

**ADOPT A RENAISSANCE SCHOOL PERFORMANCE PLAN FOR
AUSTIN POLYTECHNICAL ACADEMY**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:

That the Board adopt a Renaissance School Performance Plan attached as Attachment 1 for the Austin Polytechnical Academy.

HISTORY:

On November 15, 2006 the Board approved a proposal to open the Austin Polytechnical Academy ("Austin") located at 231 North Pine Street as a Performance School serving grades 9 through 12 (Board Report 06-1115-EX7). The Board's Renaissance Schools Policy (Board Report 07-0627-PO4) states that Performance Schools are schools specially designated by the Board where the Board approves a Performance Plan setting forth specific standards for academic performance and a clear statement as to how the school will be held accountable. In exchange for higher accountability, Performance Schools are granted autonomy over various educational and operational issues. The specific degree of autonomy available to each Performance School is set out in each individual school's Performance Plan.

DURATION OF PERFORMANCE PLAN:

The Performance Plan for Austin shall continue for five years beginning July 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2012. During the final year of the Performance Plan, Austin's status as a Performance School and their Performance Plan shall be subject to renewal by the Board. The Board may, at any time, rescind Austin's status as a Performance School and the Performance Plan set out herein upon the school's failure to implement the educational plan set out in the Performance Plan, failure to make reasonable progress towards achieving the accountability requirements set out in the Performance Plan, failure to satisfy the requirements of the Performance Plan or any other reason set out in the Performance Plan.

PERFORMANCE PLAN DESCRIPTION:

The Austin Performance Plan ("Plan") attached as Attachment 1 outlines the educational plan, operational structure, autonomies and accountability requirements for Austin. The Plan includes the following key components:

<u>Grade Levels & Enrollment Projections:</u>	2007-08: 145 students in grades 9 2008-09: 280 students in grades 9-10 2009-10: 420 students in grades 9-11 2010-11: 550 students in grades 9-12 2011-12: 560 students in grades 9-12
<u>Location:</u>	231 North Pine, Chicago, IL 60644
<u>Curriculum:</u>	College and Career Prep. Austin will use the 'Project Lead the Way' education program.
<u>Promotion:</u>	Austin will follow the CPS Promotion Policy. In addition, Austin anticipates students will earn at least two credentials in various areas of industry certification.
<u>School Day:</u>	Standard hours.
<u>School Calendar:</u>	Austin will follow the CPS calendar

Student Discipline: Austin will follow the Student Code of Conduct. In addition, Austin will utilize the 'Power of Change' conflict resolution training program as well as Peer Mediation and Peer Jury systems.

Governance: Austin was designated a small school under Board Report 06-1115-EX7. Therefore, an Appointed Local School Council (ALSC) will be established at Austin in accordance with the Governance of Alternative and Small Schools Policy (07-0124-PO2) as amended and 105 ILCS 5/34-2.4b.

Reporting Structure: Austin will be assigned to the Office of New Schools for oversight purposes.

Finance: Austin will be funded on a per-pupil basis and will follow all CPS policies and on cash flow management, purchasing, payroll and audits.

Board Policies & Rules: Austin will comply with all Board Policies and Rules in the operation and administration of the school. Austin may in the future opt-out of the Board Policies listed in Table III of the attached Plan, upon notice to the CEO.

Academic Accountability: Austin shall be evaluated in accordance with the Board's "Remediation and Probation" Policy as may be amended and the accountability plan that is incorporated into the Performance Plan.

EVALUATION: Austin shall be evaluated annually by the Chief Executive Officer or designee based on the criteria set out in this Performance Plan. The Chief Executive Officer shall report annually on each Performance School's performance and shall rate each school's performance.

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS: Performance Schools are operated by CPS and employ CPS teachers and staff. Performance Schools are subject to the collective bargaining agreements between CPS and the Chicago Teachers Union and other labor organizations, including the waiver provisions of those agreements.

Approved:



Barbara Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer

Respectfully submitted:




Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:



Pedro Martinez
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to Legal Form *MR*



Patrick J. Rocks
General Counsel

Attachment 1

PERFORMANCE PLAN FOR THE AUSTIN POLYTECHNICAL ACADEMY

I. GENERAL

A. Scope of the Plan, Exhibits Incorporated by Reference

The Board has created the Austin Polytechnical Academy ("Austin Polytech") which is an operating unit of the Board pursuant to its authority under the Illinois School Code to create and operate schools. The relationship between the Board and the Austin Polytech is statutory and not contractual.

