

**ADOPT A RENAISSANCE SCHOOL PERFORMANCE PLAN FOR
AIR FORCE ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:

That the Board adopt a Renaissance School Performance Plan for the Air Force Academy High School.

HISTORY:

On October 22, 2007 the Board approved a proposal to open the Air Force Academy High School ("Air Force Academy") as a Performance School serving grades 9 through 12 (Board Reports 07-1024-EX7 & 09-0325-EX3). The Board's Renaissance Schools Policy (Board Report 07-0627-PO4) states that Performance Schools are schools designated by the Board with a Board-approved Performance Plan setting forth specific standards for academic performance and how the school will be held accountable.

PERFORMANCE PLAN DESCRIPTION:

The Air Force Academy Performance Plan ("Plan") attached as Attachment 1 outlines the operational structure and accountability requirements for Air Force Academy. The Plan includes the following key components:

<u>Duration:</u>	September 1, 2009 – August 31, 2014, unless terminated earlier or extended by the Board
<u>Grade Levels & Enrollment Projections:</u>	2009-10: 150 students in grade 9 2010-11: 300 students in grades 9, 10 2011-12: 450 students in grades 9, 10, 11 2012-13: 600 students in grades 9, 10, 11, 12 2013-14: 600 students in grades 9, 10, 11, 12
<u>Location:</u>	1301 West 14 th St., Chicago, IL 60608
<u>Curriculum:</u>	Military, Aerospace Science and Engineering, College Prep
<u>Reporting Structure:</u>	Air Force Academy will be assigned to a Chief Area Officer for oversight purposes.
<u>School Day & Calendar:</u>	Air Force Academy will follow the standard CPS 10-month calendar unless otherwise approved by the Board. At inception, Air Force Academy will employ an open campus model with a school day of 6:45 a.m. to 2:40 p.m. and minimum teacher schedule of 421 minutes per day.
<u>Finance:</u>	Air Force Academy will be funded on a per-pupil basis and will follow all CPS policies and guidelines on school budgeting, cash flow management, purchasing, payroll and audits.
<u>Board Policies & Rules:</u>	Air Force Academy will comply with all Board Policies and Rules, unless a specific exemption or modification is authorized by the Board.
<u>Academic Accountability:</u>	Air Force Academy shall be evaluated in accordance with the Board's School Performance, Remediation and Probation Policy.
<u>Evaluation:</u>	Air Force Academy shall be evaluated annually by the Chief Executive Officer or designee.

Approved:



Barbara Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer

Within Appropriation:




Pedro Martinez
Chief Financial Officer


Respectfully submitted:



Ron Huberman
Chief Executive Officer

Approved as to Legal Form: 



Patrick J. Rocks
General Counsel 

Attachment 1
PERFORMANCE PLAN FOR THE AIR FORCE ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL

1. General. The Board authorized the establishment of Air Force Academy High School ("Air Force Academy") as a Performance School. Air Force will operate under the terms of this Performance Plan ("Plan") and all applicable Board Reports related to the formation, operation and governance of Air Force.

2. Term. This Plan shall commence on September 1, 2009 and shall expire at midnight, August 31, 2014, unless, at the Board's discretion, the Plan is terminated earlier or otherwise extended.

3. School Design. Air Force Academy is designed to serve no more than 600 students in grades 9-12 and will open in Fall 2009. Air Force shall phase in grade levels as follows:

2009-10: 150 students in grade 9
2010-11: 300 students in grades 9, 10
2011-12: 450 students in grades 9, 10, 11
2012-13: 600 students in grades 9, 10, 11, 12
2013- 14: 600 students in grades 9, 10, 11, 12

4. School Calendar. At inception, Air Force Academy will employ an open campus model with a school day of 6:45 a.m. to 2:40 p.m. and minimum teacher schedule of 421 minutes per day. At inception, Air Force will follow CPS' standard 10-month academic calendar. For every academic year thereafter in which this Plan is in effect, and no later than January 1st preceding beginning the next academic year, Air Force Academy shall submit to the Chief Education Officer or designee its proposed school calendar for such academic year and the following summer session. Air Force Academy will follow the standard CPS school calendar unless an alternate calendar is approved by the Board in accordance with the established procedures applicable to all Chicago Public Schools. The school will conduct the appropriate vote(s) if 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.

5. Academic Focus and Curriculum. Air Force Academy shall operate a high quality instructional program serving the educational needs of the students enrolled. Air Force Academy shall implement a military, college prep curriculum with a theme-based focus on aerospace science and engineering.

