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Dear Steering Rules Committee,

On behalf of the City of Milwaukee - **Charter School Review Committee (CSRC)**, this letter is in support of recommending a five-year renewal contract for **Milwaukee Math and Science Academy (MMSA)** and **TransCenter for Youth, Inc. Escuela Verde (Escuela Verde)** charter schools. In 1998, the City of Milwaukee Common authorized its first charter school. During the 2019-20 school term, the City operated seven schools. In the fall of 2012, after a three-year pilot, the CSRC adopted its first school scorecard. In 2020, the CSRC formally adopted an updated the scorecard to help the CSRC monitor each charter school's performance, based on each school's individual multiple measures of their students' academic progress as well as, their financial stability annually. These multiple measures include the following: Performance on standardize tests and local measures; Point-in-time academic achievement; Family and student engagement; Attendance; Student retention and return rates; and Teacher retention and return rates. Additionally, the CSRC adopted a Financial Scorecard which rates the financial condition, financial reporting & contract compliance, internal controls, and sustainability.

Milwaukee Math and Science Academy, in its 10th year of operations was initially affiliated with Concept Schools however in early 2020 the school separated from Concepts Schools and is currently partnered with MAESTRO Education, an educational management company in Mount Prospect, Illinois. The CSCR feels this change is positive for MMSA and their future success as a charter school. For the past 4 years, MMSA has maintained steady leadership and remain dedicated to improving its outcomes. Milwaukee Math and Science Academy charter school has met or substantially met the educational provisions in their contract with the City of Milwaukee and subsequent CSRC requirements. Based on current and past contract compliance, the school's efforts toward meeting all school improvement recommendations, and scorecard results, CSRC with the assistance of the NCCD Children's Research Center, recommends that Milwaukee Math and Science Academy be awarded another five-year contract with the City of Milwaukee as a charter school.

Escuela Verde in its 9th year of operations, operates as a TransCenter for Youth school. TransCenter is a nonprofit organization registered through the state of Wisconsin. Escuela Verde is a premier project-based school which is student-driven and democratically run through the leadership of its Advisors (teacher-owners). Escuela Verde continues to establish itself as a mainstay in the community by sticking to its mission to cultivate a community that is participatory, just, sustainable, and peaceful. Escuela Verde charter schools has met or substantially met the educational provisions in their contract with the City of Milwaukee and subsequent CSRC requirements. Based on the school's status as a 9th-year school, its contract compliance status, and its scorecard rating, CSRC with the assistance of the NCCD Children's Research Center, recommends that Escuela Verde be awarded another five-year contract with the City of Milwaukee as a charter school.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Ingram,
Chair Charter School Review Committee
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