Austin Polytech will operate under the terms of this Performance Plan and all applicable Board Reports related to the formation and operation of Austin Polytech.

The Board desires to provide Austin Polytech with certain autonomies with respect to its educational mission and operations. In addition, the Board will require additional accountability of Austin Polytech above that generally required of Chicago Public Schools that do not operate under Performance Plans.

The Performance Plan for Austin Polytech consists of the following:

1. This Performance Plan and all exhibits to the Plan
2. All Board policies and rules which the Board has not waived for Austin Polytech
3. All applicable laws and regulations
4. The Board Reports through which the Board created Austin Polytech, defined its attendance boundaries, established its governance structure and authorized this Performance Plan.

B. Term of Plan

This Plan shall commence on July 1, 2007 and shall expire at midnight, June 30, 2012, unless terminated or extended pursuant to the terms hereof.

C. Terms and Conditions

Austin Polytech has expressly agreed that the School Description, attached as Exhibit A, sets forth the overall goals and educational program of Austin Polytech. Austin Polytech acknowledges and agrees that its School Description is an integral part of this Plan, and the Board shall have the right to hold Austin Polytech responsible for all information, representations and statements contained in the School Description. The School Description, however, is not a complete statement of each detail of Austin Polytech's operation. To the extent Austin Polytech desires to implement specific policies, procedures or other specific terms of operation that supplement or otherwise differ from those set forth in the School Description, Austin Polytech shall be permitted to implement such policies, procedures, and specific terms of operation, provided such policies, procedures and terms of operation are consistent with all applicable laws and regulations, Board policies and rules unless otherwise specifically waived by the Board, the Policy to Establish Renaissance Schools Policy ("Renaissance Schools Policy") as amended, all Board consent decrees and settlement agreements, and the goals, standards and general operational policies set forth in the School Description.

II. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

A. Mission Statement

Austin Polytechnical Academy shall operate under the mission and vision statements set forth below, and such mission statement is hereby accepted to the extent that it is consistent with the

declared purposes of the Board of Education as stated in the Renaissance Schools Policy and all applicable Board policy and rules as further defined in this Plan.

Mission: The Mission of Austin Polytechnical Academy is to provide all our students with an engaging, meaningful, challenging, standards-based education, which will:

- Meet or exceed state, NCLB and industry standards;
- Improve student achievement levels and yield higher measurable learning outcomes;
- Prepare all students for quality careers including highly skilled production positions, management positions or ownership in the new manufacturing economy;
- Expand post-secondary options including university and community college;
- Use intensive, long-term internships with key industry partners to keep our students focused, and to help them understand the concepts presented in classrooms; and
- Contribute to the economic and social development of Austin and of Chicago.

Austin Polytech intends to provide students access to college and to excellent career paths in the new, high-tech manufacturing economy of the 21st century. These careers in production, in management, and in ownership of manufacturing companies can provide an income that can support a family and aspirations for a better life.

B. Curriculum

Austin Polytech shall operate a high quality instructional program serving the educational needs of the students enrolled. The curriculum established by Austin Polytech shall be consistent with the School Description and Renaissance Schools Policy and as otherwise modified or supplemented herein.

Specifically, the school's English, Math, and Science offerings will be part of the CPS High School Transformation Project IDS ("Instructional Delivery System") program. This will give Austin Polytech access to new, research-based curricula and professional development. For science Austin has selected the Northwestern University program *Meaningful Science Through Inquiry*. This program has a combination of literacy, inquiry, and laboratory activity to prepare students for a good understanding of scientific method. For Mathematics it will use the *Agile Mind*, a three-year math curriculum that prepares students for college and high-quality workplaces. For English, the school will use the America's Choice program. It is designed to use a thematic approach to improve reading comprehension, writing skills, and critical thinking skills. For Social Studies, the school will use an interdisciplinary approach combining content knowledge and primary source materials.

Austin Polytech teachers will be trained to use strategies and materials developed by Chip Brady of Evanston Township High School, entitled *Document-Based Questions (DBQ)*. Economics will emphasize entrepreneurship, as well as an examination of local business patterns, history and current economic issues facing the community. DBQ will encourage and support the study of local as well as world issues and history and allow the School to attain college readiness standards. Throughout the social studies and English curriculum, students will study the African-American experience through a focus on Afro-American literature and history, in addition to the traditional canon.

