

April 25, 2024

**AMEND BOARD REPORT 22-0427-EX2  
AMEND BOARD REPORT 20-0122-EX12  
AUTHORIZE RENEWAL OF THE YOUTH CONNECTION CHARTER SCHOOL  
AGREEMENT WITH CONDITIONS**

**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:**

Authorize renewal of the Youth Connection Charter School Agreement (the "Charter School Agreement") with conditions 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 Charter School Agreement authorized herein will only take effect upon certification by the Illinois State Board of Education. Information pertinent to this renewal is stated below.

This April 2022 amendment is necessary to authorize Youth Connection Charter School to (a) consolidate the Austin Career Education Center Campus and the YCCS-West Campus into one campus to be named the YCCS-West High School Campus with an at capacity enrollment of 435 students, effective July 1, 2022. Students from the original Austin Career Education Center Campus at 5352 W. Chicago Ave. will have the priority to continue enrollment at the consolidated campus which will be located at the current independent facility for the original YCCS-West Campus located at 4909 W. Division St.; and (b) consolidate the Youth Connection Leadership Academy Campus and the Jane Addams Campus into one campus to be named the Youth Connection Leadership Academy Campus with an at capacity enrollment of 210 students, effective July 1, 2022. Students from the original Youth Connection Leadership Academy Campus at 3424 S. State St. will have the priority to continue enrollment at the consolidated campus which will be located three miles away at 1814 S. Union Ave., in the site of the original Jane Addams Campus.

The April 2024 amendment is necessary to authorize Youth Connection Charter School to (a) relocate the Youth Connection Leadership Academy currently located at 1814 S Union St. to a facility located at 5101 S Keeler Ave. with an at capacity enrollment of 165 students effective July 1, 2024. Students currently attending Youth Connection Leadership Academy will have the priority to continue enrollment at any Youth Connection Charter School campus; and (b) adopt the Greater West Town Project as the management organization of the West campus.

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

**OVERSIGHT:** ~~Office of Innovation and Incubation~~ Options Network, Office of Network Support  
~~42 W. Madison Street, 4924 S Wabash Ave 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor~~  
 Chicago, Illinois 606215  
 Phone: 773-553-4530  
 Contact Person: ~~Hal Woods, Executive Director~~  
Sean Precious, Executive Director  
Richard Smith, Chief of Options Network

**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, and authorized the operation of a multi-campus charter school serving high school dropouts throughout Chicago.

The Charter School Agreement also limited their enrollment to no more than 1,850 students for grades 9 through 12. The charter and Charter School Agreement were subsequently renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2002 and ending June 30, 2007 serving no more than 3,200 students (authorized by Board Report 02-0424-EX02). The charter and Charter School Agreement were further renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2012 (authorized by Board Report 07-0627-EX7). The charter and Charter School Agreement were then renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2012 and ending June 30, 2015 serving no more than 4,004 students (authorized by Board Report 12-0328-EX14). The charter and Charter School Agreement were further renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2020 serving no more than 4,217 students (authorized by Board Report 15-0527-EX24). The charter and Charter School Agreement were subsequently amended as follows:

- Board Report 15-0929-EX5: Ratified the voluntary suspension of educational services at the YCCS Virtual High School Campus for the 2015-2016 school year. The 191 seats that were once allocated to the YCCS Virtual High School Campus were temporarily redistributed across the following 15 campuses: Community Service West - Academy of Scholastic Achievement (20 seats), ASPIRA-Antonia Pantoja (10 seats), Association House - El Cuarto Ano (5 seats), Austin Career Education Center (10 seats), Community Services West - Community Christian Academy (10 seats), YCCS Chatham Academy (23 seats), Charles Hamilton Houston Alternative High School (10 seats), Community Youth Development Institute (10 seats), Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos Puerto Rican High School (5 seats), Innovations High School of Arts Integration (15 seats), Jane Addams (5 seats), Latino Youth Alternative High School (8 seats), Olive Harvey Middle College High School (10 seats), Sullivan House Alternative High School (30 seats) and West Town Academy Alternative High School (20 seats). The charter operator had to notify the Office of Innovation and Incubation (1&1) of its intention to reinstate its educational services at YCCS Virtual High School Campus for the 2016-2017 school year by submitting a material modification that proposes a new campus location and outlines the educational and operational practices at the campus. Also ratified the approval for Charles Hamilton Houston Alternative High School Campus to remain at its current location at 7847 S. Jeffery Boulevard until the charter operator provided 1&1 with all necessary zoning and occupancy permits and health and safety approvals for that campus to relocate to a new facility at 6620 S. King Drive.
- Board Report 16-0427-EX21: Authorized (a) the change in the name of the Association House
  - El Cuarto Ano Campus to the Association House High School Campus and (b) an extension of the suspension of the YCCS Virtual High School Campus for one additional year until the 2017-2018 school year. Also updated the location for Charles Hamilton Houston Alternative High School Campus in the board report to 6620 S. King Drive.
- Board Report 17-0828-EX9: Authorized (a) an extension of the suspension of the YCCS Virtual High School Campus for one additional year until the 2018-2019 school year, (b) the change in the name of the Charles Hamilton Houston Alternative High School Campus to the Progressive Leadership Academy Campus, (c) the change in the name of the Ada S. McKinley
  - Lakeside Campus to the McKinley Lakeside Leadership Academy Campus, and (d) the increase in the at capacity enrollment of the Westside Holistic Leadership Academy Campus by 200 students to 435 students, thereby increasing the overall at capacity enrollment of the charter school to 4,417 students beginning in the fall of 2017.
- Board Report 18-0425-EX6: Authorized (a) an extension of the suspension of the YCCS Virtual High School Campus for one additional year until the 2019-2020 school year and (b) the change in the name of the Westside Holistic Leadership Academy Campus to the West Campus.

