	71	59.9	59.1	59.5
North Lawndale	N/A	N/A	N/A	16.3	17.1	16.3
Passages	61.1	59.8	60	N/A	N/A	N/A
Perspectives	36.4	36.9	36.3	29	27	28.8
Polaris	36.9	34.7	36.9	N/A	N/A	N/A
Prologue – Joshua Johnston	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.6	3.7	3.6
Providence Englewood	49	48	49	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rowe Elementary	51.3	48.4	50.7	N/A	N/A	N/A
UCCS	48.3	46	48.1	30.2	24.4	30.2
UCSN	48.8	48.1	48.7	32.1	32.4	32.3
Urban Prep - Bronzeville	N/A	N/A	N/A	31.9	30.9	31.9
Urban Prep - Englewood HS	N/A	N/A	N/A	23.3	22.4	23.3
Urban Prep - West	N/A	N/A	N/A	25.5	25.3	25.5
YWLC	29	28.9	29	22.8	19.7	23.9
YCCS	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.4	8	8.1
HSA - BELMONT	33.1	32.9	32.9	N/A	N/A	N/A
HSA – MCKINLEY PARK	47.5	46.9	48	N/A	N/A	N/A
BEARDSTOWN CUSD 15	33.4	27.4	26.5	31.4	23.4	20.7
Beardstown Charter	N/A	N/A	N/A	10	11.5	N/A
CUSD 300	58.4	43	48.1	56.5	35.2	43.7
Cambridge Lakes	67.4	50	67.2	N/A	N/A	N/A
DECATUR SD 61	39.6	33.9	32.8	32.7	30	20
Robertson	40.8	40.5	40.4	N/A	N/A	N/A
EAST ST LOUIS SD 189	16.5	16.6	16.4	14.4	14.5	14.4

Charter Name	% Proficient in ISAT			% Proficient in PSAE		
	Overall	Low Income	Minority	Overall	Low Income	Minority
SIUE - East St. Louis Charter School	N/A	N/A	N/A	17.7	17.7	17.7
Tomorrow's Builders	N/A	N/A	N/A	7.1	7.1	7.1
JACKSONVILLE SD 117	53.3	42.9	37.3	44.8	25	16.7
8 Points Charter School	19.4	18	18.1	N/A	N/A	N/A
MCLEAN CUSD 5	70.5	44.1	60.1	68.2	33.4	52.8
YouthBuild McLean County	N/A	N/A	N/A	11.9	9.4	10.7
NORTH CHICAGO SD 187	30.2	27.6	29.1	16.8	15	16.8
L.E.A.R.N. 6 – North Chicago	48.1	44	46.3	N/A	N/A	N/A
PEORIA SD 150	36.3	27.7	29	32.8	21.9	22.9
Quest	43.8	38.8	40.1	N/A	N/A	N/A
FREMONT SD 79	75.1	50.4	71.1	N/A	N/A	N/A
WOODLAND CCSD 50	64.5	39.9	53.1	N/A	N/A	N/A
PRAIRIE CROSSING	82.4	N/A	84.4	N/A	N/A	N/A
ROCKFORD SD 205	40.9	34.1	33.8	38.8	30	29.5
CICS Jackson (F/K/A Rockford Patriots)	18.5	18.4	16.6	N/A	N/A	N/A
Galapagos - Rockford	39.7	36.2	38.2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Legacy - Rockford	32.4	31.1	30.6	N/A	N/A	N/A
RICH TOWNSHIP HSD 227	N/A	N/A	N/A	30.6	28.5	29.5
SOUTHLAND COLLEGE PREP	N/A	N/A	N/A	42.9	38.5	42.8
SPRINGFIELD SD 186	47.7	37.3	36.5	43.7	28.7	29.2
Springfield Ball Charter School	47.6	40.5	36.9	N/A	N/A	N/A

**Table 5C: Charter School and District Comparison Assessment Performance**

Charter School	Enrollment		Overall Meet/Exceed % 2014		Overall Meet/Exceed % 2015
	2013-2014	2014-2015	ISAT	PSAE	PARCC
CPS DISTRICT 299	395,079	397,833	50	37	25
AGC	347	391	52	N/A	25
Alain Locke	566	579	71	N/A	43
Amandla	349	325	25	N/A	2
ACE Tech	473	443	N/A	18	3
ASPIRA	1,272	1,165	49	11	18
Betty Shabazz	837	706	N/A	8	11
Bronzeville Lighthouse	482	467	41	N/A	17
Catalyst - Circle Rock	520	513	40	N/A	11
Catalyst - Howland	470	461	20	N/A	7
Catalyst - Maria	829	955	32	30	14
Chicago Collegiate	113	173	19	N/A	13
CICS	8,676	8,347	47	29	22
CMSA	605	606	52	51	29
Chicago Talent	175		N/A	9.5	
Chicago Virtual	686	675	55	46	33

Charter School	Enrollment		Overall Meet/Exceed % 2014		Overall Meet/Exceed % 2015
	2013-2014	2014-2015	ISAT	PSAE	PARCC
Christopher House					
EPIC	476	422	N/A	16	11
Erie Elementary	422	440	43	N/A	21
Frazier Prep	460	400	37	N/A	13
Galapagos – Chicago	340	339	34	N/A	20
Henry Ford Academy	177		N/A	23	
HSA - Southwest		446		N/A	26
IHSCA Charter High	761	769	N/A	32	16
IJLA Charter High	232		N/A	9.2	
Intrinsic		448			17
KIPP Ascend	738	724	38	N/A	17
KIPP Chicago (f/k/a ACT)		234	35	N/A	12
Kwame Nkrumah	217	311	64	N/A	14
L.E.A.R.N. - Chicago	2,628	3,031	49	N/A	21
Legacy – Chicago	496	495	49	N/A	14
Legal Prep		249			1
Montessori Englewood	190	253	12	N/A	2
Namaste	478	485	57	N/A	26
Noble Street	9,013	10,195	71	60	22
North Lawndale	841	820	N/A	16	1
Passages	432	453	61	N/A	34
Perspectives	2,159	2,159	36	29	8
Polaris	433	420	37	N/A	12
Prologue – Joshua Johnston	231		N/A	3.6	
Providence Englewood	472	510	49	N/A	21
Rowe Elementary	588	694	51	N/A	29
UCCS	1,893	1,913	48	30	21
UCSN	7,591	7,923	49	32	25
Urban Prep - Bronzeville	496	470	N/A	32	1
Urban Prep – Englewood	449	472	N/A	23	2
Urban Prep - West	470	412	N/A	26	1
YWLCS	328	327	29	23	8
YCCS	3,902	3,906	N/A	8.4	2
HSA – BELMONT		361			10
HSA – MCKINLEY PARK		561			30
BEARDSTOWN CUSD 15	1,481	1,582	33	31	7
Beardstown Charter	35		N/A	10	
CUSD 300	20,540	20,862	58	57	39
Cambridge Lakes	936	869	67		48
DECATUR SD 61	8,535	9,123	40	33	12
Robertson	372	371	41	N/A	4
EAST ST. LOUIS SD 189	6,147	6,116	17	14	3
SIUE - East St. Louis Charter School	114	114	N/A	18	15
Tomorrow's Builders	96		N/A	7.1	
JACKSONVILLE SD 117	3,415	3,541	53	45	29
8 Points	96	106	19	N/A	5
MCLEAN CUSD 5	13,566	13,696	71	68	37
YouthBuild McLean County	48		N/A	12	
NORTH CHICAGO SD 187	3,659	3,569	30	17	11
L.E.A.R.N. 6 – North Chicago	359	490	48	N/A	21

Charter School	Enrollment		Overall Meet/Exceed % 2014		Overall Meet/Exceed % 2015
	2013-2014	2014-2015	ISAT	PSAE	PARCC
PEORIA SD 150	13,782	13,675	36	33	16
Quest	453	502	44	N/A	12
FREMONT SD 79	2,230	2,193	75	N/A	58
WOODLAND CCSD 50	6,372	6,129	65	N/A	43
PRAIRIE CROSSING	384	395	82	N/A	57
ROCKFORD SD 205	27,498	28,650	41	39	23
CICS Jackson (f/k/a Rockford Patriots)	516	501	N/A	N/A	5
Galapagos - Rockford	294	315	40	N/A	24
Legacy – Rockford	443	315	32	N/A	18
RICH TOWNSHIP HSD 227	3,463	3,303	N/A	31	9
SOUTHLAND COLLEGE PREP	471	494	N/A	43	45
SPRINGFIELD SD 186	14,580	15,048	48	44	26
Springfield Ball Charter	376	378	48	N/A	31

