



# 2021-22 Charter/Contract School Renewal Recommendations

**January 2022  
Board Meeting**

# Overview of Standard Renewal Process

The school renewal process allows for a comprehensive review and evaluation of school/campus academic, financial, and operational performance over the entire agreement term.

The outcomes of this comprehensive review and evaluation process inform a final recommendation that is provided to the Chicago Board of Education for consideration. The final action determines what will occur for the school/campus at the end of its current term.

**The renewal process is evidence-based, transparent, feasible, and valuable**

## Potential Recommendations



# Adjustments made due to COVID-19

[The Charter School Quality Policy \(302.10\)](#) (CSQP) outlines the academic performance standards related to the CPS School Quality Rating Policy (SQRP) that inform the District's determinations about non-renewal and revocation of charter schools throughout the District's evaluation cycle.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, SQRP data was not collected for 2020 or 2021. Instead, schools' SQRP rating and accountability status, which was last updated in fall 2019, carried over through the 2020-21 and 2021-22 school years. Since the CSQP has explicit benchmarks tied to SQRP, schools are to be renewed on the academic, financial, and operational merits of the rest of the prior performance during their contract term.

# Renewal Evaluation Criteria

The Renewal Evaluation Team (RET), made up of content experts, objectively evaluates the evidence gathered on a school/campus using the School Renewal Rubric, and provides a renewal recommendation to I&L Leadership. School/campus specific evidence is evaluated across three renewal evaluation domains.

- **Academic Performance**
- **Financial Performance**
- **Operational Performance**

Each renewal evaluation domain has specific criteria and performance ratings, the RET uses guided focus questions and supportive evidence to analyze school's academic, financial, and operational performance.

# NEW THIS YEAR: Student Equity and Experience Measures

Based on feedback from the Board and our CEO, the SY22 review process prioritizes weighting of areas that directly reflect our district equity values and highlights the experiences students are having in schools. Specifically, measures related to the following areas have been given weight in this year's process:

- **Student Discipline,**
- **Diverse Learner Compliance, and**
- **English Learner Compliance (if applicable)**

**Outcomes in these three priority areas will affect the potential overall rating for the Operational Performance domain in the following ways:**

- Received a rating of “Does Not Meet Standards” in one (1) area → Partially Meets Standards is highest possible rating in the Operational Performance domain.
- Received a rating of “Does Not Meet Standards” in two (2) areas → Does Not Meet Standards is highest possible rating in the Operational Performance domain

# 2021-22 Renewal Recommendations



# Renewal Recommended Actions

School	Renewal Performance Category	Renewal Performance Rating	Renewal Term Length Recommendation
<b>Catalyst Maria Charter School</b> Grades K-12 1,101 students	Academic	Meets Standards (3 year SQRP average = 3.5)	<b>Three (3) Year with Conditions</b>
	Financial	Meets Standards	
	Operational	Does Not Meet Standards	
<i>Student Equity &amp; Experience Focus Areas</i>			
Student Discipline		Does Not Meet Standards	
Diverse Learners		Does Not Meet Standards	
English Learners		Meets Standards	

# Renewal Recommended Actions

School	Renewal Performance Category	Renewal Performance Rating	Renewal Term Length Recommendation	
<b>Excel Academy Southwest</b> Grades 9-12 153 students	Academic	Meets Standards (3 year SQRP average = 3.2)	<b>Three (3) Year with Conditions</b>	
	Financial	Does Not Meet Standards		
	Operational	Partially Meets Standards		
<i>Student Equity &amp; Experience Focus Areas</i>				
Student Discipline		Meets Standards		
Diverse Learners		Does Not Meet Standards		
English Learners		Not Applicable*		
<small>*The English Learner subdomain is rooted in an EL Program Audit conducted by the Office of Language and Cultural Education; schools who do not have the required EL population do not receive such review.</small>				

# Renewal Recommended Actions

School	Renewal Performance Category	Renewal Performance Rating	Renewal Term Length Recommendation
<b>Excel Academy South Shore</b> Grades 9-12 229 students	Academic	Meets Standards (3 year SQRP average = 3.2)	<b>Three (3) Year with Conditions</b>
	Financial	Does Not Meet Standards	
	Operational	Partially Meets Standards	
<i>Student Equity &amp; Experience Focus Areas</i>			
Student Discipline		Meets Standards	
Diverse Learners		Does Not Meet Standards	
English Learners		Not Applicable	
*The English Learner subdomain is rooted in an EL Program Audit conducted by the Office of Language and Cultural Education; schools who do not have the required EL population do not receive such review.			

# Renewal Recommended Actions

School	Renewal Performance Category	Renewal Performance Rating	Renewal Term Length Recommendation
<b>Legal Prep Academy</b> Grades 9-12 263 students	Academic	Meets Standards (3 year SQRP average = 3.0)	<b>Two (2) Year with Conditions</b>
	Financial	Does Not Meet Standards	
	Operational	Does Not Meet Standards	
<i>Student Equity &amp; Experience Focus Areas</i>			
Student Discipline		Does Not Meet Standards	
Diverse Learners		Does Not Meet Standards	
English Learners		Not Applicable	
*The English Learner subdomain is rooted in an EL Program Audit conducted by the Office of Language and Cultural Education; schools who do not have the required EL population do not receive such review.			

# Renewal Recommended Actions

School	Renewal Performance Category	Renewal Performance Rating	Renewal Term Length Recommendation
<b>Montessori School of Englewood</b> Grades K-8 330 Students	Academic	Needs Improvement (3 year SQRP average = 2.8)	<b>Two (2) Year with Conditions</b>
	Financial	Does Not Meet Standards	
	Operational	Partially Meets Standards	
<i>Student Equity &amp; Experience Focus Areas</i>			
Student Discipline		Meets Standards	
Diverse Learners		Does Not Meet Standards	
English Learners		Not Applicable	
*The English Learner subdomain is rooted in an EL Program Audit conducted by the Office of Language and Cultural Education; schools who do not have the required EL population do not receive such review.			

# Renewal Recommended Actions

School	Renewal Performance Category	Renewal Performance Rating	Renewal Term Length Recommendation
<b>Perspectives Charter School Network</b> Grades 6-12 1,683 Students	Academic	Meets Standards (3 year SQRP average = 3.2)	<b>Three (3) Year with Conditions</b>
	Financial	Meets Standards	
	Operational	Partially Meets Standards	
<i>Student Equity &amp; Experience Focus Areas</i>			
Student Discipline		Does Not Meet Standards	
Diverse Learners		Meets Standards	
English Learners		Not Applicable	
<small>*The English Learner subdomain is rooted in an EL Program Audit conducted by the Office of Language and Cultural Education; schools who do not have the required EL population do not receive such review.</small>			

# Renewal Recommended Actions

School	Renewal Performance Category	Renewal Performance Rating	Renewal Term Length Recommendation
<b>Polaris Charter Academy</b> Grades K-8 404 Students	Academic	Meets Standards (3 year SQRP average = 3.4)	<b>Five (5) Year with Conditions</b>
	Financial	Exceeds Standards	
	Operational	Partially Meets Standards	
<i>Student Equity &amp; Experience Focus Areas</i>			
Student Discipline		Meets Standards	
Diverse Learners		Does Not Meet Standards	
English Learners		Not Applicable	
<small>*The English Learner subdomain is rooted in an EL Program Audit conducted by the Office of Language and Cultural Education; schools who do not have the required EL population do not receive such review.</small>			