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Re: Charter School Contract Renewals: Esceula Verde, Darrell L Hines Prep

January 5, 2017

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 **Darrell Lynn Hines College Preparatory Academy of Excellence** (DLH Academy) 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 2015-16 school term, the operated (10) ten schools. At the close of June 31, 2016, school term, two schools rescinded their charter with the city, after failing to meet the requirements of their probationary stipulations with the City's Charter School Review Committee. The City of Milwaukee began the 2016-17 school year with (8) eight charter schools. Two of the eight schools will come to the end of their current contract with city at the close of the school term in June of 2017.

In 2009 CSRC created and piloted the CSRC School Scorecard. In 2012, the CSRC formally adopted 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.

DLH Academy charter school closed the 2015-16 school term with a CRSC Scorecard result of 84%. This score placed DLH Academy in the **High Performing/Exemplary** category. This compares with 77.3% in 2011-12; 73.8% in 2012-13; 72.6% in 2013-14; and 83.8% in 2014-15. Overall, during the past five years as a City of Milwaukee Charter School, DLH has improved from a steady "Promising/Good" to a "High Performing/Exemplary" school. DLH Academy has been a City of Milwaukee Charter School for 14 years.

Escuela Verde charter school closed the 2015-16 school term with a CRSC Scorecard result of 77.7%. Placing it in the in the **“Promising/Good”** category. This compares with (NA) in 2012-13; 73.9% in 2013-14; and 83.0% in 2014-15. Overall, during the past four years as a City of Milwaukee Charter School, Escuela Verde has performed as a “Promising/Good” school. Escuela Verde has been a City of Milwaukee Charter School for 4 years.

Summary/Recommendations

DLH Academy charter schools 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 DHL Academy be awarded another five-year contract with the City of Milwaukee as a charter school.

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 fourth-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