- Board Report 19-0724-EX2: Authorized an extension of the suspension of the YCCS Virtual High School Campus for one additional year until the 2020-2021 school year.

**CHARTER RENEWAL PROPOSAL:** Youth Connection Charter School submitted a renewal proposal on July 31, 2019 to continue the operation of Youth Connection Charter School under a unified mission. The charter school shall continue to serve grades 9 through 12 with a maximum enrollment of ~~4,417~~ 3,927 students at the following locations:

On March 18, 2022, Youth Connection Charter School provided the Office of Innovation and Incubation written notice of its intent to consolidate the Austin Career Education Center Campus and the YCCS-West Campus into one campus to be named YCCS-West High School.

On March 22, 2022, Youth Connection Charter School gave the Office of Innovation and Incubation notice of its intent to consolidate the Youth Connection Leadership Academy Campus and the Jane Addams Campus into one campus to be named the Youth Connection Leadership Academy.

After the consolidation of the Austin Career Education Center Campus with the YCCS-West Campus into one campus, and the Youth Connection Leadership Academy Campus with the Jane Addams Campus into one campus, the at capacity enrollment for the charter school will decrease by 445 students to 3,972 students by the fall of 2022.

A public hearing on the proposed change was held on Tuesday, April 19, 2022. The hearing was recorded and a summary report is available for review.

On January 12, 2024, Youth Connection Charter School provided the Options Network with (a) an application outlining its intent to relocate the Youth Connection Leadership Academy; and (b) and application outlining its intent to change the management organization of the West campus from Youth Connection Charter School to Greater West Town Project.

After the relocation of Youth Connection Leadership Academy, the at capacity enrollment for Youth Connection Charter School will decrease by 45 students to a total of 3,927 by the fall of 2024.

| Campus Name   | Address                                      | At Capacity Grades | At Capacity Enrollment |
|---|--|--------------------|------------------------|
| Community Service West- Academy of Scholastic Achievement | 4651 W. Madison Street                       | 9-12               | 237                    |
| McKinley Lakeside Leadership Academy                      | 2920 S. Wabash Avenue                        | 9-12               | 204                    |
| ASPIRA-Antonia Pantoja                                    | 3121 N. Pulaski Avenue                       | 9-12               | 192                    |
| Association House High School                             | 1116 N. Kedzie Avenue, 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor | 9-12               | 155                    |
| <del>Austin Career Education Center</del>                 | <del>5352 W. Chicago Avenue</del>            | <del>11-12</del>   | <del>195</del>         |
| Community Services West - Community Christian Academy     | 1231 S. Pulaski Avenue                       | 9-12               | 241                    |

|  |  |                 |  |
|--|--|-----------------|--|
| YCCS Chatham Academy                             | 9035 S. Langley Avenue   | 9- 12           | 204  |
| Progressive Leadership Academy                   | 6620 S. King Drive   | 9-12            | 151  |
| Community Youth Development Institute            | 7836 S. Union Street   | 10 -12          | 260  |
| Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos Puerto Rican High School | 2739 W. Division Street & 2700 W. Haddon Avenue  | 9-12            | 184  |
| Innovations High School of Arts Integration      | 17 N. State Street   | 9-12            | 366  |
| <del>Jane Addams</del>                           | <del>1814 S. Union Street</del>  | <del>9-12</del> | <del>210</del>                             |
| Latino Youth Alternative High School             | 2001 S. California Avenue  | 9-12            | 201  |
| Olive Harvey Middle College High School          | 10001 S. Woodlawn Avenue   | 9-12            | 199  |
| Sullivan House Alternative High School           | 8164 S. South Chicago Ave.   | 9-12            | 334  |
| Truman Middle College High School                | 1145 W. Wilson Avenue  | 9-12            | 210  |
| West Town Academy Alternative High School        | 500 N. Sacramento Boulevard  | 9-12            | 189  |
| West   | 4909 W. Division Street  | 9- 12           | 435  |
| Youth Connection Leadership                      | <del>3424 S. State Street</del><br><del>1814 S. Union Street</del><br><u>5101 S Keeler Ave</u> | 9-12            | <del>250</del><br><u>210</u><br><u>165</u> |

Since Youth Connection Charter School has still not identified a site for the YCCS Virtual High School Campus, the Board is rescinding the authority to re-open that campus. The charter school's maximum enrollment shall remain at no more than 4,417 3,927 students.

The Charter School 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.

**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 January 9, 2020 for all contract and charter schools going through renewal 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, as well as the school's demonstration of intent to satisfy the "Additional Terms and Conditions" referred to herein below, 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 Charter School Agreement is being extended for a five (5) year term commencing July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2025.

**ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS:** Additional terms and conditions will be communicated to the charter school by the Chief Executive Officer or her designee in a formal Letter of Conditions and will be 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 Executive Director of the Office of Innovation and Incubation 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 as 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 ~~2020-2021~~ ~~2022-2023~~ 2024-2025 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~~ ~~FY22~~ FY24 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, 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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**Bogdana Chkoumbova**  
Chief Education Officer

**Approved:**

DocuSigned by:  
  
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**Pedro Martinez**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Approved as to Legal Form:**

  
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**Ruchi Verma**  
General Counsel