The School's career education program will use *Project Lead The Way*. This four-year sequence of courses combined with math and science courses prepare students for both college and for the world of high tech manufacturing, with a pre-engineering emphasis. Austin Polytech shall notify the Board of any material change in its curriculum subsequent to the date of this Board Report.

The unique combination of a rigorous pre-engineering program, combined with specific industry credentials, means that Austin Polytech graduates will have a systems orientation, and be prepared for multiple career-paths in manufacturing including production, engineering, sales, quality assurance, management and ownership. Any material changes in the curriculum must comply with state law and be approved by the Chief Executive Officer or designee.

C. Student Population

Age, Grade Range. Austin Polytech shall provide instruction to pupils in grade 9 in the 2007-2008 school year. In subsequent years the school will add a 10th, 11th and 12th grade (Board Report 06-1115-EX7).

Enrollment. Austin Polytech shall enroll up to 560 students in the 2011-2012 school year. The Department of School Planning and the Office of New Schools will work with Austin Polytechnical Academy and the Austin community to develop an attendance boundary plan for submission to the Board for approval. Austin Polytech's projected enrollment is as follows:

- 2007-08: 145 students in grade 9;
- 2008-09: 280 students in grades 9,10;
- 2009-10: 420 students in grades 9,10,11;
- 2010-11: 550 students in grades 9,10,11,12; and
- 2011-12: 560 students in grades 9,10,11,12.

D. Performance Assessment

1. Goals, Objectives, Pupil Performance Standards. Austin Polytech shall pursue and make reasonable progress toward the achievement of the goals, objectives and pupil performance standards consistent with the Accountability Plan described in Section VIII of this Plan, provided that such goals, objectives and pupil performance standards shall at all times remain in compliance with the Illinois School Code.
2. Evaluation of Pupils. Austin Polytech's plan for evaluating pupil performance, the types of assessments to be used, the timeline for achievement of performance standards, and the procedure for taking corrective action in the event that pupil performance at Austin Polytechnical falls below those standards, shall be consistent with the School Description and all applicable Board rules and policies and as further described in Section VIII hereof.

E. Calendar and Scheduling

1. School Days and Hours of Operation. Instruction shall commence in the 2007-2008 school year and subsequent school years on dates established by Austin Polytechnical, provided that the beginning date of instruction shall be no earlier than August 15 and no later than September 15 of each school year.

The days and hours of operation of Austin Polytech shall be as established by the Board. Requests by Austin Polytech to modify the days and hours of operation shall be submitted to the CEO or designee on or before July 1st preceding the beginning of the academic year for which the modification is requested.

2. School Calendar. For every academic year in which this Plan is in effect, and no later than January 1st preceding beginning the next academic year, Austin Polytech shall submit to the Chief Education Officer or designee its school calendar for such academic year and the following summer session. Austin Polytech will follow the CPS school calendar unless an alternate calendar is approved by the Board.
3. Any proposal to establish days or hours of operation or a school calendar that would require members of a collective bargaining unit to work on a schedule that

differs from that set forth in the applicable collective bargaining agreement is subject to the acquisition of a waiver pursuant to the agreement's procedures for waiver.

F. Discipline

Austin Polytech will apply the Student Code of Conduct adopted by the Board. In addition, Austin will utilize the 'Power of Change' conflict resolution training program as well as Peer Mediation and Peer Jury systems.

G. Bilingual Education

Austin Polytech is subject to all Board rules and policies regarding bilingual education services and is required to provide services to its students pursuant to those rules and policies.

H. Specialized Services

Austin Polytech shall provide services and accommodations to students with disabilities in accordance and compliance with (i) the Individuals with Disabilities Improvement Act of 2004 (20 U.S.C. '1401 et seq.); (ii) that certain document prepared by the Board and approved by the State Board entitled "A Procedural Manual Educating Children with Disabilities in Chicago Public Schools", revised edition 2002, as amended, which document is incorporated herein by reference; (iii) any and all Federal consent decrees and court orders applicable to children in the Chicago Public Schools, including, but not limited to, Corey H, 92 C 3409; (iv) any and all service bulletins issued by the Board's Office of Specialized Services and (v) any other Board rules, policies or directives related to specialized services.

I. Homeless children

Austin Polytech is subject to all Board rules and policies regarding services to students who are homeless and is required to provide services to its students pursuant to those rules and policies and all applicable federal and state laws and regulations. Austin Polytech also is subject to the settlement agreement in Salazar v. Board of Education.

