

**APPROVE THE GRANTING OF A CHARTER AND ENTERING INTO A CHARTER SCHOOL AGREEMENT WITH LEGAL PREP CHARTER ACADEMIES, INC., AN ILLINOIS NOT FOR PROFIT CORPORATION****THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING DECISION:**

Approve the granting of a charter and entering into a Charter School Agreement with Legal Prep Charter Academies, Inc., for a five-year period. The Charter School Agreement is currently being negotiated. The authority granted herein shall automatically rescind in the event a written Charter School Agreement is not executed by the Board and the charter school's governing board within 120 days of the date of this Board Report. The agreement authorized herein will only take effect upon certification by the Illinois State Board of Education. Information pertinent to this agreement is stated below.

**SCHOOL OPERATOR:** Legal Prep Charter Academies, Inc.  
702 S. Lytle Street, Unit 3S  
Chicago, Illinois 60607  
Phone: 312-375-9828  
Contact: Samuel Finkelstein, Board President and School Leader

**CHARTER SCHOOL:** Legal Prep Charter Academy  
1901 West Carroll Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60612  
Phone: 312-375-9828  
Contact: Samuel Finkelstein, Board President and School Leader

**OVERSIGHT:** Office of New Schools  
125 S. Clark, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Chicago, IL 60603  
773-553-1530  
Contact Person: J. Terence Patterson, Acting Executive Officer

**DESCRIPTION:** The Charter Schools Law (105 ILCS 5/27A-1 et seq., as amended) provides that up to 70 charter schools may be operated in the city of Chicago. Proposals to operate charter schools are submitted to the Board for evaluation pursuant to the standards set forth in 105 ILCS 5/27A-8, and the Board convenes a public meeting to obtain information to assist in its decision to grant or deny each proposal and report its action to the Illinois State Board of Education. The State Board determines whether the approved charter school proposal and the proposed contract satisfy the provisions of the Charter Schools Law and, if so, certifies the charter school.

The agreement incorporates an accountability plan where the school is evaluated by the Board each year based on numerous factors related to its academic, financial and operational performance.

**CHARTER APPLICATION PROPOSAL:** The Legal Prep Charter Academy (Legal Prep) proposal was submitted by Legal Prep Charter Academies, Inc. and received by the Board in August 2010. Legal Prep's mission is to prepare Chicago's youth to succeed in college and in life. Through a rigorous curriculum and a culture of high expectations, Legal Prep will empower its students to achieve their full potential. Legal Prep will focus on the skills that all great lawyers possess: excellent written and oral communication, critical thinking, problem solving, and advocacy. These "21<sup>st</sup> century skills" will prepare students for success in any number of postsecondary paths. Legal Prep will create a structured, disciplined school culture that is conducive to student learning; maintain an intimate learning environment through small classes, advisories and parent contact; use frequent, formative assessments to guide instruction; reinforce content through an integrated curriculum that is vertically aligned; require summer school and after-school tutoring for students in need of remediation; provide campus-wide extended school days and a longer school year; offer a dynamic college counseling program that requires every student to complete a college readiness curriculum, including a postsecondary education plan; require

every student to be accepted into a college in order to graduate; require students to complete at least one hundred hours of community service prior to graduation; create a culture of peaceful dispute resolution, including peer mediation; provide an alumni network to support students during college, professional school and beyond; and actively engage the Chicago legal community to be a part of the school through a mentoring program, legal clinic and other volunteer opportunities. The school is slated to open in the fall of 2012 serving 270 students in grade 9. At capacity, the school will serve 850 students in grades 9-12. The school will be located at 1901 W. Carroll Street. A public hearing charter school submissions submitted in 2010, as required by statute, was held on December 13, 2010.

**TERM:** The term of the Legal Prep charter and agreement shall commence July 1, 2012 and end June 30, 2017.

**AUTHORIZATION:** Authorize the General Counsel to include relevant terms and conditions, including any indemnities to be provided to the charter school, in the written Charter School Agreement, which shall reflect resolution of any and all outstanding issues between the Board and the governing body of the charter school including, but not limited to: site location, enrollment, educational program, financial controls and practices, academic accountability and evaluations. Authorize the President and Secretary to execute the Charter School Agreement. Authorize the Executive Officer of the Office of New Schools to issue a letter notifying the Illinois State Board of Education of the action(s) approved hereunder and to submit the approved proposal and signed Charter School Agreement to the Illinois State Board of Education for certification.

**LSC REVIEW:** Approval of Local School Council is not applicable to this report.

**AFFIRMATIVE ACTION:** Not applicable.

**FINANCIAL:** The financial implications will be addressed during the development of the 2012-2013 fiscal year budget. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond FY12 are deemed to be contingent liabilities only, subject to appropriation in subsequent fiscal year budgets.

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:**

Inspector General - Each Party to the agreement shall acknowledge that, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-13.1, the Inspector General of the Board of Education has the authority to conduct certain investigations and that the Inspector General shall have access to all information and personnel necessary to conduct those investigations.

Conflicts - The agreement shall not be legally binding on the Board if entered into in violation of the Provisions of 105 ILCS 5/34-21.3, which restricts the employment of, or the letting of contracts to, former Board members during the one-year period following expiration or other termination of their terms of office.

Indebtedness - The Board's indebtedness Policy adopted June 26, 2006 (96-0626-P03), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

Ethics — The Board's Ethics Code adopted June 23, 2004 (04-0623-PO4), as amended from time to time shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

Approved for Consideration:

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J. Terence Patterson  
Acting Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:

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Diana S. Ferguson  
Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully submitted:

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Terry Mazany  
Chief Executive Officer

Approved as to Legal Form:

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Patrick J. Rocks  
General Counsel