

## AUTHORIZE RENEWAL OF THE YOUTH CONNECTION CHARTER SCHOOL AGREEMENT

### THE INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:

Authorize renewal of the Youth Connection Charter School Agreement (the "Charter School Agreement") for an additional five-year period. A new Charter School Agreement applicable to this renewal term will be 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 renewal is stated below.

**SCHOOL OPERATOR/ CHARTER SCHOOL:** Youth Connection Charter School (YCCS), an Illinois not-for-profit corporation  
 10 W. 35th Street, Suite 11F4-2  
 Chicago, Illinois 60616  
 (312) 328-0799  
 Contact Person: Sheila Venson, Executive Director

**OVERSIGHT:** Office of Innovation and Incubation  
 42 West Madison Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
 Chicago, IL 60602  
 Phone: 773-553-1530  
 Contact Person: Jack Elsey, Chief Innovation and Incubation Officer

**ORIGINAL AGREEMENT:** The original Charter School Agreement (authorized by Board Report 97-0723-EX9) was for a term commencing August 1, 1997 and ending June 30, 2002. The agreement authorized YCCS to operate a multiple-campus charter school serving dropouts throughout Chicago. The agreement also limited their enrollment to no more than 1850 students. YCCS is governed by a single board with uniform policies that apply to all campuses regarding admissions, curriculum, school calendar, student assessments, performance goals, student discipline and employment policies. The charter and Charter School Agreement (authorized by Board Report 02-0424-EX02) were subsequently renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2002 and ending June 30, 2007. The agreement authorized YCCS to operate a multiple campus charter school with an enrollment gradually increasing to a maximum enrollment of 3200 students in 2006-07. The charter and Charter School Agreement were further renewed (authorized by Board Report 07-0627-EX7) for a term commencing July 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2012. The charter and Charter School Agreement (authorized by Board Report 12-0328-EX14) were further renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2012 and ending June 30, 2015, serving no more than 4,004 students. The charter and Charter School Agreement were subsequently amended as follows:

- Board Report 12-0725-EX4: Approved the relocation of Charles Hamilton Houston Alternative High School to 4701 S. King Drive and the removal of the Rudy Lozano Leadership Academy from the list of YCCS Campuses. Also approved the relocation of the Innovations High School of Arts Integration to 17 N. State Street and the correction of the at capacity enrollment at each of the YCCS Campuses.
- Board Report 12-0822-EX5: Approved the establishment of a new campus called YCCS Chatham Academy opening in the fall of 2012 with an at capacity enrollment of 141 students.
- Board Report 13-0123-EX3: Approved the relocation of Charles Hamilton Houston Alternative High School to 7847 South Jeffrey Boulevard, effective January 31, 2013, and the removal of the Paul Simon Academy (Job Corps) from the list of YCCS Campuses. The 40 seats that were once allocated to the Paul Simon Academy (Job Corps) were redistributed across the following 5 YCCS Campuses: Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos Puerto Rican High School (5 seats), Community Services West-Community Christian Academy (5 seats), Innovations High School of Arts Integration (5 seats), West Town Academy Alternative High School (15 seats) and Howard Area Alternative High School (10 seats).

- Board Report 13-0724-EX4: Approved the removal of Options Laboratory School (175 seats) and the Howard Area Alternative High School (114 seats) from the list of YCCS campuses. The 289 seats that were allocated to both campuses were redistributed across the following YCCS campuses: Ada S. McKinley- Lakeside (11 seats), YCCS Chatham Academy (40 seats), Sullivan House Alternative High School (54 seats), Jane Adams (5 seats), Olive Harvey Middle College High School (5 seats), Truman Middle College High School (10 seats), YCCS Virtual High School (26 seats), Association House El Cuarto Ano (15 seats), Innovations High School of Arts Integration (37 seats), West Town Academy Alternative High School (14 seats), Austin Career Education Center (5 seats), ASPIRA - Antonia Pantoja (17 seats) and Westside Holistic Leadership Academy (50 seats). Also approved the correction of the effective date of the relocation of the Charles Hamilton Houston Alternative High School from 4701 South King Drive to 7847 South Jeffrey Boulevard from January 31, 2013 to July 1, 2013.

**CHARTER RENEWAL PROPOSAL:** Youth Connection Charter School submitted a renewal proposal on November 12, 2014 to continue the operation of a multi-campus charter school serving dropouts throughout the city under a unified mission. The charter school shall serve grades 9 through 12 with a maximum enrollment of 4,217 students.

