



## Resolution of the Illinois State Charter School Commission

### Guidance for Authorizer - Charter School engagement regarding Remote Learning and Accountability Actions

**WHEREAS**, the state of Illinois, in response to a global health pandemic COVID-19, suspended in-person instruction for all students for a significant portion of the 2019-2020 academic year;

**WHEREAS**, statewide assessments for all students were waived for the 2019-20 school year; and

**WHEREAS**, the Illinois Governor announced Executive Order 2020-33 (April 30, 2020) which extends suspension of in-person instruction through end of 2019-20 academic year and Executive Order 2020-15 (March 27, 2020) similarly suspends all state assessments and extends all related orders creating Remote Learning Days and Remote Learning Planning Days, addressing Early Childhood Block Grant funds, and permitting virtual submission of school construction bids;

**WHEREAS**, academic performance data for the 2019-2020 school year will not be available to assess or evaluate student performance for accountability purposes;

**WHEREAS**, all schools are required to submit Remote Learning Plans and apply standards set forth by the Illinois State Board of Education;

**WHEREAS**, State officials have not indicated if and when in-person instruction and statewide assessments will resume for the 2020-2021 school year;

**WHEREAS**, it is the responsibility of the Illinois State Charter School Commission to serve as a statewide charter school authorizer for schools approved under its jurisdiction;

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with its mission to serve as a resource for authorizers across the state of Illinois, the Commission provides guidance for schools authorized under its jurisdiction and charter schools operating under the authorization of an Illinois school district or local education agency.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Illinois State Charter School Commission shall prepare and present guidance for the purposes of annual performance reviews and renewal evaluations for school years 2020-21 and 2021-22 to charter school authorizing entities;

#### REMOTE LEARNING

1. Authorizers shall, in consultation with experts and school leaders, determine a method for monitoring the implementation of each school's Remote Learning Plan and to support schools, as necessary to achieve desired outcomes;
2. Monitoring methods of Remote Learning Plans may vary and reflect the differentiation of instruction and educational programs embedded in the Plans;
3. Remote Learning Plans shall be updated by July 30 to include plans for (a) returning to in-person instruction in the fall; (b) extending suspension of in-person instruction in the fall; and (c) a hybrid of staggered in-person and remote instruction for fall 2020.



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#### SITE VISITS

1. Suspend all monitoring and renewal site visits for the school year 2020.
2. Consider replacing in-school site visits with remote “visits,” and engaging with the school and board leadership, and teacher development observations via virtual platforms, to gather contextual and qualitative information about the school.
3. Conduct desk audits of academic, organizational and fiscal performance, when possible.

#### ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEWS (APR)

1. Annual Ratings shall be suspended until such time waivers of statewide assessments are removed and statewide assessments are administered;
2. Financial and organizational outcomes from 2019-2020 will be included in APR.
3. Annual Performance Reviews (APR) shall consist of a summary delineating whether a school has:
  - a. Strong Performance Indicated
  - b. Average Performance Indicated
  - c. Weak Performance Indicated
4. Authorizers shall develop, in consultation with experts and school leadership, a set or series of **School Specific Performance Measures** to demonstrate student performance outcomes;
5. School specific performance measures must include a validated method of assessing student learning, growth, engagement and instructional effectiveness;
6. Data and evidence submitted as a School Specific Measure can only enhance the APR;
7. Schools in a probationary status or not meeting the standards, as indicated by the Authorizer in writing, prior to March 16, 2019, will be required to develop an approved set of school specific measures of performance;
8. Schools in Good Standing or meeting standards as indicated by the Authorizer in writing, prior to March 16, 2019, may elect to opt-in or opt-out of develop an approved set of school specific measures of performance;
9. Existing Academic Performance Frameworks and Accountability Plans shall not be revised until such the state board reinstates the mandated statewide assessment;



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#### ACCOUNTABILITY ACTIONS, RENEWALS AND CLOSURE

1. Decisions to effectuate a closure (non-renewal or revocation) of a charter school for failure to meet or make progress on pupil content standards shall be suspended for the 2020-21 school year;
2. Schools currently in a remedial, non-renewal or revocation status (evidenced by written) notification to the school by the authorizer) prior to Executive Order 2020-33, shall be required to enter a Performance Contract for the 2020-21 school year;
3. Performance Contracts shall be set for a one-year term, renewable by agreement of the Authorizer;
4. In addition to School Specific Performance Measures, Performance Contracts shall also include a series or set of milestones or conditions monitored at a frequency determined by the Authorizer; milestones and conditions may relate to Academic, Organizational and Financial Performance Measures; and
5. Academic Performance Data reported and published prior to 2019 shall serve as a baseline for Performance Contracts

#### SCHOOL SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Performance Categories shall be determined by the Authorizer and may include evidence of the following: skill mastery; teaching content standards; student engagement; parent engagement; professional development;
- Schools may provide a list of possible data sources for approval and validation by the Authorizer no later than July 30 and should facets of the Remote Learning Plan;
- Authorizers shall communicate approval or denial of source data no later than three weeks prior to the schools start date

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Illinois State Charter School Commission at a properly noticed open meeting held on the 12th day of May 2020, at which a quorum was present.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Commission Secretary

Date: \_\_\_\_\_