

**Illinois State Board of Education
2013 – 2014 and 2014 – 2015 Biennial Authorizer Report
Chicago Public School Responses – Attachment**

Section B. New Charter Application Process

2. b)

Intrinsic 2 – Not Yet Open – Central Office contact information provided

5401 S. Western Ave
Chicago, IL, 60609
[708-887-2735](tel:708-887-2735)
<http://intrinsicsschools.org>

Horizon Science Academy Southwest

5401 S. Western Ave
Chicago, IL 60609
[773-498-3355](tel:773-498-3355)

Great Lakes Academy

8401 S. Saginaw Ave
Chicago, IL 60617
[773-530-3040](tel:773-530-3040)
<http://www.glachicago.org/>

Moving Everest

416 N. Laramie Ave.
Chicago, IL 60644
[312-683-9695](tel:312-683-9695)
<http://www.movingeverest.org/>

Section C. Charter School Renewal and Closure Decision Making

2. Yes

- a. Chicago Math and Science Academy
 - i. 2/26/14
 - ii. 5 years
- b. Namaste
 - i. 2/26/14
 - ii. 5 years
- c. Noble Network
 - i. 2/26/14
 - ii. 5 years
- d. Providence Englewood
 - i. 2/26/14
 - ii. 3 years

4. Yes

- a. Academy for Global Citizenship
 - i. 5/27/15
 - ii. 5 years
- b. Catalyst-Circle Rock
 - i. 5/27/15
 - ii. 5 years
- c. EPIC
 - i. 5/27/15
 - ii. 3 years
- d. Erie
 - i. 5/27/15
 - ii. 5 years
- e. Galapagos
 - i. 5/27/15
 - ii. 3 years
- f. Instituto Health Sciences Career Academy
 - i. 5/27/15
 - ii. 3 years
- g. Legacy
 - i. 5/27/15
 - ii. 5 years
- h. Rowe
 - i. 5/27/15
 - ii. 5 years
- i. Urban Prep – Bronzeville
 - i. 5/27/15
 - ii. 5 years
- j. Urban Prep – Englewood
 - i. 5/27/15
 - ii. 3 years
- k. Urban Prep – West
 - i. 5/27/15
 - ii. 3 years
- l. Prologue – Joshua Johnston
 - i. 6/24/15
 - ii. 2 years
- m. YCCS
 - i. 5/27/15
 - ii. 5 years

9. Nonrenewal Criteria - Please see attached SY13 - 14 and SY14 - 15 Renewal documents.

Revocation Criteria - A charter school that earns a Level 3 Performance Rating on the SQRP for the first time enters the revocation process. If in the subsequent year, a charter school again earns a Level 3 SQRP Performance Rating, CPS will request that the Board revoke the agreement or amend the agreement to close the corresponding campus.

The criteria for both Nonrenewal and Revocation are rooted in each Charter Agreement and Charter School Law, specifically:

"The Board may revoke this Agreement and the charter of the Charter School, in whole or as to any Attendance Center or campus, if applicable, in accordance with Section 27A-9 of the Charter Schools Law, if the Board clearly demonstrates that the Charter School, or any Attendance Center or campus, did any of the following, or otherwise failed to comply with the requirements of the Charter Schools Law:

- a. Committed a material violation of any of the conditions, standards, or procedures set forth in this Agreement including the Accountability Plan; or
- b. Failed to meet or make reasonable progress toward achievement of the content standards or pupil performance standards identified in this Agreement or in the Accountability Plan; or
- c. Failed to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management; or
- d. Materially violated any provision of law from which the Charter

Deleted:

Section E. Mission and Goals

1. Below is the mission of the Office of Innovation and Incubation that served as the Authorizer for all CPS-authorized charter schools during the period under which this reports addresses: 2013 - 2014 & 2014 - 2015:

Vision

Every Chicago Public Schools 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.

Mission

The Office of Innovation and Incubation creates and sustains education options for Chicago students, through quality authorizing practices, community engagement, and innovative programs, on behalf of the Board of Education.