J. Pupil Transportation

Austin Polytech shall meet the transportation needs of its students as required by Board rules and policy, by applicable federal and state law and regulation, and by any consent decrees or settlement agreements to which the Board is a party and which require transportation of students. To the extent Austin Polytech is required to supply transportation, it shall acquire these services from the Board at rates established by the Board.

III. GOVERNANCE

A. Interim Governance

1. Austin Polytech shall establish an Interim Advisory Committee ("IAC") by the first day of school and in any event, no later than December 1 of the school's first year.
2. Austin Polytech will operate with an Interim Advisory Committee until a permanent governing body is established.
3. The IAC shall serve only in an advisory role.

B. Permanent Governance – Appointed Local School Councils (“ALSC”)

Austin Polytech has been designated a small school by the Board pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/34-2.4b of the Illinois School Code. As soon as practicable, an ALSC shall be established pursuant to the Board’s Policy on Governance of Alternative and Small Schools, 07-0124-PO2, as amended.

IV. FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATION

A. Teacher recruitment, hiring, evaluation and dismissal

The recruitment, hiring, evaluation and dismissal of teachers shall be governed by State law, the Renaissance Schools Policy, any applicable collective bargaining or other agreements and any applicable waivers to those agreements, and all Board personnel rules and policies.

B. Principal qualifications, selection and removal

Austin Polytech principal must meet applicable state certification and Board principal qualification requirements.

Consistent with the Renaissance Schools Policy and applicable State law, Austin Polytech’s IAC may recommend selection of the school’s interim principal to the Chief Executive Officer and to submit evaluations of the interim principal’s performance.

Austin Polytech will be managed by an interim principal until a permanent governing body is formed.

The ALSC’s duties and responsibilities with respect to recommending principal candidates will be as specified by the Board in its Policy on Governance of Alternative and Small Schools, 07-0124-PO2, as amended, or as specified by the Board in another authorizing Board Report.

C. Comprehensive School Management or Operations Contracts

No entity or party other than Austin Polytech may provide comprehensive school management or operations except upon the prior approval of the Board. A Performance School seeking to enter into any contract for operations services to be performed in substantial part by an entity not identified in this Plan, must be a participant in the Department of Operations self-directed program.

D. Area Instructional Officer Election

Austin Polytech has elected to obtain administrative support through the CPS Office of New Schools (“ONS”).

V. APPLICABLE LAW AND COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

A. Compliance with Laws and Regulations

Austin Polytech shall operate at all times in accordance with the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Illinois, the Renaissance Schools Policy, the Illinois School Code, all applicable Federal and State laws and regulations, and all Board rules and policies unless specifically exempted by the Board. Austin Polytech shall not discriminate on the basis of disability, race, creed, color, gender, national origin, religion, ancestry, marital status, homeless status, the need for special educational services, or any other classification protected by law.

Austin Polytech shall also comply with all Board policies and rules, except those identified in the in the Accountability Plan attached as Exhibit B. By adoption of this Plan, the Board specifically waives the application of the specific policies listed in Exhibit B to Austin Polytech.

Board policies and rules adopted after the adoption of this Plan shall be deemed to apply to Austin Polytech unless application is expressly waived by the Board.

B. Compliance with Plan.

Austin Polytech shall operate at all times in accordance with the terms of this Plan, including the Accountability Plan attached hereto as Exhibit B, and all other Exhibits attached hereto.

VI. FACILITY

Austin Polytech shall be located at 231 N. Pine, in a building that complies with all applicable occupancy permits and health and safety requirements (the "Attendance Center"). Although the Board retains responsibility for compliance with applicable permits and regulations, Austin Polytech must take reasonable steps to assist and ensure compliance.

If Austin Polytech will occupy a shared facility, Austin Polytech shall comply with the Shared Facility Policy, 05-0126-PO1, as may be amended.

VII. FINANCIAL OPERATIONS AND AUDITS

A. Financial Management

Austin Polytech shall comply with the Board's Internal Accounts Manual and all other Board rules and policy governing the management and accounting of funds

B. Budget

Austin Polytech shall prepare and provide to the Board a copy of its annual budget for each fiscal year by no later than May 1 of such fiscal year and shall provide regular budget information, including the school's internal accounts revenue and expenditures to the Board on a monthly basis. The fiscal year for Austin Polytech shall begin on July 1 of each year and end on June 30 of the subsequent year.