Air Force Academy's curriculum will be aligned with college readiness standards, incorporate the ROTC course of study, and advance a theme-based focus on aerospace science and engineering. The school's curriculum development will reflect data-driven decision-making by Air Force Academy faculty with core subject areas developed by ACT, Inc. and an incorporation of Illinois Learning Standards (ILS) and CPS curriculum Course Frameworks.

Air Force Academy's college prep curriculum will prepare graduates to graduate from four-year colleges in four years. The Academy's curriculum will require students to complete four years of JROTC, as well as, a rigorous program of study based on EPAS college readiness standards, including a robust Advanced Placement program. Although a college prep curriculum is currently in place in all five Chicago military academy high schools, the Air Force Academy will focus on aerospace science and engineering, make extensive use of college step-up, and incorporate a standards-based underpinning of college readiness and foundational skills essential for postsecondary success.

Beginning as freshman and continuing through graduation cadets at Air Force Academy will be taught with an applied focus on aerospace sciences. The three-pronged integration of physics, algebra and Air Force JROTC, will enable cadets to decipher and manipulate the fundamentals of complex concepts such as aerodynamics, sounds and light radar imagining, and jet propulsion. By graduation, cadets will have completed such projects as designing model aircraft, predicting weather patterns, and proposing state/local legislation – all under the mentorship of a staff that believes in the ability of every child to succeed.

Air Force Academy will make literacy across all content areas the instructional priority. Literacy is the essence of most academic learning. In addition to Reading Workshops, and regardless of content area, Air Force Academy will place significant emphasis on literacy.

6. Accountability Plan. Air Force Academy student performance will be annually evaluated by the Chief Executive Officer or designee based on the accountability standards, criteria and indicators set out in the Board's School Performance, Remediation and Probation Policy. Air Force Academy has also identified the following individual goals for their first five years of operation and shall be reviewed annually to determine progress towards these goals:

- Year One: By the end of each student's freshman year, he/she will have achieved minimally a level 3 on the WorkKeys/KeyTrain testing
- Year Two: All sophomores will be assessed using PLAN in the fall. Sophomore cadets will achieve an average EPAS score of 18 with 80% making expected gains on this assessment. By the end of each sophomore's year, he/she will have achieved minimally a level 3 on the WorkKeys/KeyTrain testing.
- Year Three: All juniors will be assessed using PLAN in the fall. Cadets will achieve an average score of 19 with 80% making expected gains. In the Spring each junior will take the PSAE and achieve a school average of 20 on the ACT, 75% will meet or exceed ISBE composite state standards on the PSAE, and 50% of all juniors will achieve WorkKeys level 5 in both Reading for Information and Applied Mathematics.
- Year Four: All cadets will receive a Career Readiness Certificate documenting their achievements in the Foundational Skills. Seniors who participated in co-curricular ACT prep programs will be given an opportunity to re-take the ACT portion of the PSAE in the fall. All graduates will apply to three postsecondary institutions of higher learning with the primary goal of submission prior to Christmas break.
- Year Five: Air Force Academy will continue to raise these achievement levels and work on ways to improve instruction. Using the best practices and individual student data, instruction will reflect the specific needs of all students. Will a fully functional Freshman Experience in place, nearly all of the incoming freshman (96%) will be on track to graduate. Senior class mentors will be experienced advisors to their younger protégés. The Air Force Academy "Pyramid of Academic Interventions" will have had four plus years to create a culture of success and the belief that individual failure is community failure.

Air Force shall annually report to the Chief Executive Officer on their preceding year's performance towards these goals by August 1. The Board reserves the right to audit performance results in any manner that establishes the validity and integrity of the results.

Nothing in this section or this Plan shall be construed to limit or modify Air Force Academy's obligation to (1) establish a School Improvement Plan in accordance with standard CPS practices and timelines and the requirements of Illinois School Code; (2) participate fully in all required state and local testing and assessments and (3) maintain all necessary records to allow for the effective administration of the Board's school accountability system.

7. School Oversight. The Chief Executive Officer or designee shall assign a Chief Area Officer to Air Force to provide school oversight and furnish support services to Air Force Academy.

8. Compliance. Air Force Academy 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 City ordinances. Further, Air Force Academy shall fully comply with all Board rules and policies, unless a specific exemption or modification is authorized by the Board.

9. Financial Management. Air Force Academy shall comply with the Board's Internal Accounts Manual and all other Board rules and policies governing the management and accounting of funds and will follow all CPS policies and guidelines on school budgets, cash flow management, purchasing, payroll and audits.

10. Distribution of Funds. Air Force Academy shall receive funding based on per-pupil budgeting and 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.

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