3. FY13 - 14:

Financial Performance Frameworks

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 are 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:

- a. Financial condition and budget
 - i. Short Term indicators – Cash on Hand and Current Ratio
 - ii. Long Term indicators – Net Asset Ratio
- b. Financial Controls
- c. Reporting Timeliness
- d. Legal Compliance

Financial Performance Summary

- a. Just over one third of Charter Schools, (15 out of 42 or 36%) are Exceeding Expectations. The number of Charter Schools that are exceeding expectations grew 6% from FY13.
- 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.
- 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.

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.

FY14 - 15

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.

4. Chicago Public Schools currently assesses the academic performance of each its schools based on the performance against framework defined in School Quality Review Policy (SQRP). This policy and associated framework have been widely communicated and publicized, and details (including metrics and benchmarks) can be found via the website cps.edu/sqrp. As part of SQRP, schools can receive one of five performance ratings: Level 1+, Level 1, Level 2+, Level 2, and Level 3: With Level 1+ being the highest performance designation that a school can receive, and Level 3 being the lowest.

As the Authorizer and per each charter contract, CPS designates charter schools that have earned:

- a. a Level 1+, Level 1, or Level 2+ rating as "meeting standards"
- b. a Level 2 rating as "Making reasonable progress"
- c. a Level 3 rating as "Failing to meet standards or make reasonable progress"

For the Academic Year 2013 - 2014, CPS' Charter Sector performance was distributed as follows:

- a. Level 1+ - 16 campuses
- b. Level 1 - 20 campuses
- c. Level 2+ - 22 campuses
- d. Level 2 - 25 campuses
- e. Level 3 - 8 campuses

12 campuses were on a previous accountability plan (Performance, Remediation, and Probation Policy [PRPP]) and/or did not have sufficient data to rate.

The data for Academic Year 2014 - 2015 were not available prior to the date that this report was due.

5. As stated above, the mission of the Office of Innovation and Incubation (I&I), over the period 2013 - 2014 & 2014 - 2015, was to create and sustain education options for Chicago students, through quality authorizing practices, community engagement, and innovative programs, on behalf of the Board of Education.

To that extent, I&I has made substantial progress, in 2 of the 3 critical areas: quality authorizing, and community engagement. That said, there is an opportunity for growth as it relates to cultivating and growing innovative programs.

As it relates to quality authorizing, I&I has made great progress in aligning its authorizing practices to national best practices and has been working with SchoolWorks, a leading education consultant that acts as advisors in that work and helps execute the final processes. In particular:

- a. Charter Renewal Process - I&I has significantly streamlined the charter renewal process to ensure that the review process is not only transparent, evidence-based, outcome-focused, consistent, sustainable, and valuable to schools. The process also significantly reduces the administrative burden on all schools, especially those operators who are meeting or exceeding contractual expectations.

For example, in the past, the renewal application contained 39 questions with responses averaging 32 pages. In CPS' most current iteration, the renewal application contains only 18 questions, with a limit of a 19 page total response. In addition, whereas the historic renewal evaluation rubric was ambiguous, the current rubric focuses solely on past performance and provides clear criteria for each standard.

Moreover, CPS' renewal process is now being used as an exemplar for other authorizers around the country.

- b. New Charter Application RFP - I&I has streamlined the new charter application RFP process for those mid-size to large operators who demonstrated a proven track record of success. These operators can submit a "Business Plan" that asks each applicant to demonstrate the network's capacity to open and operate a high quality school. Moreover, I&I has made the RFP process more rigorous to ensure that applications recommended for approval will result in a high quality school option for Chicago families.

In addition, in 2013-2014, and 2014-2015, I&I has 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 its community. The NAC process is designed to ensure that communities have a voice in the approval of any new charter schools. In 2014 - 2015, I&I implemented the NAC process with the support of the Gates Foundation, and to I&I's knowledge, no other charter authorizer has as thorough an approach to community engagement.

As it relates to cultivating innovative models, I&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 severe budget constraints, I&I was not able to guarantee funding for programs approved through this RFP, and had to discontinue the process.