**Table 5D: Student Graduation and Dropout Rates-2015**

Charter School	Dropout		4-Year Graduation		5-Year Graduation	
	School	District	School	District	School	District
CPS DISTRICT 299	N/A	4.6	N/A	76.8	N/A	82.2
AGC	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Alain Locke	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Amanda	0	4.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
ACE Tech	0	4.6	83.9	76.8	95.1	82.2
ASPIRA	8.2	4.6	72.4	76.8	79.2	82.2
Betty Shabazz	2.1	4.6	9.6	76.8	82.7	82.2
Bronzeville Lighthouse	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Catalyst – Circle Rock	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Catalyst - Howland	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Catalyst - Maria	0.2	4.6	0	76.8	93.1	82.2
Chicago Collegiate	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
CICS	0.5	4.6	87.5	76.8	94.6	82.2
CMSA	0	4.6	89.9	76.8	93.8	82.2
Chicago Talent						
Chicago Virtual	1.8	4.6	45.2	76.8	74.2	82.2
Christopher House	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
EPIC	1.2	4.6	77.6	76.8	81.6	82.2
Erie Elementary	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Henry Ford Academy	0	4.6	90.1	76.8	86.6	82.2
HSA - Southwest						
IHSCA Charter High	0.3	4.6	90.5	76.8	93.1	82.2
IJLA Charter High	38.4	4.6	13.3	76.8	16.5	82.2
Intrinsic	0.9	4.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
KIPP Ascend Elementary	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Charter School	Dropout		4-Year Graduation		5-Year Graduation	
	School	District	School	District	School	District
KIPP Ascend Primary	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
KIPP Bloom	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
KIPP Create	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Kwame Nkrumah	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
L.E.A.R.N. – Chicago	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Legacy – Chicago	0	8.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Legal Prep	0.4	4.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Montessori Englewood	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Moving Everest	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Namaste	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Noble Street	0.4	4.6	87	76.8	95.2	82.2
North Lawndale	1.1	4.6	89.7	76.8	97.9	82.2
Passages	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Perspectives	0.1	4.6	92.1	76.8	90.3	82.2
Polaris	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Prologue – Joshua Johnston	44.2	4.6	32.4	76.8	37	82.2
Providence Englewood	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rowe	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
UCCS	0	4.6	87.3	76.8	98.2	82.2
UCSN	0.2	4.6	74.6	76.8	97.4	82.2
Urban Prep - Bronzeville	0	4.6	55.1	76.8	98	82.2
Urban Prep - Englewood HS	0.6	4.6	79.3	76.8	94	82.2
Urban Prep - West	2.2	4.6	66.3	76.8	90.4	82.2
YWLCS	0	4.6	85.7	76.8	97.9	82.2
YCCS	47.1	4.6	28.9	76.8	40.3	82.2
HSA – BELMONT	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
HSA – MCKINLEY PARK	1.4	1.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
BEARDSTOWN CUSD 15	N/A	2.6	N/A	84.5	N/A	84.8
Beardstown Charter	40.7	2.6	52.6	84.5	52.2	84.8
CUSD 300	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cambridge Lakes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
DECATUR SD 61	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Robertson	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
EAST ST. LOUIS SD 189	N/A	5.4	N/A	73.7	N/A	75.8
SIUE - East S.t Louis Charter School	1.8	5.4	96.9	73.7	94.4	75.8
Tomorrow's Builders	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
JACKSONVILLE SD 117	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
8 Points	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
MCLEAN CUSD 5	N/A	1.7	N/A	88.9	N/A	89.5
YouthBuild McLean County	28.6	1.7	48.3	88.9	40	89.5
NORTH CHICAGO SD 187	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
L.E.A.R.N. 6 – North Chicago	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Charter School	Dropout		4-Year Graduation		5-Year Graduation	
	School	District	School	District	School	District
PEORIA SD 150	N/A	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Quest	0	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
FREMONT SD 79	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
WOODLAND CCSD 50	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
PRAIRIE CROSSING	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
ROCKFORD SD 205	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
CICS Jackson (f/k/a Rockford Patriots)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Galapagos – Rockford	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
RICH TOWNSHIP HSD 227	N/A	0.2	N/A	96.4	N/A	100
SOUTHLAND COLLEGE PREP	0.2	0.2	96.4	96.4	100	100
SPRINGFIELD SD 186	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Springfield Ball Charter	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

## 6. Suggested Statutory Changes

The biennial report must include “suggested changes in State law necessary to strengthen charter schools.” To address this required element, charter schools were asked to review a list of suggested amendments to the Illinois Charter Schools Law and indicate which suggested amendments they would support. As evidenced by the chart on page 33, the No. 1 requested amendment by charter schools—cited by 105 of 114 charter schools responding to the 2013-2014 survey, and 36 of 36 charter schools responding to the 2014-2015 survey—is to mandate at least 100 percent per capita funding from the authorizer.

Under the law, charter schools must receive not less than 75 percent and not more than 125 percent of the school district’s per capita student tuition, multiplied by the number of students enrolled in the charter school who are residents of the school district. The four state-authorized charter schools—Prairie Crossing Charter School, Southland College Prep Charter High School, Horizon Science Academy-Belmont and Horizon Science Academy-McKinley Park—receive a reimbursement rate of 100 percent of the resident school district’s per capita student tuition.

The Charter Schools Law provides for transition impact aid for school districts during the initial term of a new charter school in order to offset the impact of the charter school on the district’s budget. Specifically, the law provides that a school district with a new charter school is entitled to receive aid equal to 90 percent of the per capita funding paid to the charter school during the first year of its initial charter term, 65 percent of the per capita funding paid to the charter school during the second year of its initial term, and 35 percent of the per capita funding paid to the charter school during the third year of its initial term. Unfortunately, because of the current fiscal climate, transition impact aid has not been available to school districts since fiscal year 2009. The absence of transition impact aid may, in part, account for lower charter funding levels and the reluctance of school districts outside of Chicago, especially smaller school districts, to consider a charter option for their districts.

Survey respondents also indicated in high numbers that they would support a change in the Charter Schools Law to provide additional operational funding in the forms of facilities financing. Under the category of “authorization,” a large number of charter schools (92 out of 114 schools in 2014 and 33 out of 36 schools in 2015) indicated their support for a change in the law that would allow authorizers to

renew charter schools for terms of up to 10 years. The Charter Schools Law currently provides that a charter school may be renewed in terms of up to five years.

Finally, and not surprisingly, many charters indicated their support for changes to the law that would allow for the further expansion of charter schools through increasing the cap to allow more charter schools to open.

**Table 6A: Suggested Statutory Changes**

Suggested Amendments		Number of Charters Requesting Change	
		2013-2014	2014-2015
<b>Charter School and Authorizer Finances</b>			
1	Mandate at least 100% per capita funding from the authorizer.	105	36
2	Allocate additional operating funds to charter schools beyond the per capita assistance from the authorizing district.	83	28
3	Increase the amount of state start-up grants to \$1,000 per enrolled student.	61	26
4	Provide state grants to all schools, including those in renewal periods.	55	29
5	Allow charter school revolving loan repayment after initial charter term.	17	18
6	Appropriate funds sufficient to fully fund state start-up grants as well as transition impact aid to districts.	46	26
7	Allocate funds to provide incentive grants to districts that approve charter schools.	42	24
8	Providing transportation funding.	60	24
9	Provide facilities financing.	95	35
10	Prohibit districts from charging rent for district buildings used by charter schools.	54	23
<b>Admissions/Enrollment</b>			
1	Allow children classified as “at-risk” to have preference in the lottery in all charter schools.	6	2
2	Allow children of employees to attend regardless of their home district.	56	23
3	Allow additional enrollment preferences (specify).	18	16
<b>Authorization</b>			
1	Provide for alternative routes to authorization that do not require charter schools to first present to local school boards.	38	19
2	Allow statewide RFPs for charter schools.	39	24
3	Lengthen the 75 days currently allowed for authorizers to respond to charter school applications.	2	0
4	Permit authorizers to renew charter schools for up to 10 year terms.	92	33
<b>Expansion of Charter Schools</b>			
1	Increase the cap to allow more charter schools to open.	89	28
2	Allow multiple campuses for all schools.	41	24
3	Prohibit multiple campuses for all schools.	2	0
<b>Increased Autonomy/Flexibility</b>			
1	Remove the requirement that charter schools give the same standardized tests as the authorizing district.	89	28
2	Eliminate the teacher certification requirements included in Public Act 093-0003 and 096-0105.	41	24
3	Allow for-profit management companies for all schools.	2	0
	<i>Other</i> : Allow out of district students PCTC to follow the child to their choice of school	89	28

## 7. Authorizer Information

During the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 school years, ISBE compiled information from all of the charter school authorizers, regarding their strategic vision, the progress made toward reaching that vision, the academic performance of its charter schools and financial performance of its charter schools. It does not reflect the current school year. This information is organized by authorizer below and school information may differ from ISBE data due to the self-reported nature of the data.