C. Distribution of Funds

Austin Polytech shall receive funding based on per pupil budgeting. Each school shall be notified of the per pupil allocation and formula to be used on an annual basis. The school will also receive additional categorical fund, general state aide, NCLB and other funds based on the school's student population in accordance with standard CPS practices.

D. Refund of Unspent Funds

In the event this Plan is terminated or is not renewed by the Board, any unspent funds are subject to recapture by the Board. This provision is not a limitation on the Office of Budget and Management or other Board departments with respect to any other recapture of funds permitted by Board rules or policies.

E. Outside Funding

Austin Polytech may accept gifts, donations or grants, provided that all such gifts, grants and donations are accepted in compliance with applicable law, Board rules and policy and the terms of this Plan.

F. Management and Financial Controls

At all times, Austin Polytech shall maintain appropriate governance and managerial procedures and financial controls which procedures and controls shall include, but not be limited to: (1)

generally accepted accounting methods; (2) a checking account; (3) procedures for the creation and review of monthly and quarterly financial reports, which procedures shall specifically identify the individual who will be responsible for preparing such financial reports in the following fiscal year; and (4) internal control procedures for cash receipts, cash disbursements and purchases.

G. Annual Audits

The Board may conduct a Financial Statement and Internal Account Audit (collectively, the "Financial Audit"), on Austin Polytech by July 15th of each year of this Plan. The Financial Audit may include:

1. An opinion on the financial statements (and Supplementary Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards, if applicable) and
2. A report on compliance and on internal control over financial reporting based on an audit of financial statements performed in accordance with the Internal Accounts Manual and other applicable Board rules and policies.

Financial Audits shall be made available no later than November 1 of each year during the term of this Plan, beginning with November 1, 2008.

H. Attendance

Austin Polytech shall maintain accurate enrollment data and daily records of student attendance and shall provide enrollment and attendance data to the Board on a monthly basis. Austin Polytech shall provide the Board with current enrollment and attendance data via the Board's student information system. Such enrollment and attendance data shall be maintained and updated on the student information system daily by Austin Polytech. The Board shall provide Austin Polytech with the necessary student information system access, software and training to allow Performance School personnel to use the Board's student information system and input enrollment/attendance data.

I. Withholding of Funds

In the event Austin Polytech fails to submit to the Board any documents or information required under this Plan, or fails to follow any procedures and policies set forth in this Plan, the Board may restrict access to Austin Polytech's funding lines, providing that the Board gives Austin Polytech written notice enumerating the specific failure(s). Upon Austin Polytech's compliance with any such failure(s), the Board shall reinstate access to Austin Polytech's funding. Repeated violations of this paragraph may be cause for the Board to terminate this Plan.

VIII. ACADEMIC ACCOUNTABILITY AND EVALUATIONS.

A. Accountability Plan

Austin Polytech shall be held accountable by the Board in accordance with the Accountability Plan contained in Exhibit B. Due to potentially sweeping changes regarding testing requirements and other accountability standards that may occur because of the enactment of the No Child Left Behind Act or other laws or mandates, the Accountability Plan attached as Exhibit B hereto is subject to change.

B. Standardized Tests

Austin Polytech shall administer such standardized tests of academic proficiency as are provided for in the Board's policies and procedures, and shall participate in State assessments required by Section 2-3.64 of the Illinois School Code.

IX. RENEWAL AND TERMINATION OF PERFORMANCE PLAN

A. Renewal of Performance Plan; Failure to Renew

On or before the date set by the CEO, Austin Polytech shall provide a written proposal to the Board setting forth proposed terms of renewal of this Plan. The renewal proposal of Austin Polytech shall contain the most recent annual report and financial statement of Austin Polytech. The written proposal may contain proposed changes to this Plan that Austin Polytech desires to incorporate into the renewed plan.

The Board shall provide written notice to Austin Polytech indicating whether, and upon what conditions, it is willing to renew the Performance Plan, including any modified terms proposed by the Board. If Austin Polytech does not agree to the terms of the renewal, the Board may, at its option, refuse to renew the Plan.

The Board may also refuse to renew the Plan upon a finding that any cause for termination exists under Section IX B. hereof.

