



The Institute for the Transformation of Learning

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TO: Charter School Review Committee

FROM: Gayle Peay, Policy Analyst

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RE: DPI Required Contract Changes

Memo

DPI has implemented a process where both authorizers and the schools are responsible for reviewing contract benchmarks and indicating whether or not those benchmarks are included in the current contract. This review has already been done with feedback from DPI. There were several benchmarks that were absent and will need to be modified in the contracts for Downtown, Montessori, Milwaukee Academy of Science, and Central City Cyber School.

At the Charter School Review Committee Meeting on August 22nd, we will be discussing the following contract modifications/additions:

- **A provision allowing all charters to open additional charter schools under certain criteria. This is the language that was recommended by the City Attorney's Office.**
"Charter School has authorization to establish one charter school under this Contract. Pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 118.40(2r)(b)2.c., Charter School may later apply to open one or more additional charter school(s) under a modified application process, provided that all charter schools under this Contract were assigned to one of the top two performance categories in the most recent school and school district accountability report published under Wis. Stat. § 115.385. The modified application will include all items identified in the Charter School ordinance, Milwaukee Code of Ordinances (MCO) § 330-5, and may include additional items at the CSRC's discretion. Such additional charter school(s) will not automatically be covered under this Contract. Each additional Charter School contract, or any amendment to this Contract to add additional charter school(s), must be recommended by the CSRC and approved by the City. Neither CSRC's recommendation nor City's approval shall be unreasonably withheld under this section."

- **Each school's discipline policies will be added to contract (Appendix A)**
- **Charter schools Governance Boards will participate in any training provided by authorizer (Appendix A)**

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“Board members are required to participate in any training provided by the authorizer. The governance board will employ the following corrective measures if the school fails to meet academic, operational, or financial performance standards:

- **A process that includes corrective measures for governance boards if school fails to meet operation and financial standards should be included. (Appendix A)**

The governance board will employ the following corrective measures if the school fails to meet academic, operational, or financial performance standards:

“Attend the designated CSRC meetings which outlines the contingencies of probation or potential probation. The CSRC will formally address the Board with a letter indicating the reasons for the probation and the conditions required to lift probation. In their capacity as ultimately holding responsibility for the school, the Board is responsible for the school meeting the conditions of the probation through their oversight of the school’s administration.”

- **A methodology will be used to modify and verify pupil enrollment and credit accrual completion. (Appendix A)** *The CSRC already has a methodology that is included in the “Monitoring Practices and Policies Document” but was not part of the contract.*

Local Assessment Measures of Educational Performance

Charter schools, by their definition and nature, are autonomous schools with curricula reflecting each school’s individual philosophy, mission, and goals. In addition to administering standardized tests, each charter school must describe goals and expectations for its students in the context of that school’s unique approach to education. Each City of Milwaukee charter school establishes these goals and expectations at the academic year’s start to measure students’ educational performance. These local measures are used to monitor and report progress, guide and improve instruction, clearly express the expected quality of student work, and provide evidence that students are meeting local benchmarks.

I. Monitoring Practices and Policies That Apply to All Schools

A. General reporting requirements for standardized tests:

1. Standardized test scores for groups of fewer than 10 students will not be reported.
2. Standardized test results will be reported for all students at each grade level.
 - For standardized tests that are administered twice during the school year (in the spring semester), results will be reported for students who take both fall and the spring assessment
 - For standardized tests that are administered only one time during the school year (in the spring semester), results will be reported for students who were enrolled at that school since the third Friday in the preceding September.

In addition to electronic data submission, schools must provide the educational oversight contractors with the official printouts of their standardized test results for individual students and for the school, unless the contractor has direct access to the data from the test publisher.

3. When available and as appropriate, year-to-year results will be reported for students who have completed the spring assessment in consecutive years at the same school.
4. All data must be reported in electronic format that is ready for analysis, such as a database or spreadsheet.

B. Attendance:

1. The education oversight contractors will break down attendance data to include excused absences, unexcused absences, days suspended (in-school and/or out-of-school), and expulsions.
2. Each school's definition of "present" will be included in that school's charter school learning memo for each academic year.