<b>Charter Authorizer</b>	<b>BEARDSTOWN CUSD 15</b> (SOLE CHARTER UNDER CUSD 15 CLOSED AT THE END OF THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR)
<b>Superintendent</b>	Reggie Clinton
<b>Address</b>	5500 East 15 <sup>th</sup> Street Beardstown, IL 62618
<b>Strategic Vision</b>	The authorizer reports its strategic vision as follows: The Beardstown Charter School Learning Academy offers a comprehensive curriculum and career-focused program that leads to a high school diploma. Upon graduation, these students will be prepared for their post scholastic life and to be productive members of society. The authorizer does not report any policies or practices it pursues to achieve its vision.
<b>Strategic Vision Progress</b>	In terms of progress toward achieving its vision, the authorizer reports the following: Charter school students are typically 3 grade levels behind their peers. Using the outcomes from math and reading assessments, students are enrolled in coursework to fill gaps and help them be successful. Students who feel successful get excited about learning and thus tend to increase in understanding (and by default, grade level) at a rapid pace. Staff members work closely with students to ensure understanding of life skills necessary after high school. Some of those skill building items include: budgeting, balancing checkbooks, doing taxes, mortgages, insurance, employment skills, social skills, etc.
<b>Academic Performance</b>	Refer to Section 5 of Report
<b>Financial Performance</b>	Currently, the charter school has poor enrollment, which is adversely affecting the financial status of the school. The Charter School Board of Education will be reviewing and making a decision.
<b>Authorizing Functions</b>	Negotiating and executing sound charter contracts with each approved charter school. - The Charter School Governing Board and the public school Board of Education representatives meet to review the program, determine any changes to be made and negotiate a contract. Providing transportation. - Charter School students utilize the public school transportation system. This is offered to any student who is eligible to ride the public school buses based on where they live within the district boundaries.
<b>Authorizer's Operating Costs and Expenses</b>	This authorizer currently has one (1) FTE designating 10% of his time to authorizing work. The authorizer supports its authorizing work through its general operating budget. The authorizer reports that it does not maintain a budget dedicated to authorization of charter schools. Estimate of authorizer's direct costs for authorizing: \$1000 in fiscal years 2012 and 2013.

**BEARDSTOWN CUSD 15  
Charter School Portfolio**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Total Charters 2013-2014</b>	<b>Student Enrollment 2013-2014</b>	<b>Total Charters 2014-2015</b>	<b>Student Enrollment 2014-2015</b>
Approved (not yet open)	—	—	—	—
Operating	1	35	1	27
Renewed	—	—	—	—
Transferred	—	—	—	—
Revoked	—	—	—	—
Not Renewed	—	—	—	—
Voluntarily Closed	—	—	—	—
Never Opened	—	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>27</b>

<b>Charter Authorizer</b>	<b>CPS DISTRICT 299</b>
<b>Executive Director</b>	Mary Bradley
<b>Address</b>	42 West Madison, Third Floor Chicago, IL 60602
<b>Strategic Vision</b>	<p>Vision: Every Chicago Public School student in every neighborhood will be engaged in a rigorous, well-rounded instructional program and will graduate prepared for success in college, career and life.</p> <p>Mission: The Office of Innovation and Incubation (I&amp;I) creates and sustains education options for Chicago students, through quality authorizing practices, community engagement, and innovative programs, on behalf of the Board of Education.</p>
<b>Strategic Vision Progress</b>	<p>Many policies are aimed at achieving the above vision. Said policies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Setting enrollment targets – Although CPS does not set enrollment targets per se, each authorized charter agreement contains a student enrollment maximum.</li> </ul> <p>Defining the term “high-quality charter school” to guide authorization decisions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The authorizer has embedded within its authorizing practices the designation “demonstrated track record of success.” The designation allows new and existing charter applicants and schools to engage in streamlined new charter application, charter renewal, and material modification processes. In addition, this designation is a critical criteria to be considered by all parties in the authorization process from the Review Teams up through the Board of Education when considering approval of the completed new charter, renewal, or material modification applications.</li> </ul> <p>Promoting the replication and expansion of existing charter schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In accordance with Illinois law, Chicago Public Schools releases an annual Request for Proposal to receive applications to review and evaluate new charter school applications, including existing operators. As mentioned above, CPS streamlines the process through which the replication and expansion of charter operators that have a demonstrated track record of success to ensure replication and expansion only results in improved student outcomes.</li> </ul> <p>As previously stated, the Office of Innovation and Incubation’s (I&amp;I) mission was to create and sustain education options for Chicago students through quality authorizing practices, community engagement, and innovative programs, on behalf of the District Board of Education. The I&amp;I’s progress is evident in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Quality Authorizing: The authorizer has improved quality authorizing by aligning its</li> </ul>

	<p>authorizing practices to national best practices and working with SchoolWorks as a consultant in executing the final processes. In particular, I&amp;I reports to have significantly streamlined its charter renewal process to ensure that the process is transparent, evidence-based, outcome-focused, consistent, sustainable, and valuable to schools, and streamlined its new charter application RFP process for mid-size to large operators who have demonstrated a proven track record of success.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Community Engagement: I&amp;I designed and executed an affiliated Neighborhood Advisory Council (NAC) process that pulls together teams of community members to review each charter proposal against the criteria defined in the New Schools RFP. This review results in a NAC final report that identifies whether the NAC supports the proposed school opening in its community.</li> <li>- I&amp;I released an RFP to receive applications to open and operate programs to work with students in middle school who demonstrated a proclivity to drop out in high schools. Unfortunately, due to budget constraints, I&amp;I was not able to guarantee funding for programs approved through his RFP and had to discontinue the process.</li> </ul>
<b>Academic Performance</b>	Refer to Section 5 of Report
<b>Financial Performance</b>	<p>CPS' charter schools are held to three different financial accountability plans. The framework of these plans was created by the Illinois Facilities Fund (IFF) in 2009 and is outlined in each schools' agreement with the Board. The two most recent frameworks are mostly aligned to national best practices and hold charter schools accountable to the following four domains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Financial condition and budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Short term indicators – Cash on Hand and Current Ratio</li> <li>ii. Long term indicators – Net Asset Ratio</li> </ul> </li> <li>b. Financial Controls</li> <li>c. Reporting Timeliness</li> <li>d. Legal Compliance</li> </ul> <p><u>Financial Performance Summary</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Just over one third of Charter Schools (15 out of 42 or 36%) are Exceeding Expectations. The number of Charter Schools that are meeting expectations decreased by 4% from FY13.</li> <li>b. One-third of Charter Schools (14 out of 42 or 33%) are Meeting Expectations. Charter Schools that are meeting expectations decreased by 4% from FY13.</li> <li>c. Approximately three in ten of Charter Schools (13 out of 42 or 30%) are Not Meeting Expectations. There was a 3% decrease in Charter Schools that are not meeting expectations from FY13 to FY14. These schools will be required to attend office hours and submit a corrective action plan.</li> </ul> <p>No charter schools are currently subject to revocation due to financial performance. However, 2 charter schools voluntarily surrendered their charters and closed in part due to financial hardship. These were Chicago Talent Development High School and Henry Ford Powerhouse.</p> <p>For Fiscal year 2014-2015, at the time of this report, CPS, as planned, is still in the process of collecting all the financial performance data to evaluate all of its charter schools per their contractually agreed upon financial performance framework. Financial performance reports will be available in the spring of 2016.</p>
<b>Authorizer's Functions</b>	<p>Soliciting and evaluating charter applications on a defined cycle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- As per Illinois Charter Schools Law, the District is required to release a new charter schools applications RFP on an annual basis. CPS released the 2013 RFP on Aug. 12, 2013, and the 2014 RFP on Dec. 20, 2014. The I&amp;I partners with SchoolWorks to execute the internal CPS Comprehensive Evaluation Team (CET) review of any received applications against a set of publicly available criteria. In addition, I&amp;I organized teams of community members, in Neighborhood Advisory Councils (NACs), to review these same applications. Both the CETs and NACs deliver final reports to the CEOs office who makes a final recommendation to the District Board of Education to approve or deny each application.</li> </ul>

