

**AUTHORIZE RENEWAL OF THE PLATO LEARNING ACADEMY AGREEMENT WITH CONDITIONS****THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:**

Authorize renewal of the Plato Learning Academy Agreement (the "Contract School Agreement") with conditions for an additional three-year period. A new Contract School Agreement applicable to this renewal term will be negotiated. The authority granted herein shall automatically rescind in the event a written Contract School Agreement is not executed by the Board and the school operator within 120 days of the date of this Board Report. Information pertinent to this renewal is stated below.

**SCHOOL OPERATOR:** American Quality Schools Corporation, an IL not-for-profit corporation  
1315 Butterfield Road, Suite 224  
Downers Grove, Illinois 60515  
Phone: (312) 226-3355  
Contact Person: Patricia Yadgir, Chief Administrative Officer

**CONTRACT SCHOOL:** Plato Learning Academy  
5545 W. Harrison Street  
Chicago, IL 60644  
Phone: (773) 413-3090  
Contact Person: Charles Williams, Principal

**OVERSIGHT:** Office of Innovation and Incubation  
42 W. Madison Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Chicago, IL 60602  
Phone: 773-553-1530  
Contact Person: Hal Woods, Executive Director

**ORIGINAL AGREEMENT:** The original Contract School Agreement (authorized by Board Report 07-1024-EX15) was for a term commencing July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2013, and authorized the operation of a contract school serving no more than 350 students in grades K through 6. The school was designated as a contract school pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/34-2.4b. The Contract School Agreement was subsequently renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2013 and ending June 30, 2018, serving no more than 620 students in grades K through 8 (authorized by Board Report 13-0227-EX12). The Contract School Agreement was further renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2020 (authorized by Board Report 17-1206-EX21). The Contract School Agreement was subsequently amended as follows:

- Board Report 18-0425-EX9: Authorized the consolidation of grades 5 through 8 served at the facility at 116 N. LeClaire Avenue with grades K through 4 served at the contract school's remaining facility at 5545 W. Harrison Street beginning in the fall of 2018.

**CONTRACT RENEWAL PROPOSAL:** American Quality Schools Corporation submitted a renewal proposal on July 30, 2019 to continue the operation of Plato Learning Academy as a contract school. The contract school shall continue to be located at 5545 W. Harrison Street and shall continue to serve grades K through 8 with a maximum enrollment of 620 students.

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

**CONTRACT SCHOOL EVALUATION:** After receiving the contract renewal proposal, the Office of Innovation and Incubation conducted a comprehensive evaluation of Plato Learning Academy'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 January 9, 2020 for all contract and charter schools going through renewal to receive public comments, including Plato Learning Academy.

The Office of Innovation and Incubation recommends that, based on the school's performance on these and other accountability criteria, as well as the school's demonstration of intent to satisfy the "Additional Terms and Conditions" referred to herein below, Plato Learning Academy be authorized to continue operating as a contract school.

**RENEWAL TERM:** The term of Plato Learning Academy's Contract School Agreement is being extended for a three (3) year term commencing July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2023.

**ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS:** Additional terms and conditions will be communicated to the contract school by the Chief Executive Officer or her designee in a formal Letter of Conditions and will be included as an attachment to the Contract School Agreement with American Quality Schools Corporation.

**AUTHORIZATION:** Authorize the General Counsel to include relevant terms and conditions, including any indemnities to be provided to the school operator, in the written Contract School Agreement. Authorize the President and Secretary to execute the written Contract School Agreement. Authorize the Chief Operations Officer or designee to execute any ancillary documents related to food services in connection with the operation of the school.

**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 2020-2021 fiscal year budget. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond FY20 are deemed to be contingent liabilities only, subject to appropriation in subsequent fiscal year budgets.

**PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS:** As a contract school operator, American Quality Schools Corporation will continue to employ its own principal, teachers and staff.

**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.

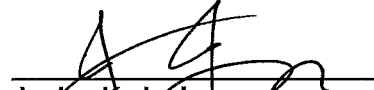
Indebtedness - The Board's Indebtedness Policy adopted June 26, 1996 (96-0626-PO3), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

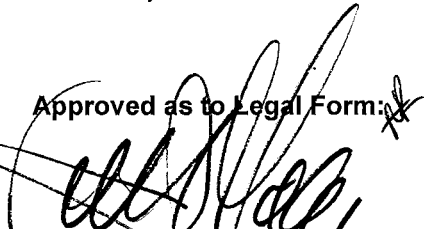
Ethics - The Board's Ethics Code adopted May 25, 2011 (11-0525-PO2), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

**Approved for Consideration:**

**Approved:**

  
Bing A. Howell  
Chief Portfolio Officer

  
Janice K. Jackson  
Chief Executive Officer

Approved as to Legal Form:   
Joseph T. Moriarty  
General Counsel