- C. Annual retention and return rates: The education oversight contractors will report annual retention rates (i.e., the percentage of students who start the year and remain in the school for the entire year) in addition to the student return rate (i.e., the percentage of students enrolled at the end of the previous school year who are enrolled on the third Friday in September of the current school year).

- D. Teacher retention and return information: The education oversight contractors will report teacher retention and return information. The return rate will be the percentage of teachers who are eligible to return who actually return the subsequent year.
- E. Definition of a student's last day of enrollment when a student stops attending a school: If the student does not attend a school for 30 consecutive calendar days, the student's termination date is the last date the student actually attended the school prior to the 30 consecutive days of absence. Reasons for withdrawal from a school will be gathered and reported to the education oversight contractors with the annual attendance data.
- F. Trend data: Trend data regarding several outcomes are included in each school's report, typically as appendices. These outcomes include, but are not limited to, attendance, assessment results, and teacher and student return/retention rates.
- G. CSRC scorecard and DPI report card: Information regarding each school's performance will be included in the body of the report and/or as an appendix to the annual monitoring report.
- H. Planning for students at or above grade level: CSRC requires schools to plan and provide higher-level plans/activities for students who are at or above grade level in the acquisition of basic skills.
- I. The methodology that will be used by each School Board to monitor and verify pupil enrollment, credit accrual, and course completion:
 - The School Board will attend annual school board meeting where the school's yearly annual report is reviewed and discussed. The annual report has data that contains measurable educational and performance outcomes, including pupil enrollment, credit accrual, and course completion.

II. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

A. Each school is required to maintain local measures demonstrating student growth in the following areas: reading, writing, math, and individualized education programs (IEP).

B. DPI-required tests:

- 1. The Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS) will be administered to all K4 through second-grade students in the fall and spring of each school year within the timeframe required by DPI.

Absent a DPI-required reading achievement test for first- and second-grade students, CSRC, with input from the school leaders and educational oversight monitors, will determine an appropriate assessment for reading.

2. The DPI-required achievement tests for third through eighth grades and tenth grade will be administered in the spring of the school year, during the timeframe indicated by DPI.

C. Year-to-year achievement measurement:

1. The DPI-required assessment results in each school's annual report will be reported. When new assessments are implemented, data from the first year will be used by CSRC as a baseline data in order to set expectations for performance in subsequent years. When possible, the educational oversight contractors will report year-to-year progress for students who completed the assessments in consecutive years at the same school. When year-to-year data are available, CSRC will set its expectations for the student progress; these expectations will be effective for all subsequent years.
2. Based on the spring 2015 PALS results, the CSRC expectation for students maintaining reading readiness is:

At least 75% of the first graders who met the summed score benchmark in the spring will remain at or above the second-grade summed score benchmark in the spring of the subsequent year.

- D. The education oversight contractors will gather and report information regarding each elementary school's counseling activities regarding high school, information about high school enrollment at the end of eighth grade, and plans for follow-up after a student leaves the elementary school.

City of Milwaukee Educational Performance Rating Scale For Charter Schools

School Status	Scale
High Performing/Exemplary	83.3%-100.0% (B to A)
Promising/Good	70.0%- 83.2% (C- to B-)
Problematic/Good	60.0%-69.9% (D- to D+)
Poor/Falling	0.0%- 59.9 % (F)

City of Milwaukee – Charter Schools Financial Scorecard Criteria and Scoring

Each school is provided with an annual financial scorecard, which rates the school using 4 criteria - Financial Condition, Financial Reporting & Contract Compliance, Internal Controls, and Sustainability.

CATEGORY	OBJECTIVES	MAXIMUM SCORE
Financial Condition	Liquidity - ability to pay bills on time Budgetary Control - ability to control expenses, achieve revenues to match expenses Financial performance Timely identify major financial events	50
Financial Reporting & Contract Compliance	Compliance with CSRC reporting requirements	20
Internal Controls	Internal controls report from auditor and consultant analysis Timely identify major internal control issues	20
Sustainability	-Long range plan of school - Long term financial health -Long term attractiveness (enrollment trends)	10

TOTAL 100