	<p>Negotiating and executing sound charter contracts with each approved charter school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- As part of the RFP and charter renewal processes, CPS releases the latest draft charter agreement template so that applicants understand the basic terms of the agreement prior to submitting an application. After the board has officially voted on a new charter or renewal application, the I&amp;I and CPS’s legal department engage in a series of good faith negotiations with each applicant to secure an executed agreement within the Board authorized timeframe.</li> </ul> <p>Conducting formal site visits of all charter schools in the portfolio.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- I&amp;I conducts a formal Renewal Site Visit (RSV) as part of the charter renewal process using a RSV protocol. This formal site visit is conducted only for those schools, in the last year of their contract, who have demonstrated poor academic performance for the prior two academic years. I&amp;I designs and implements these site visits in conjunction with SchoolWorks.</li> </ul> <p>Conducting a formal renewal process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- I&amp;I designs and executes a charter renewal process in conjunction with SchoolWorks. The process is designed to be transparent, evidence-based, outcomes focused, consistent, and valuable to schools. The charter renewal process is executed for schools in the last year of the agreement term, with a CPS Board Vote to occur in that final year regarding approval to renew the agreement for a length not to exceed 5 years.</li> </ul> <p>Centralizing student accounting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Per their charter agreements, schools are required to use the CPS IMPACT Student Information System for Student Registration, Enrollment and Attendance.</li> </ul> <p>Providing an information system that details school characteristics and performance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For the general public, CPS provides information on its website, <a href="http://www.cps.edu">www.cps.edu</a>.</li> <li>- For schools, performance information is available on an internal dashboard.</li> <li>- Annually, each school receives contractual academic, financial and legal compliance performance reports.</li> </ul> <p>Recruiting, screening and selecting personnel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Charter schools are required by contract to conduct background checks on all personnel prior to hiring. In addition, charter schools must provide the results of these checks to CPS.</li> </ul> <p>Providing transportation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CPS's Student Transportation Services provides bus transportation for charter school students with disabilities who are eligible for bus service as a related service per their Individualized Education Program (IEP).</li> </ul> <p>Adjudicating disputes related to student transfers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The I&amp;I adjudicates student transfer disputes only when a publicly communicated protocol has been executed, sufficiently documented, and the “sending” school still has not released the student(s) in question. In this case, I&amp;I will release the student in IMPACT (the District’s student information system) to the receiving schools.</li> </ul> <p>Treatment of specialized populations (i.e., students with disabilities, English Language Learners, homeless children and youth, etc.).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CPS provides a full continuum of supports and services for students with disabilities; the Office of Diverse Learner Supports &amp; Services provides support and monitoring for charter school programs. CPS supports students in temporary living situations and protects their rights under federal and state law.</li> <li>- The Office of Language and Cultural Education provides support to charter schools to provide a high-quality education for all language learners that is attentive to a culturally- and linguistically-diverse community of students, families, and educators.</li> </ul> <p>Provide Technical Assistance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The I&amp;I provides technical assistance to charter schools as it relates to interacting and accessing CPS’s IT infrastructure.</li> </ul> <p>Other: Fiscal monitoring, legal compliance monitoring, resolving parent issues, support and services to charter schools located in a CPS facility.</p>
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<b>Authorizer's Operating Costs and Expenses</b>	<p>This authorizer currently has 14 FTE designating their time to authorizing work.</p> <p>The authorizer delegates certain core authorization functions to contractors. Specifically, the CPS Office of Innovation and Incubation (I&amp;I) partners with SchoolWorks for both the charter renewal (including site visits) and new school processes.</p> <p>The authorizer reports that it supports its authorizing work through use of an administrative fee applied to all tuition dollars paid to charter schools (including special education and Supplemental General State Aide). The revenue collected from administrative fees in 2015 was \$18,209,367.</p> <p>The authorizer maintains a budget specific to the authorization of charter schools.</p> <p>Estimate of authorizer's direct costs for authorizing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fiscal Year 2014 – \$1,715,076</li> <li>○ Fiscal Year 2015 – \$2,631,519</li> </ul>
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<b>CPS DISTRICT 299 Charter School Portfolio</b>				
Status	Total Charters 2013-2014	Student Enrollment 2013-2014	Total Charters 2014-2015	Student Enrollment 2014-2015
<b>Approved (not yet open)</b>	3 (approvals rescinded)	—	2	—
<b>Operating</b>	49 (131 campuses)	54,572	47 (126 campuses)	56,946
<b>Renewed</b>	4	—	13	—
<b>Transferred</b>	—	—	—	—
<b>Revoked</b>	—	—	—	—
<b>Not Renewed</b>	—	—	1 (charter operator withdrew renewal)	—
<b>Voluntarily Closed</b>	1 (financial reasons)	—	1 (Voluntary phase- out)	—
<b>Never Opened</b>	1	—	2	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>54,572</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>56,946</b>

<b>Charter Authorizer</b>	<b>PEORIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT 150</b>
<b>Superintendent</b>	Dr. Sharon Desmoulin-Kherat (Interim)
<b>Address</b>	3202 N Wisconsin Ave Peoria, IL 61603
<b>Strategic Vision</b>	<p>The authorizer does not have a general strategic vision for establishing charter schools. The District reports that the idea for the establishment of Quest Academy, the District's one charter school serving grades 5-12, was generated in the community, which manifested a desire to have a school which focused on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. This option was provided for the specific purpose of offering a longer school day focused on a deeper experience for families and enriching experiences for students.</p> <p>The authorizer sets enrollment targets. The charter contract with Quest Academy caps enrollment at 600 pupils, 75 students per grade level.</p>
<b>Strategic Vision Progress</b>	The initiative to establish Quest Academy came from the community and the District does not have any plans or resources to establish additional charter schools. The District will respond to other community-based initiatives if and when those arise, but does not plan to

	expand the charter concept beyond the grades 5-12 currently in place with Quest.
<b>Academic Performance</b>	Refer to Section 5 - Charter School Student Performance
<b>Financial Performance</b>	<p>One of the goals of the 2015 charter renewal process for Quest Academy was to establish a funding formula that 1) complied with the Charter Schools Law, 2) placed Quest Academy on a solid financial footing, yet on an equitable basis with District 150, and 3) was variable in relation to the distribution of General State Aid to District 150. We believe these goals were accomplished by the process.</p> <p>At this time, we anticipate that Quest Charter Academy has sufficient financial resources through the 2015-2016 school year. A plan is in place for funding the school in the succeeding years of the renewal period. District 150 does not anticipate that Quest Academy will close or be subject to revocation or nonrenewal on the basis of financial insolvency during the current school year.</p> <p>Quest is eligible for and receives all federal funds as associated with students enrolled.</p>
<b>Authorizer's Functions</b>	<p>Negotiating and executing sound charter contracts with each approved charter school</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With regard to the authorizer's one charter school, the charter contract was negotiated in part by experienced attorneys for the District and the Charter School. The authorizer reports that there were many revisions to the charter made during the renewal process.</li> </ul> <p>Conducting a formal site visit to the charter school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The authorizer states that site visits to evaluate indicators including but not limited to climate and culture, assessments analyses, financial audits, treatment of specialized populations, extracurricular activities, and personnel practices are supposed to occur once per year; however, the District was unable to determine whether formal sites visits were conducted in the past and states that visits will be performed in the future.</li> </ul> <p>Centralized student accounting (i.e., record school placements and student progress).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The 2015-19 charter agreement requires Quest Charter Academy to use the District's student information database (Skyward). It is unclear as to whether this was required in the past.</li> </ul> <p>Adjudicating disputes related to student transfers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Disputes between the District and the charter school concerning student transfers have previously been handled at the building level. If a dispute cannot be resolved there, the matter will be referred to the respective attorneys for the District and charter school</li> </ul> <p>Treatment of specialized populations (i.e., students with disabilities, English Language Learners, homeless children and youth, etc.).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The District's special education department and its coordinator monitor the delivery of special education services to the charter school students who require such services.</li> </ul> <p>Providing technical assistance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The District Accountability and Research Department and the Technical Services Department provide technical support and training to Quest concerning Quest's use of the Skyward student information system.</li> </ul>
<b>Authorizer's Operating Costs and Expenses</b>	<p>The authorizer has not assigned any FTE to authorizing work.</p> <p>The authorizer reports that its general operating budget supports its authorizing work.</p> <p>The authorizer does not report a budget dedicated to authorization of charter schools and does not report any direct costs incurred for authorizing work in FY14 and 15.</p>

**PEORIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT 150  
Charter School Portfolio**

Status	Total Charters 2013-2014	Student Enrollment 2013-2014	Total Charters 2014-2015	Student Enrollment 2014-2015
Approved (not yet open)	—	—	—	—
Operating	1	441	1	502
Renewed	—	—	1 (Quest Charter Academy)	—
Transferred	—	—	—	—
Revoked	—	—	—	—
Not Renewed	—	—	—	—
Voluntarily Closed	—	—	—	—
Never Opened	—	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>502</b>

<b>Charter Authorizer</b>	<b>CUSD 300 CARPENTERSVILLE</b>
<b>Superintendent</b>	Mr. Fred Heid
<b>Address</b>	2550 Harnish Dr. Algonquin, IL 60102
<b>Strategic Vision</b>	The authorizer lists its strategic vision as follows: The charter school provides District families with school of choice. The authorizer has not reported any specific policies toward achieving its strategic vision.
<b>Strategic Vision Progress</b>	The authorizer has not reported on progress toward achieving its strategic vision.
<b>Academic Performance</b>	Refer to Section 5 of Report
<b>Financial Performance</b>	The authorizer has concerns about the financial viability of the charter school for the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Per the FY 13/14 audit, the charter school had an operating deficit of \$125,406. Through February 28, 2015, the charter had an operating deficit of \$157,482.</li> <li>- Per the FY 13/14 audit, the charter is carrying a construction loan payable of up to \$1.5 million at an interest rate of 13.5%, which is extremely high in this current interest rate environment. Per the FY 13/14 audit, the note had matured with a verbal agreement to extend the maturity date. If this note were to be called, this would have a significant negative financial impact to the charter.</li> <li>- Per the FY 13/14 audit, the charter's largest operating lease is with a related party that is significantly higher than its other operating leases.</li> <li>- Per the FY 13/14 audit, there are several related party transactions with payments in the amount of \$164,448 and amounts due of \$16,455. Additionally, there is a quarterly payment of \$6,500 paid to this related party. Lastly, there is a note payable of \$36,921 for building improvements with a beginning amount due of \$184,605.</li> <li>- Per the September 30, 2015 enrollment counts, the charter school's enrollment has flattened and has had one of the lowest kindergarten classes in several years.</li> </ul> The charter's current financial concerns are being considered as part of the charter school's renewal and revocation process.