B. Termination of Performance Plan

The Board may terminate or modify this Plan, if the Board finds that Austin Polytech did any of the following, or otherwise failed to comply with the requirements of the Renaissance Schools Policy or this Plan:

1. Committed a material violation of any of the conditions, standards, obligations or procedures set forth in this Plan including the Accountability Plan; or
2. Failed to meet or make reasonable progress toward achievement of the content standards or pupil performance standards identified in this Plan or in the Accountability Plan; or
3. Failed to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management; or
4. Materially violated any provision of law or policy from which Austin Polytech was not exempted; or
5. Failed to secure a signed certification from the duly appointed or elected governing body an expressing agreement to the terms and provisions of this Plan as set forth in Section III herein; or
6. Meets criteria for closing (for academic or non-academic reasons) under the Closing of Schools Policy, 07-0523-PO2, as amended.

C. Reservation of rights and obligations under law.

Nothing in this Performance Plan shall be read to limit the Board's rights and obligations under applicable law.

EXHIBIT A

SCHOOL DESCRIPTION

Board Report 06-1115-EX7 establishing and naming the school dated on November 15, 2006 is hereby incorporated by reference as if set forth fully herein and collectively, with the text below constitute the School Description. The School Description of Austin Polytech is as follows:

Mission Statement

The Mission of Austin Polytechnical Academy is to provide all our students with an engaging, meaningful, challenging, standards-based education, which will:

- Meet or exceed state, NCLB and industry standards;
- Improve student achievement levels and yield higher measurable learning outcomes;
- Prepare all students for quality careers including highly skilled production positions, management positions or ownership in the new manufacturing economy;
- Expand post-secondary options including university and community college;
- Use intensive, long-term internships with key industry partners to keep our students focused, and to help them understand the concepts presented in classrooms; and
- Contribute to the economic and social development of Austin and of Chicago.

Austin Polytechnical Academy will provide students access to college and to excellent career paths in the new, high-tech manufacturing economy of the 21st century. These careers in production, in management, and in ownership of manufacturing companies can provide an income that can support a family and aspirations for a better life.

Vision Statement

Austin Polytech students will:

- Encounter the exciting world of modern, high-tech manufacturing;
- Receive individualized academic coaching and mentoring;
- Be nurtured in a safe, supportive learning environment;
- Participate in problem-solving teams and community service;
- Experience real working internships and apprenticeships;
- Learn core subjects with a focus on technology and real-world applications;
- Earn credentials, in addition to a high school degree, that will qualify graduates for jobs in high-tech manufacturing and post-secondary programs;
- Prepare for college and earn college credits while in high school.

Additional Program Information

At the heart of the Austin Polytech philosophy are a few basic principles:

- **Learning through doing**, both in the preparatory labs and in the workplace, is a core practice of this school. Field experiences, internships and apprenticeships are critical to engaging students and amplifying learning. Demonstrations of learning via exhibitions, performances, products and presentations will be a prominent element of assessment. Most students will have junior- and senior-year internships and/or college courses.
- **Robust partnerships** with local companies will support success by providing mentoring, training, and support for our students.
- **Academic press:** This school will prepare students for advanced, high-paying jobs in the manufacturing economy. Competence in math, technology, teamwork, critical thinking, and human-relations skills are essentials. Austin Polytech will maintain high academic standards, backed up by individual academic support to each student. Students will be challenged to earn early credits for college.
- **Neighborhood beacon:** This school will be a springboard for development in the Austin Community. Its students will be active in service to the community, and the school's doors will be open to parents and other community members to participate in job training, computer literacy and career education.
- **Community ownership:** The school will welcome the active participation of parents and

community members who can ensure that the school services its community and fulfills its promise.

- **Social justice and opportunity:** This school will be open to all applicants and will actively seek underserved and underrepresented students, including students with disabilities and other special needs. The school will model the practices of fairness, respect, teamwork and non-violence that their graduates are expected to carry with them. The school will aim to open new economic and social opportunities, and to safeguard the rights of and meet the special needs of every student.

Austin Polytech will aim to educate each student so that all options are open to him or her -- college, workplace, or both. To attain this objective, a high-performance atmosphere and a school culture that rewards and respects achievement will be cultivated. Regular honors events and celebrations will be held to encourage students and showcase the school. Co-curriculars will include clubs, team challenges such as robotics, and community service projects that a variety of community based bring credit to the school and its students. Community service in Austin will consist of volunteer projects.