In April 2015, Youth Connection Charter School submitted a material modification to change the location of its Charles Hamilton Houston Alternative High School Campus to 6620 S. King Drive. A public hearing on the proposed relocation was held on Thursday, May 21, 2015. The hearing was recorded and a summary report is available for review.

The agreement will incorporate an accountability plan in which the charter school is evaluated by the Board each year based on numerous factors related to its academic, financial and operational performance.

<b>Campus Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>At Capacity Grades</b>	<b>At Capacity Enrollment</b>
Community Service West- Academy of Scholastic Achievement	4651 W. Madison Street	9-12	217
Ada S. McKinley - Lakeside	2920 S. Wabash Avenue	9-12	204
ASPIRA - Antonia Pantoja	3121 N. Pulaski Avenue	9-12	182
Association House - El Cuarto Ano	1116 N. Kedzie Avenue, 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor	9-12	150
Austin Career Education Center	5352 W. Chicago Avenue	11-12	185
Community Services West - Community Christian Academy	1231 S. Pulaski Avenue	9-12	231
YCCS Chatham Academy	9035 S. Langley Avenue	9- 12	181
Charles Hamilton Houston Alternative High School	6620 S. King Drive	9-12	141
Community Youth Development Institute	7836 S. Union Street	10 -12	250

Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos Puerto Rican High School	2739 W. Division Street & 2700 W. Haddon Avenue	9-12	179
Innovations High School of Arts Integration	17 N. State Street	9-12	351
Jane Addams	1814 S. Union Street	9-12	205
Latino Youth Alternative High School	2001 S. California Avenue	9-12	193
Olive Harvey Middle College High School	10001 S. Woodlawn Avenue	9-12	189
Sullivan House Alternative High School	8164 S. South Chicago Ave.	9-12	304
Truman Middle College High School	1145 W. Wilson Avenue	9-12	210
YCCS Virtual High School	1900 W. Van Buren Street	9 -12	191
West Town Academy Alternative High School	500 N. Sacramento Blvd.	9-12	169
Westside Holistic Leadership Academy	4909 W. Division Street	9- 12	235
Youth Connection Leadership	3424 S. State Street	9-12	250

**CHARTER EVALUATION:** After receiving the charter renewal proposal, the Office of Innovation and Incubation conducted a comprehensive evaluation of Youth Connection Charter School's academic performance, financial viability, and legal and contract compliance. This evaluation included a review of the proposal, academic results, financial performance, governance documents, parental issues, facilities surveys, and special education documentation. A public hearing was held on May 20, 2015 for all charter schools going through renewals to receive public comments, including Youth Connection Charter School. The Office of Innovation and Incubation recommends that, based on the school's performance on these and other accountability criteria, Youth Connection Charter School be authorized to continue operating as a charter school.

**RENEWAL TERM:** The term of Youth Connection Charter School's charter and agreement is being extended for a five (5) year term commencing July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2020.

**ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS:** No additional terms and conditions are included as an attachment to the Charter School Agreement with Youth Connection Charter School.

**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. Authorize the President and Secretary to execute the written Charter School Agreement. Authorize the Chief Innovation and Incubation Officer 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. Authorize the General Counsel to further negotiate and execute any amendments to the Charter School Agreement required by the Illinois State Board of Education.

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

**FINANCIAL:** The financial implications will be addressed during the development of the 2015-2016 fiscal year budget. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond FY15 are deemed to be contingent liabilities only, subject to appropriation in subsequent fiscal year budgets.

Also, as a result of the proposed increase in enrollment, YCCS will receive an estimated net funding increase of \$2,172,888 in Tuition, SGSA, and facility supplement. This figure is based on FY15 rates. The actual net increase for the aforementioned funding sources, and other funding allocations, will be determined during the development of the FY16 budget.

**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.

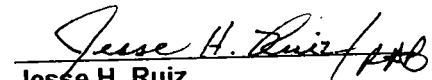
Indebtedness - The Board's Indebtedness Policy adopted June 26, 1996 (96-0626-PO3), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

Ethics - The Board's Ethics Code adopted May 25, 2011 (11-0525-PO2), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

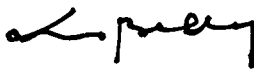
**Approved for Consideration:**

  
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**Jack Eisey**  
Chief Officer of Innovation and Incubation

**Approved:**

  
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**Jesse H. Ruiz**  
Interim Chief Executive Officer

**Approved as to Legal Form:** 

  
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**James Bebley**  
General Counsel