<b>Authorizer's Functions</b>	<p>Soliciting and evaluating charter applications on a defined cycle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The authorizer reports that it annually reviews and evaluates its charter application and on the defined renewal cycle.</li> </ul> <p>Negotiating and executing sound charter contracts with each approved charter school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The authorizer reports that it negotiates and executes a sound charter contract with its charter school as part of the defined renewal cycle.</li> </ul> <p>Conducting formal site visits of all charter schools in the portfolio.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The authorizer began conducting formal site visits of its charter school beginning with the 2015-16 school year. An audit is conducted quarterly in the areas of finance, ELL services, and special education services. Districts safety personnel conduct annual safety audits.</li> </ul> <p>Conducting a formal renewal process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The authorizer states it will begin a formal renewal process in 2015-16.</li> </ul> <p>Providing an information system that details school characteristics and performance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cambridge Lakes Charter School utilizes the District's student information system to detail the charter school's characteristics.</li> </ul> <p>Hiring personnel to be assigned to the charter school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The charter school manages its own hiring through a subsidiary.</li> </ul> <p>Treatment of specialized populations (i.e., students with disabilities, English Language Learners, homeless children and youth, etc.).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The authorizer reports that the District has well-established guidelines and supports for compliance with federal and state regulations pertaining to ELL services, homeless students, FRLE students, and students with disabilities. Violations would be identified in the quarterly audits and must be addressed through corrective action prior to the application for renewal.</li> </ul> <p>Providing technical assistance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The District provides ongoing opportunities for participation in district safety, curriculum, PD, technology, fiscal management ELL, RTI and SPED trainings. In addition, the District works through the charter schools designated staff to ensure that the school is updated regarding compliance requirements, changes to policy, or statutory revision.</li> </ul>
<b>Authorizer's Operating Costs and Expenses</b>	<p>The authorizer has not assigned any FTE to authorizing work.</p> <p>The authorizer does not identify any funding sources that support its authorizing work.</p> <p>The authorizer does not maintain a budget dedicated to authorization of charter schools and does not report incurring any direct costs for authorizing work in FY14 and FY15.</p>

<b>CUSD 300 CARPENTERSVILLE Charter School Portfolio</b>				
Status	Total Charters 2013-2014	Student Enrollment 2013-2014	Total Charters 2014-2015	Student Enrollment 2014-2015
<b>Approved (not yet open)</b>	—	—	—	—
<b>Operating</b>	1	835	1	872
<b>Renewed</b>	—	—	—	—
<b>Transferred</b>	—	—	—	—
<b>Revoked</b>	—	—	—	—
<b>Not Renewed</b>	—	—	—	—
<b>Voluntarily Closed</b>	—	—	—	—
<b>Never Opened</b>	—	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	1	835	1	872

<b>Charter Authorizer</b>	<b>DECATUR PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT 61</b>
<b>Superintendent</b>	Lisa Taylor
<b>Address</b>	101 West Cerro Gordo St. Decatur, IL 62523
<b>Strategic Vision</b>	Decatur Public School District 61 is not actively seeking to expand its charter school programs. The District responds to applications received. To support its existing charter school—Robertson Charter School serving grades K through 8—the District responds to requests made by the charter school based upon capacity limitations of the school.
<b>Strategic Vision Progress</b>	The authorizer has not reported on progress toward achieving its strategic vision as it does not have a strategic vision for charter authorization.
<b>Academic Performance</b>	Refer to Section 5 of Report
<b>Financial Performance</b>	The District has one charter school. No charters are currently being considered for non-renewal or revocation. The District has no financial rating system for the evaluation of charter schools.
<b>Authorizer's Functions</b>	<p>Soliciting and evaluating charter applications on a defined cycle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The District evaluates charter applications in timely fashion based upon submission.</li> </ul> <p>Negotiating and executing sound charter contracts with each approved charter school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The District's charter contract is negotiated and renewed on cycle as defined in the charter contract. The contract is reviewed by district administration, district legal counsel, and the Decatur School District Board of Education based upon the merits of the charter.</li> </ul> <p>Conducting formal site visits of all charter schools in the portfolio.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The District conducts periodic site observations. The District has an understood calendar noting specific documents that are to be submitted by the Charter School to the District.</li> </ul> <p>Conducting a formal renewal process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The District's charter contract is negotiated and renewed on cycle as defined in the charter contract. The contract is reviewed by District administration, District counsel, and the Board of Education based upon the merits of the charter.</li> </ul> <p>Centralizing student accounting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The District enrolls the students in the State's Student Information System (SIS). The District acts as a pipeline for reporting information to SIS. In addition, the District stores the student cumulative folders. Regarding testing issues, individual student scores are funneled through the District; however, the resulting data is reported directly to the Charter School. The District receives the respective summative data.</li> </ul> <p>Providing an information system that details school characteristics and performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Students at the Charter School are not enrolled in the District's student management system. The student enrollment data is collected and reported to the Illinois State Board of Education for the purpose of General State Aid.</li> </ul> <p>Treatment of specialized populations (i.e., Students with Disabilities, English Language Learners, Homeless children and youth, etc.).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The District provides appropriate services to the Charter School through the Macon-Piatt Special Education District.</li> </ul>
<b>Authorizer's Operating Costs and Expenses</b>	<p>This authorizer currently has a 0.05 FTE assigned to authorizing work.</p> <p>The authorizer delegates legal work to its Legal Counsel: Robbins, Schwartz, Nicolas, Lifton and Taylor.</p> <p>The authorizer supports its authorizing work through its general operating budget.</p> <p>The authorizer reports that it does not maintain a budget dedicated to authorization of charter schools and does not report incurring any direct costs for authorizing work in FY14 and FY15.</p>

**DECATUR PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT 61  
Charter School Portfolio**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Total Charters 2013-2014</b>	<b>Student Enrollment 2013-2014</b>	<b>Total Charters 2014-2015</b>	<b>Student Enrollment 2014-2015</b>
Approved (not yet open)	—	—	—	—
Operating	1	333	1*	332
Renewed	—	—	—	—
Transferred	—	—	—	—
Revoked	—	—	—	—
Not Renewed	—	—	—	—
Voluntarily Closed	—	—	—	—
Never Opened	—	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>332</b>

\*The authorizer lists 0 operating charter schools open on Oct. 1, 2014, but lists student enrollment for 2014-15 and so we believe this to be in error.

<b>Charter Authorizer</b>	<b>EAST ST LOUIS SCHOOL DISTRICT 189</b>
<b>Assistant Superintendent</b>	Arthur R Culver
<b>Address</b>	1005 State Street East St Louis, IL 62201
<b>Strategic Vision</b>	The authorizer lists its strategic vision as follows: The Charter High School shall pursue and make reasonable progress toward the achievement of the goal, objectives and pupil performance standards in accordance with the Accountability Plan to include: Accountability Plan; Standardized Test Data; Self-Review; and Site Visits.
<b>Strategic Vision Progress</b>	The authorizer lists the following policies aimed at achieving the above vision, including: Setting enrollment targets, which are negotiated by the District and Charter School leaders during each Charter School Renewal; and Defining the term “high-quality charter school” to guide authorization decisions via the areas that are detailed and monitored in the Accountability Plan which include, but are not limited to: Pupil Performance, Fiscal Management, Facilities, Professional Climate, Legal Compliance, and Charter Compliance. The District conducts weekly walk-throughs and makes bi-annual site visits to support SIU-E Charter School to become a high quality charter school. In addressing the authorizer’s progress toward achieving its vision, the authorizer lists the following areas of “Successes” and “Challenges.” - Successes: Overall performance; continuing to build capacity of staff; have a fair and consistent process to select and place students; create a strong learning environment that leads to post-secondary opportunities; stable fiscal management; and, data driven culture. - Challenges: Student achievement; system of accountability for teachers and administrators; aggressive, transparent goals for schools, teams and individuals; performance management systems with cycles of inquiry; and Continue PD on spending.
<b>Academic Performance</b>	Refer to Section 5 Charter School Performance
<b>Financial Performance</b>	The overall fiscal health of SIU-E Charter School is stable.