Pedagogic keys to success of this school are four-fold:

- **Personalized Learning:** An individual learning plan for each student, based on individual needs and interests and with the support of an adult advisor, who coaches, supervises and counsels the student through all 4 years of high school.
- **Active learning** with relevant new activities, requiring attention, concentration, and skill, such as internships, service projects, and team challenges. Learning by doing, on the job and in preparation for the job combined with intensive academic work, will help our students stay focused. The relationship with a long term advisor will help each student feel connected and supported.
- **Interconnected learning:** Austin Polytech will develop a strong interdisciplinary curriculum, which allows students to see the reasons why, and the big ideas behind, courses and subject matter and will link in-classroom and out-of-school programs and experiences.
- **Inclusive learning:** The school will offer each student the opportunity to challenge herself/himself. Rubrics and expectations will be uniform for all students. Each student -- not just the elite -- will receive the advantages of individualized instruction, supported learning, and special, high-caliber experiences. Its internal culture will be fair and will involve students in the governance of their affairs within school.

EXHIBIT B

**ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN FOR
AUSTIN POLYTECHNICAL ACADEMY**

The Board of Education ("Board") and the Austin Polytechnical Academy ("Austin Polytech") have determined that it is in the best interests of the Board, the Austin Polytech students, parents and the public to articulate clear standards for Austin Polytech and to annually inform the public about the level of achievement of Austin Polytech with respect to those standards. It is also the Board's intent to use data from this Accountability Plan to decide on the renewal of Performance Schools beyond the initial five year performance period.

The Board may delegate its authority to perform the functions described herein to appropriate departments or contracting entities.

Austin Polytech shall be evaluated annually in accordance with this Accountability Plan including but not limited to the following categories:

- A. Student Performance
- B. Financial Management
- C. Compliance with Applicable Laws and Policies
- D. Special Education

Austin Polytech's Student Performance indicators are defined and will be measured in accordance with the Board's School Remediation and Probation Policy and the Board's Renaissance Schools Policy, both as amended. Indicators for categories B – D are defined as follows:

- Financial Management: Balanced Budget
 Financial Practices
- Compliance: Relevant Laws & Regulations
 Reporting Obligations
- Special Education: Report Card Indicators

The Board may publish other performance indicators and or additional evaluation categories for a school as required by law or determined to be in the best interest of the public. The Accountability Plan is subject to change based on changes in Board policy, and Illinois and federal laws and regulations. Any changes to the above mentioned indicators will be reported to the school annually.

A. **Student Performance Indicator**

The intent of the Student Performance section is to provide a multi-faceted understanding of student performance at Austin Polytech upon which Austin Polytech's academic performance will be evaluated. Student Performance will be evaluated based on a series of common indicators as defined in the Board's School Remediation and Probation Policy and the Board's Renaissance Schools Policy, both as amended.

Each Performance School will be required to participate fully in all required state and local testing and assessments and maintain all necessary records to allow for the effective administration of the accountability system.

At such time as the Board is able to utilize value-added analysis, post-secondary data, or other relevant student performance information for accountability purposes, such indicators may be added to this Accountability Plan.

(1) Schedule for Reporting Student Performance Indicators

The Performance School will be required to annually report to the Chief Executive Officer on their preceding year's performance by August 1. The Board reserves the right to audit results in any manner that establishes the validity and integrity of the results. The use of unique standards and assessments shall not affect Austin Polytech's obligation to comply with the PSAE assessments or any other assessment required by the Board for all public schools.

B & C. Financial Management & Compliance

(1) Financial Management & Compliance Indicators

Indicator	High	Middle	Low
Balanced Budget: 1) Prior – year balanced budget successfully implemented 2) Realistic current – year balanced budget plan	Both budgets balanced	Current – year budget balanced. Prior-year budget not balanced	Current – year budget not balanced, even if prior year budget was balanced
Financial Practices: audited financial statements, internal controls	All in good standing and no findings	Any minor findings	Any repeated finding
Compliance with Relevant Laws/Policies	No Findings	Any minor finding(s)	Any repeated finding; any major finding
Reporting Obligations	No findings	Any minor finding(s)	Any repeated finding; any major finding

Where appropriate to Austin Polytech, the following items shall be reviewed, evaluated, and presented as part of the Reporting Obligations Indicator:

- a) Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/1.01 *et seq*);
- b) Student Records Act (105 ILCS 10);
- c) The school's governance structure; and
- d) The school's designated or approved enrollment process

Austin Polytech shall have the applicable items tested and reported upon by the Board.

In general, a finding will be considered Major if it indicates a deliberate act of wrongdoing or reckless conduct, causes a loss of confidence in the abilities or integrity of Austin Polytech, or seriously jeopardizes the continued operation of Austin Polytech. Classification of a finding as Major shall be the sole discretion of the Board.

