

Charter School Closure Recommendations

November 18, 2015 Board Meeting



School Closures Revocation - Process Overview

State law states that a charter "may be revoked . . . [if it fails] to meet or make reasonable progress toward achievement of the content standards or pupil performance standards identified in the charter."
105 ILCS 5/27A-9(c).

In December 2014, CPS notified six charter schools that they were failing to meet or make reasonable progress toward student achievement based on their SY14-15 SQRP rating of Level 3:

- Amandla Charter School
- Betty Shabazz – Sizemore Campus
- Betty Shabazz – Shabazz Campus
- CICS – Larry Hawkins Campus
- CICS – Lloyd Bond Campus
- Polaris Charter School



School Closures Revocation - Process Overview

Once notified, each charter school was required, by State Law, to submit a remediation plan to rectify the academic deficiencies. CPS required the schools to submit their remediation plans in January 2015.

With the release of the SY2015 – 2016 SQRP ratings and underlying data in October 2015, CPS conducted a review of each of the six schools' remediation plans to determine whether the schools had successfully implemented their plans. This review revealed that three of the schools had failed to implement their remediation plan.

The Illinois Charter Schools Law is clear that once a charter is given notice of revocation and has submitted a plan for remediation, if it is determined that the charter school has "failed to implement the plan of remediation and adhere to the timeline, then the chartering entity **shall** revoke the charter." 105 ILCS 5/27A-9(c)(4).



School Closures Proposed CEO Recommendations

Therefore, CPS is recommending revocation of the following schools:

- Amandla Charter High School
- Betty Shabazz – Barbara A. Sizemore Campus
- CICS - Larry Hawkins Campus – ***Subject to Board Vote at December 2015 Board Meeting***

Basis:

- All three schools failed to implement Remediation plans.
105 ILCS 5/27A-9(c)(4)

Consistent with Charter School Quality Policy

Timing Considerations:

- Timing allows families sufficient opportunity to find a quality school option



Recommendation Revoke Charter Agreement effective July 1, 2016

Remediation Plan Review

- Failed to reach 10 out of 15 goals identified in Remediation plan:

Metric	SY14 – 15 Goal	SY14 – 15 Actual
ES Math Growth	40	21
ES Math Attainment	8	6
EPAS Reading Growth	50	34
EPAS Math Growth	50	34
EPAS Reading Attainment	20	14
EPAS Math Attainment	20	13
ES Attendance	94	93.5
HS Attendance	92	89.2
Freshman on Track (FOT)	80	76.9
5 Essentials (5Es)	Moderately Organized	Not Yet Organized

- Documentation indicates that the plan was not comprehensively implemented beyond the design phase

Recommendation
Modify Charter Agreement to close school effective July 1, 2016

Remediation Plan Analysis

- Failed to reach 5 out of 10 goals identified in plan

Metric	SY14 – 15 Goal	SY14 – 15 Actual
Reading and Math M/E Growth Norms	65	52.6 Math: 44.4 Reading: 60.9
Math Growth	30	20
Math Growth (AA - Subgroup)	30	18
Math Attainment	10	8
Attendance	95	93.4

- The school provided incomplete documentation, including blank templates, to evidence remediation plan implementation.
 - Many documents applied to this current school year (SY15-16) not the remediation year (SY14-15)



Recommendation
Modify Charter Agreement to close school effective July 1, 2016

Remediation Plan Analysis

- Failed to reach 8 out of 16 goals identified in plan:

Metric	SY14 – 15 Goal	SY14 – 15 Actual
Reading M/E Growth Norms	60	54.8
5 Essentials (5Es)	Partially Organized	Not Yet Organized
Data Quality Index (DQI)	99	97
11 th ACT Growth	60	54
1 Year Dropout	5	11.7
College Enrollment	55	50
Freshman on Track (FOT)	90	36.1
4 Year Grad Rate	95	44.1

- Baseline data was incorrectly identified in Remediation plan in 4 cases
- Very limited documentation was provided to demonstrate that the plan was comprehensively implemented

School Closures Renewal - Process Overview

At the end of SY15-16, the Charter Agreements for the following five Charter Schools will expire:

- ACE Tech
- Bronzeville Lighthouse
- Chicago Virtual
- Kwame Nkrumah
- LEARN (seven campuses)

In Spring 2016, CPS management will present renewal recommendations to the Board for these agreements with one exception, Bronzeville Lighthouse.



School Closures Proposed CEO Recommendations

Basis for Non-Renewal:

- State law states that a charter "may be . . . not renewed . . . [if it fails] to meet or make reasonable progress toward achievement of the content standards or pupil performance standards identified in the charter." 105 ILCS 5/27A-9(c).
- Illinois State Board Education's Policy on Charter School Renewal/Revocation Decisions identifies progress on meeting student academic standards as the most important factor for renewal

Aligns with Charter School Quality Policy

Timing Considerations:

- Timing allows families opportunity to find a quality school option



School Closures Bronzeville Lighthouse Charter School

Recommendation

Non- Renewal of charter agreement effective July 1, 2016

Historical Academic Performance

- Academic Performance of school has trended downwards over the last 5 years from Level 1:
 - 2011 – 12: Level 1 (PRPP)
 - 2012- 13: Level 2 (PRPP)
 - 2013-14: Level 3 (PRPP)
 - 2014-15: Level 2 (SQRP)
 - 2015-16: Level 3(SQRP)
- School has a 2 year SQRP average of 2.0, less than the 2.5 benchmark

School Closures Transition Supports

Transition Supports

CPS has developed a cross-departmental School Transition Team that will immediately begin working with families at all impacted schools to develop a customized transition plan for each student. Additionally, CPS will:

- Coordinate with potential receiving schools and community groups to identify higher performing school options
- Provide a variety of academic and social-emotional supports to impacted students both this year and during the first-year transition
- Facilitate transition of student records
- Secure supplemental transportation assistance if necessary