<p><b>Authorizer's Functions</b></p>	<p>Soliciting and evaluating charter applications on a defined cycle as shown in the charter school agreement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The District reviews the charter application process with the Charter School's leadership during the bi-annual site visits.</li> </ul> <p>Conducting formal site visits of all charter schools in the portfolio.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Per the Accountability Plan, the District sends a team of district administrators to conduct bi-annual site visits that audit SIU-E Charter School records.</li> </ul> <p>Conducting a formal renewal process.</p> <p>Centralizing the lottery for all choice schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A lottery has been held at one campus.</li> </ul> <p>Establishing curriculum and instruction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The authorizer states that it offers professional development for curriculum and instruction to its charters and further makes curriculum maps available to its charters.</li> </ul> <p>Centralizing student accounting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The authorizer's one currently operating charter school maintains student records on the District's Skyward Database (the Student Information System).</li> </ul> <p>Providing an information system that details school characteristics and performance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The authorizer reports that its one currently operating charter school maintains school records on the District's Epicenter platform.</li> </ul> <p>Hiring personnel to be assigned to the charter school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The authorizer states that charter schools hire their own personnel without using district procedures or qualification requirements, the exception being Special Education personnel.</li> </ul> <p>Adjudicating disputes related to student transfers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The authorizer ensures that all schools use the state's transfer form. The District wants each center to be advised of changes in enrollment that are affected by the movement of the child, and parents to be involved with the transfer so that the District can determine if the child should be dropped from enrollment or reenrolled.</li> </ul> <p>Treatment of specialized populations (i.e., students with disabilities, English Language Learners students, homeless children and youth, etc.).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Students who currently have or are suspected of having special education eligibility are afforded the same opportunities for evaluation, reevaluation, and services when eligibility for special education is identified as they would have within the school district. The District will uphold the Child Find obligation and the evaluation and IEP policy and procedures within its charter schools. Students with special education eligibility will be provided services within the charter school as outlined in the State Board of Education special education rubric application.</li> <li>- The authorizer provides homeless student support through the assignment of one of its building homeless liaisons to the charter schools. Outreach services and transportation are provided as needed.</li> </ul> <p>Providing technical assistance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The District assists with technical support regarding reporting applications and has also assisted in completing interactive whiteboard installations when purchased for the charter schools using Title 1 funding.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Authorizer's Operating Costs and Expenses</b></p>	<p>The authorizer reports 2 FTE assigned to authorizing work.</p> <p>The authorizer reports that they do not maintain a budget dedicated to authorization of charter schools and does not report and funding sources that support authorizing work. The authorizer does not report any direct costs incurred by the district for authorizing work in FY14 and FY15.</p>

**EAST ST LOUIS SCHOOL DISTRICT 189  
Charter School Portfolio**

Status	Total Charters 2013-2014	Student Enrollment 2013-2014	Total Charters 2014-2015	Student Enrollment 2014-2015
Approved (not yet open)	—	—	—	—
Operating	2	115	1	115
Renewed	—	—	—	—
Transferred	—	—	—	—
Revoked	—	—	—	—
Not Renewed	—	—	—	—
Voluntarily Closed	—	—	—	—
Never Opened	—	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>115</b>

<b>Charter Authorizer</b>	<b>NORTH CHICAGO COMMUNITY DISTRICT 187</b>
<b>Chief Education Officer</b>	Ben Martindale
<b>Address</b>	2000 Lewis Ave North Chicago, IL 60064
<b>Strategic Vision</b>	The authorizer does not currently maintain a strategic vision for chartering. The vision for opening the District’s one charter school, LEARN 6 North Chicago, was to meet two primary priorities: (1) to provide a viable high-quality K-8 education option; and (2) to engage military-connected students. The authorizer does not report any policies or practices implemented to achieve a chartering vision.
<b>Strategic Vision Progress</b>	The authorizer does not report any progress in achieving a chartering vision, but does report that its charter school, LEARN 6 North Chicago, has met its strategic vision for its charter by being fully-enrolled at its 500 student cap, demonstrating stronger student performance than the district average, and engaging a relatively high percentage of military-connected students.
<b>Academic Performance</b>	Refer to Section 5 - Charter School Student Performance
<b>Financial Performance</b>	No charter schools have closed in North Chicago, and none may be subject to non-renewal or revocation on the basis of financial insolvency.
<b>Authorizer’s Functions</b>	Conducting formal site visits of all charter schools in the portfolio. - The District conducts an annual monitoring visit. Providing transportation. - All students at LEARN 6 North Chicago receive bus transportation to and from school provided by the district. Transportation is overseen by the District’s Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services, who works directly with the LEARN 6 principal to ensure that students’ needs are being met. Treatment of specialized populations (i.e., students with disabilities, English Language Learners, homeless children and youth, etc.). - The district shares in the cost of staff and resources dedicated to educating special populations per the charter agreement. These partnerships are overseen by the District’s Director of Special Education, Director of ELL Services, and Assistant Superintendent of Pupil Services (for homeless youth services).
<b>Authorizer’s</b>	The authorizer has no FTE assigned to authorizing work.

<b>Operating Costs and Expenses</b>	The authorizer does not have a budget dedicated to authorization of its charter schools, does not identify any funding sources for authorizer work, and identifies \$0 as the estimated amount of direct costs of authorizing in fiscal years 2014 and 2015.
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<b>NORTH CHICAGO COMMUNITY DISTRICT 187 Charter School Portfolio</b>				
Status	Total Charters 2013-2014	Student Enrollment 2013-2014	Total Charters 2014-2015	Student Enrollment 2014-2015
Approved (not yet open)	—	—	—	—
Operating	1	361	1	492
Renewed	—	—	—	—
Transferred	—	—	—	—
Revoked	—	—	—	—
Not Renewed	—	—	—	—
Voluntarily Closed	—	—	—	—
Never Opened	—	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>492</b>

<b>Charter Authorizer</b>	<b>JACKSONVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT 117</b>
<b>Superintendent</b>	Steven A Ptacek
<b>Address</b>	516 Jordan Street Jacksonville, IL 62650
<b>Strategic Vision</b>	The strategic vision of the authorizer is to prepare students for successful post-secondary lives through both academics and social maturity. To achieve its vision, the authorizer defines the term “high-quality charter school” to guide authorization decisions. - The charter contract includes an Accountability Plan to measure 8 Points Charter School’s progress in meeting student performance goals, financial management, and statutory compliance.
<b>Strategic Vision Progress</b>	In terms of the authorizer’s progress toward achieving its vision, the authorizer cites to its 2015 analysis of the Accountability Plan. Based on data from the first four years of operation, an analysis of 8 Points Charter School’s academic performance (based on indicators such as ISAT and NWEA benchmarks and academic growth) concludes that the charter school has failed to abide by its charter contract by failing to provide students with a “rigorous educational program” and failing to meet the standards of the Accountability Plan.
<b>Academic Performance</b>	Refer to Section 5 - Charter School Student Performance
<b>Financial Performance</b>	The charter school is financially secure.
<b>Authorizer’s Functions</b>	Negotiating and executing sound charter contracts with each approved charter school. Charter school must comply with the Accountability Plan. Conducting a formal renewal process. - The District responds to a formal request for renewal by evaluating criteria set forth in the negotiated contract. Providing transportation through the District - The authorizer transports students who live 1.5 miles or more from the school. Treatment of specialized populations (i.e., students with disabilities, English Language Learners, homeless children and youth, etc.).

	- The District provides special education services for charter school students as required by IEP. The District hires required Special Education staff.
<b>Authorizer's Operating Costs and Expenses</b>	The authorizer reports 0 full-time employee (FTE) assigned to authorizing work. The authorizing office is supported via the Authorizer's general operating budget. The authorizer reports that they do not maintain a budget dedicated to authorization activities, and does not report having incurred any direct costs for authorizing in FY14 and FY15.