(2) Applicability of CPS Policies

It is the goal of the Policy to Establish Renaissance Schools, where practicable and to the extent allowable under law, to exempt Performance Schools from applicable laws and Board policies and regulations so that the school may design and implement an education program that more precisely fits its particular educational mission. To that end, the Board has included in the Compliance Indicator only those items the district, by approval of this Accountability Plan and accompanying Performance Plan, either cannot permit Performance Schools to waive, or where exemption would be impracticable or contrary to the Board's obligation to protect the welfare and safety of students and employees. Any Board policies or rules adopted following Board approval of this Accountability Plan shall be deemed to apply to contract and performance schools unless specifically exempted.

Austin Polytech shall abide by all applicable laws and Board Policies and Rules except as described below.

Where Austin Polytech has opted out of one or more of the policies listed in Table III, Austin Polytech must notify the CEO or designee no later than July 1 prior to the school year. The CEO will report this information to the Board in a timely manner.

Table III

No.	Policy Name	Option
401.13	Strategic Sourcing	School may opt out of this policy
403.5	Establish Comprehensive Policy Regarding Sharing Lease Income from School Property	School may opt out of this policy
506.1	Full-time Consultants	School may opt out of this policy
512.1	Teacher Appreciation Day	School may opt out of this policy
601.2	Homework Policy	School may opt out of this policy
801.1	Personal Relationships in the Schools and Community	School may opt out of this policy

Where Austin Polytech has opted to create an alternate policy to those policies listed in Table III or Table IV below, such policy must be submitted to the CEO and must be approved as a legal form by the General Counsel by July 1 prior to the school year. The CEO will submit the alternative policies to the Board for approval in a timely manner. Policies listed in Table III and Table IV represent the Board's current policy status and may change based on the Board's future revision and creation of new policies.

Table IV

No.	Policy Name	Option
102.4	Rights and Responsibilities of Parents and Students	School may opt out of this policy, but must have an alternate policy that complies with legal requirements
407.3	Snack Vending Policy	School may opt out of this policy, but must have an alternate policy that complies with legal requirements
601.7	Fine Arts Standards	School may opt out of this policy but must have an alternate policy that complies with Illinois Goals and Standards in providing Fine Arts programs
602.1	Organization and Staffing of Elementary Schools	School may opt out of this policy but must have an alternate policy that complies with Illinois Certification and NCLB Highly Qualified Requirements
603.3	World Language Goals and Standards	School may opt out of this policy but must have an alternate policy that complies with Illinois Goals and Standards in providing World Language programs
604.4	Purchase and Replacement of Textbooks and Instructional Materials	School may opt out of this policy, but must have an alternate policy that complies with funding source requirements
605.1	High School Promotion Policy (if applicable)	School may opt out of this policy, but must have an alternate policy that complies with legal requirements
605.2	Elementary School Promotion Policy	School may opt out of this policy, but must have an alternate policy that complies with legal requirements
605.3	Minimum High School Graduation Requirements	School may opt out of this policy, but must have an alternate policy that complies with legal requirements
605.9	Physical Education for Students Enrolled in Grades 11 and 12	School may opt out of this policy, but have an alternate policy that complies with legal requirements
704.4	Policy and Procedures in Response to Student and Parent Reports of Incidence of Domestic Violence	School may opt out of this policy, but must have an alternate policy
706.2	Report Card Distribution	School may opt out of this policy but must have an alternate policy

D. Special Education

Austin Polytech must comply with all Board rules and policies related to the education of students with disabilities and all requirements of the consent decree in the Corey H. litigation.

E. Performance Reviews

The Board shall hold Austin Polytech accountable in all of the categories established in this plan (Student Performance, Compliance, and Special Education) through the indicators outline or referred to in this Accountability Plan.

Failure to meet any of the indicators in any of the categories constitutes grounds for Board intervention, including targeted site visits by teams of individuals with expertise in the area(s) of concern. After the site visit, the team will produce a report of their findings. The school may be required to submit to the Board a corrective action plan that addresses the area(s) of concern. The administration will respond, if necessary, in writing and set a time for a follow-up visit. If satisfactory progress as determined by the Board has not been made at the time of the follow-up visit, the team will report its findings and detail additional interventions that may be appropriate. At all times, the school remains an operating unit of the Board and nothing in the accountability plan limits the Board's authority under applicable laws.