<b>JACKSONVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT 117 Charter School Portfolio</b>				
Status	Total Charters 2013-2014	Student Enrollment 2013-2014	Total Charters 2014-2015	Student Enrollment 2014-2015
Approved (not yet open)	—	—	—	—
Operating	1	96	1	105
Renewed	—	—	—	—
Transferred	—	—	—	—
Revoked	—	—	—	—
Not Renewed	—	—	—	—
Voluntarily Closed	—	—	—	—
Never Opened	—	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>96</b>

<b>Charter Authorizer</b>	<b>MCLEAN COUNTY UNIT DISTRICT 5</b>
<b>Superintendent</b>	Mark Daniel
<b>Address</b>	1809 West Hovey Avenue Normal, IL 61761
<b>Strategic Vision</b>	<p>The authorizer has not provided a strategic vision for chartering. The goals and objectives of the Charter School (YouthBuild McLean County Charter School) are defined as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To provide rigorous and relevant educational training in core subjects in alignment with ISBE standards in order to quickly bring a disadvantaged population of students into educational and vocational alignment with their graduating peers; and for all students enrolled in the charter school to attain a high school diploma by demonstrating mastery of high school education standards and proving college readiness. Charter school students may obtain a diploma in one of the following ways: (1) Completion of courses that substantially meet the graduation requirements laid out by the Illinois State Board of Education; (2) Completion of college entrance exams (i.e., Compass) at a level permitting entrance into credit-bearing college coursework; or, (3) Completion of a Graduation Portfolio containing a project that demonstrates mastery of 80% of the Common Core Standards.</li> </ul> <p>With respect to policies to utilized to achieve its vision, the authorizer states it sets enrollment targets and cites to the Charter School's enrollment policy to serve a population of young people ages 16-21 who had dropped out of traditional school.</p>
<b>Strategic Vision Progress</b>	The authorizer has not reported on progress toward achieving its strategic vision.
<b>Academic Performance</b>	Refer to Section 5 - Charter School Student Performance
<b>Financial Performance</b>	McLean County Unit School District No. 5 pays the YBMC Charter School a per capita tuition cost per student. The YBMC Charter School operates with diverse funding streams that

	include federal, state, local and private organizations. The organization is a low-risk auditee and participates in an A133 Audit annually. The organization's overall financial health is strong and can support the fiscal needs of the charter school with the per capita tuition. YBMC often supplements the activities of the charter school with other grant funds to offer additional services to our students such as case management services, occupation skills training, and access to post-secondary education opportunities after graduation.
<b>Authorizer's Functions</b>	Negotiating and executing sound charter contracts with each approved charter school. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The initial contract for charter and operation of YouthBuild McLean County Charter School was drafted by the District's attorney in strict compliance with the Charter Schools Law and included rigorous accountability provisions.</li> </ul> Conducting a formal site visit of the charter school. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The District's Director of Secondary Education conducts a formal site visit of the District's charter school each summer to ensure compliance with the charter contract.</li> </ul>
<b>Authorizer's Operating Costs and Expenses</b>	The authorizer does not report any FTE assigned to authorizing work and does not have a budget dedicated to authorizing. The authorizer does not identify a funding source for authorizing work, and does not report incurring any direct costs for authorizing for FY14 and FY15.

<b>MCLEAN COUNTY UNIT DISTRICT 5 Charter School Portfolio</b>				
Status	Total Charters 2013-2014	Student Enrollment 2013-2014	Total Charters 2014-2015	Student Enrollment 2014-2015
Approved (not yet open)	—	—	—	—
Operating	1	34	1	59
Renewed	1 (YouthBuild McLean County Charter School)	—	—	—
Transferred	—	—	—	—
Revoked	—	—	—	—
Not Renewed	—	—	—	—
Voluntarily Closed	—	—	—	—
Never Opened	—	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>59</b>

<b>Charter Authorizer</b>	<b>ROCKFORD PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT 205</b>
<b>Superintendent</b>	Dr. Ehren Jarrett
<b>Address</b>	501 7 <sup>th</sup> Street Rockford, IL 61104
<b>Strategic Vision</b>	The District Board of Education has a five-year strategic plan that outlines five goals for all students in the district. These goals include the charter schools, but are mindful of variances and flexibility provided to charter operators by Code. The five goals include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Growth and Achievement – With focal objectives including curricular alignment and differentiated instruction;</li> <li>- Engaging Partnerships – With focal objectives on community and customer services;</li> <li>- Optimal Climate - With focal objectives including social-emotional health and skills, and facilities and technology;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Quality Staff – With focal objectives including recruitment and development of staff, accountability, and positive and productive relationships; and</li> <li>- Fiscal and Operational Stewardship – With the focus on resource allocation for impact.</li> </ul> <p>To assist in achieving its strategic vision, the authorizer implements Collaborative Support Structures, which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The initial startup of the charter schools include community involvement via the Mayor of Rockford’s office and the Rockford Charter School Initiative. The initial work provided a context for all, and charter applications were designed around said input.</li> <li>- The authorizer continues to meet with the charter operators on a regular basis to assist them with school operations. The authorizer also maintains support for parents and guardians relative to school choice, special needs (bilingual and special education), and day-to-day problem solving.</li> <li>- The District Board maintains a policy for how the District will consider and process any and all charter school applications. The District Board’s renewal process has been highly publicized and sessions were open to the public.</li> <li>- The authorizer engages with Illinois CSI and the relevant charter operators on Priority and Focus School supports. These efforts support improvement planning and thoughtful resource allocations.</li> </ul>
<b>Strategic Vision Progress</b>	With respect to the authorizer’s progress in meeting its strategic vision, the authorizer reports that District students, in broad terms, do not meet the District’s expectations for excellence as measured by State performance assessments, and anticipates additional work will be needed based on PARCC results. Charter schools share in the District’s efforts to improve student academic achievement, and assist the District in realizing its vision to be the schools of first choice for District parents by offering residents a choice within the public school system.
<b>Academic Performance</b>	Refer to Section 5 - Charter School Student Performance
<b>Financial Performance</b>	Our three charter school operators have each increased their available fund balances and retained assets during their first five-year charter period. Their annual revenues exceed their expenses. We do not rate them on a scale system but are aware that they are fiscally viable and sound. We have assisted them in obtaining and processing grants that improved facility or operations.
<b>Authorizer’s Functions</b>	<p>Soliciting and evaluating charter applications on a defined cycle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- District Board Policy specifies that applications to establish a charter school must be submitted by August 1 of the preceding year and sets forth the process and products required for applying.</li> </ul> <p>Negotiating and executing sound charter contracts with each approved charter school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The District’s general counsel serves as the negotiator for each charter operator’s contract to ensure all applicable school code regulations and District Board policy elements are observed. A collaborative process deals with the components that are included in the contracts.</li> </ul> <p>Conducting formal site visits of all charter schools in the portfolio.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The authorizer states that a report is made to the District’s Board of Education’s Education Committee for each charter school, but does not state how often a site visit is conducted.</li> </ul> <p>Conducting a formal renewal process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The District Board of Education’s Education Committee oversees the review process and provides a recommendation to the Board regarding renewal of each charter contract.</li> </ul> <p>Providing an information system that details school characteristics and performance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The District provides charter schools access to its IEP and student management systems for student data. The District ensures that each charter school has full access to the Illinois Interactive Report Card and Rising Star platforms, and provides access to a data warehouse called “Basecamp” for the use of each charter school operator for submission</li> </ul>

	<p>of all required documents.</p> <p>Providing transportation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The District provides transportation for charter school students.</li> </ul> <p>Treatment of specialized populations (i.e., students with disabilities, English Language Learners, homeless children and youth, etc.).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The District provides compliance and technical assistance for each specialized area of need from the District's respective departments, and ensure that its charter schools are compliant with all regulations regarding special needs students.</li> </ul> <p>Providing technical assistance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The District provides technical assistance and support in the following areas: compliance with rules and regulations; accessing grants; and, professional development on curriculum and instruction.</li> </ul>
<b>Authorizer's Operating Costs and Expenses</b>	<p>The authorizer has no FTE assigned to authorizing work.</p> <p>The authorizer reports that its general operating budget supports its authorizing work.</p> <p>The authorizer does not have a budget dedicated to authorization of its charter schools and identifies \$15,000 as the estimated amount of direct costs of authorizing in fiscal years 2014 and 2015. The authorizer reports that this figure represents approximately 10% of the salary and benefits for the liaison and \$2,000 for production of materials, documents, and related items for community and District Board of Education use.</p>

<b>ROCKFORD PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT 205 Charter School Portfolio</b>				
Status	Total Charters 2013-2014	Student Enrollment 2013-2014	Total Charters 2014-2015	Student Enrollment 2014-2015
<b>Approved (not yet open)</b>	—	—	—	—
<b>Operating</b>	3	1254	3	1145
<b>Renewed</b>	2 (Legacy Charter School of Excellence; Galapagos Rockford)	—	1 (CICS Jackson)	—
<b>Transferred</b>	—	—	—	—
<b>Revoked</b>	—	—	—	—
<b>Not Renewed</b>	—	—	—	—
<b>Voluntarily Closed</b>	—	—	—	—
<b>Never Opened</b>	—	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1254</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1145</b>

<b>Charter Authorizer</b>	<b>ILLINOIS STATE CHARTER COMMISSION</b>
<b>Commission Chair</b>	Deronda Williams
<b>Address</b>	160 North LaSalle St, Suite 601 Chicago, IL 60601
<b>Strategic Vision</b>	<p>The Illinois State Charter School Commission has adopted a Vision Statement, Mission Statement, and Governing Principles, which can be reviewed on the Commission's website, <a href="http://www.isbe.net/scsc">www.isbe.net/scsc</a>.</p> <p>Many policies are aimed at achieving the above vision. Said policies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Setting enrollment targets for each charter school, which are delineated in the charter</li> </ul>

	<p>school contract. The Commission ensures that the target enrollment is sufficient to generate the resources necessary to deliver a high quality academic programming and that each school reaches and maintains its enrollment target.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Defining the term “high-quality charter school” to guide authorization decisions. “High quality” is defined as “Meets” and “Exceeds.” See Commission “Accountability System for Charter Schools Authorized by the Illinois State Charter School Commission,” available on the Commission’s website, <a href="http://www.isbe.net/scsc">www.isbe.net/scsc</a>.</li> </ul>
<b>Strategic Vision Progress</b>	<p>The Commission points to the following as evidence of the extent to which it is making progress toward achievement of its strategic vision for charter authorization:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Commission’s portfolio is comprised of five schools serving 2,144 students. As the only statewide authorizer with jurisdiction and authority to review charter schools appeals, the commission continues to endeavor to achieve its vision of ensuring high quality public education for all children, especially for those who are at risk, and in the right of all families of Illinois to experience access to high performing schools and academic experiences.</li> </ul>
<b>Academic Performance</b>	Refer to Section 5 - Charter School Student Performance
<b>Financial Performance</b>	Commission authorized schools have strong financial health. No schools have been closed, revoked, or not renewed for financial reasons.
<b>Authorizer’s Functions</b>	<p>Negotiating and executing sound charter contracts with each approved charter school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Commission uses best practice model contracts and works with its general counsel to negotiate contracts with all of its schools.</li> <li>- The Commission endeavors to enter into its contracts in timely fashion (i.e., within 30-90 days following approval of the charter school).</li> <li>- The Commission timely submits all contracts to the State Board of Education for certification.</li> </ul> <p>Conducting formal site visits of all charter schools in the portfolio.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Commission staff conduct formal site visits during its Annual Review process, which occurs during the winter-spring of each year.</li> </ul> <p>Conducting a formal renewal process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Commission staff undergo a formal renewal process pursuant to the contracts for its schools and activates the process during winter-spring of each year. Annual review are also conducted for schools not in a renewal year.</li> </ul> <p>Providing technical assistance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Commission provides guidance and consultations to appeal applicants as well as existing schools on various issues.</li> </ul>
<b>Authorizer’s Operating Costs and Expenses</b>	<p>This authorizer currently has one (1) full-time employee assigned to authorizing work. To fund its authorization activities, the Commission collects an administrative fee from each school it has authorized. The fee is 2.5 percent of the school’s general revenue funds. The Commission contracts with individuals and organizations to support the Commission in appeal reviews, annual reviews, and renewals. The Commission maintains a budget dedicated to the authorization of charter schools. Estimate of authorizer’s direct costs for authorizing:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Fiscal Year 2014 – \$600,000 Fiscal Year 2015 – \$600,000</p>

**ILLINOIS STATE CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION**  
**Charter School Portfolio**

Status	Total Charters 2013-2014	Student Enrollment 2013-2014	Total Charters 2014-2015	Student Enrollment 2014-2015
Approved (not yet open)	—	—	—	—
Operating	4	1611	4	1829
Renewed	1 (Prairie Crossing Charter School)	—	1 (Southland College Prep Charter School)	—
Transferred	—	—	—	—
Revoked	—	—	—	—
Not Renewed	—	—	—	—
Voluntarily Closed	—	—	—	—
Never Opened	—	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1611</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1829</b>

<b>Charter Authorizer</b>	<b>SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT 186</b>
<b>Superintendent</b>	Jennifer E Gill
<b>Address</b>	1900 West Monroe Springfield, IL 62704
<b>Strategic Vision</b>	<p>The strategic vision of this authorizer is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The creation of a safe, nurturing environment that fosters learning through the development of high-quality, research-based academic programs, attention to the learning needs of individual children, and the involvement of parents in their children’s education.</li> </ul> <p>The authorizer lists the following policies aimed at achieving the above vision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Setting enrollment targets. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Maximum enrollment for the current charter school may not exceed 488 students, including pre-kindergarten classes.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Defining the term “high-quality charter school” to guide authorization decisions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o The authorization decisions for the authorizer’s current charter school are based on the following areas of focus: literacy, mathematics, multi-aged grouping, and professional development.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Strategic Vision Progress</b>	<p>With respect to the authorizer’s progress in meeting its strategic vision, the authorizer provides a list of recent activity in each of the four pillars of the charter agreement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Literacy: Implementation of IRLA as an assessment tool, consistent independent reading time in all classrooms, standards-based focus lessons, instruction of foundational skills, addition of leveled books in the content area to support curricula units, support writing instruction with Lucy Calkins and America Reading Company Research Labs.</li> <li>- Numeracy: Implemented McGraw-Hill Pathways math series to support CCSS instruction in the middle school classrooms, implemented the Everyday Math 4 series to support CCSS instruction in the elementary classrooms, revising the continuum of math skills to report progress to parents.</li> <li>- Multi-age classrooms: Delivered new curriculum units of study for the first time since reorganization, revised the two-year curriculum cycles based on initial implementation, incorporate multi-age concept in new teacher orientation, schedule daily collaboration</li> </ul>

	<p>time for teachers, implemented IRLA which is a skills-based and not grade-level based assessment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Professional development: Consultants from IRLA brought in multiple times per year, consultants from Every Math brought in, Book Study of In Defense of Read-Aloud, fully year focus on the three ELA shifts, teachers sent to visit other schools using IRLA, teachers attend and present at the Illinois Reading Conference, teachers attend the Illinois Network of Charter Schools annual conference, teachers attend AVID summer institute, teachers attend Everyday Math Implementation Training.</li> </ul>
<b>Academic Performance</b>	Refer to Section 5 - Charter School Student Performance
<b>Financial Performance</b>	Springfield Ball Charter School continues to be in sound financial health while continuing to offer Springfield District 186 residents with a quality school of choice option for K-8 students. It has been able to maintain a strong fund balance while ensuring that the dollars coming from Springfield District 186 are spent wisely on programs and staff that strive to engage and challenge student learning.
<b>Authorizer's Functions</b>	<p>Negotiating and executing sound charter contracts with each approved charter school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Springfield Ball Charter provides an annual report to the District board of education each year. The authorizer negotiates and executes a contract with its charter school during the renewal process every 5 years.</li> </ul> <p>Conducting formal site visits of all charter schools in the portfolio.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Informal site visits are conducted monthly and formal site visits occur twice a year.</li> <li>- The District also names a district administrator to the Charter School's governing board to act as a liaison.</li> <li>- All district-level administrators visit the charter school routinely.</li> </ul> <p>Conducting a formal renewal process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Every five years a formal renewal process is conducted. The Charter School presents its requests to district staff and the Springfield School District Board of Education. Negotiation sessions are held regarding funding changes, enrollment and other significant factors. The updated contract is then approved by both governing boards.</li> </ul> <p>Centralizing student accounting (i.e., record school placements and student progress).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Springfield Ball Charter uses the District's accounting system to maintain school records, student attendance, and grades.</li> </ul> <p>Providing an information system that details school characteristics and performance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The District's website and information system is used to detail school characteristics and performance.</li> </ul> <p>Providing transportation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The District routinely provides student transportation to and from school each day the same as all other schools within the District.</li> </ul> <p>Treatment of specialized populations (i.e., students with disabilities, English Language Learners, homeless children and youth, etc.).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The District provides qualified special education teachers and services for students with disabilities and other specialized groups.</li> </ul> <p>Providing technical assistance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The District assists with technical assistance for the network, student information system, website, and district-owned computers.</li> </ul> <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Food services are provided by the District.</li> <li>- Charter school administrators participate in district-provided professional development with other district administrators.</li> </ul>
<b>Authorizer's Operating Costs and Expenses</b>	<p>The authorizer has no FTE assigned to authorizing work.</p> <p>The authorizer does not identify any funding sources for authorizing work, does not have a budget dedicated to authorization of its charter schools, and identifies \$0 as the estimated amount of direct costs of authorizing in fiscal years 2014 and 2015.</p>

**SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT 186  
Charter School Portfolio**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Total Charters 2013-2014</b>	<b>Student Enrollment 2013-2014</b>	<b>Total Charters 2014-2015</b>	<b>Student Enrollment 2014-2015</b>
Approved (not yet open)	—	—	—	—
Operating	1	371	1	378
Renewed	—	—	—	—
Transferred	—	—	—	—
Revoked	—	—	—	—
Not Renewed	—	—	—	—
Voluntarily Closed	—	—	—	—
Never Opened	—	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>378</b>

**Illinois Quality School Options Division Contact Information**

**Illinois State Board of Education**

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