

2020-21 Charter/Contract School Renewal Recommendations

February 2021 Board Meeting



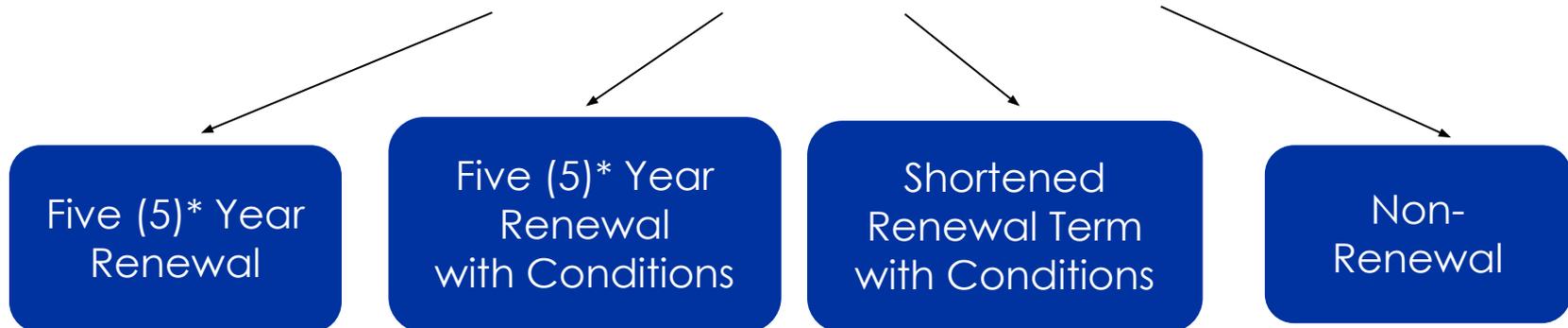
Overview of Standard Renewal Process

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



* Charter schools that exceed performance expectations may be awarded renewal terms of more than five years.



Adjustments made due to COVID

[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.

Due to no SQRP data for 2020 caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, schools SQRP rating and accountability status, which was last updated in fall 2019, will carry over through the 2020-21 school year. The CSQP has explicit benchmarks tied to SQRP, thus schools are to be renewed on the academic, financial, and operational merits of the rest of the prior performance during their contract term.



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&I 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.



Renewal Term Length Recommendation



Renewal Recommended Actions

School	Renewal Performance Category	Renewal Performance Rating	Renewal Term Length Recommendation
LEARN Charter School Network Charter Network 7 campuses Grades K-8 4,186 Students	Academic	Meets Standards	Three (3) Year with conditions
	Financial	Meets Standards	
	Operational	Partially Meets Standards	

Major Operational Challenges:

- LEARN “does not meet” standards in six operational performance sub-domains. These sub-domains are grounded in Federal and State Law, with the most glaring concern on the number of students with in-school and out-of school suspensions.
- LEARN also did not meet standards in the sub-domains of Diverse Learners, Teacher Licensure, Student Safety, and ADA compliance.
- Lastly, LEARN did not meet all conditions set forth in its current agreement with the Board.



Appendix



LEARN Operational Concerns



Operational Deficiency	Key Highlights of Concerns
Student Discipline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LEARN network has rates of exclusionary discipline that far exceed the average rate of district-run schools. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In SY19, the average out of school suspension rate across all campuses was 2.9 times greater than the district's average. ○ In SY20, the average out of school suspension rate across all campuses was 2.6 times greater than the district's average.
Diverse Learners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The LEARN campuses did not complete Individual Education Plans (IEPs) on time with sufficient documentation at a 95% timeliness rating or better on an annual basis. ● The LEARN campuses had periods of time in which Related Service Provider (RSP) minutes were not documented to match the number of minutes required by students' IEPs.
Teacher Licensure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● As a network, only 59.4% of teachers are licensed, which does not meet the 75% charter school teacher licensure requirement.
Student Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Some of the LEARN campuses did not provide sufficient evidence of conducting all required fire/safety drills.
Facilities and ADA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Based on a review done by the CPS Facilities, some of the LEARN campus buildings do not meet every ADA and other code requirements.
Agreement Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LEARN did not satisfy all of the previous contractual conditions in their current Agreement.

LEARN Conditions



Pre-Conditions

- On or before April 2, 2021, the school must provide evidence of adopting a vast majority of CPS Student Code of Conduct with LEARN's governing board approval. The revised SSC must explicitly state that K-2 students may not be assigned out-of-school suspension.
- On or before June 30, 2021, the school must participate in at least two discipline data review sessions with Chicago Public Schools.

Conditions

- On an annual basis throughout the term, leadership from each campus within the Network must attend the discipline training series published by the CPS Office of Social Emotional Learning.
- LEARN will be required to abide by their updated Student Code of Conduct shared with the CPS Office of Innovation & Incubation in February 2021 (to be formally adopted by LEARN's board as soon as practicable, and no later than their next board meeting). LEARN may not make revisions or loosen requirements of the approved policy. If CPS makes material revisions to its Student Code of Conduct, LEARN must adopt and implement those revisions.
- On an annual basis throughout the term, the campuses' exclusionary discipline rate must be at or below the 2019-2020 rate of district-run schools.
- Annually, LEARN campuses must go through the Supportive School Certification Process led by the Office of Social Emotional Learning.



Conditions, continued

- On an annual basis through the term, the school must provide a summary of discipline practices, including staff training and multi-tiered interventions and restorative strategies implemented, and an end-of-year update on the progress and results of its discipline practices, with a demonstrated reduction in ISS and OSS.
- On an annual basis throughout the term, school must demonstrate compliance with ODLSS timely completion of evaluations/IEPs and RSP service documentation.
- On an annual or more frequent basis throughout the term, school must ensure the accuracy of teachers reported as licensed in their Employee Roster by validating it with the ISBE Educator Licensure System (ELIS). School will notify staff in writing of deficiencies and pending licensure renewal deadlines, as needed. On an annual basis throughout the term, school must demonstrate compliance with the 75% teacher licensure requirement and the alternative qualification requirements in the Illinois Charter Schools Law.
- On a quarterly basis, the school must submit a facility deficiency repair plan to communicate the status of the facility and ADA issues identified in the reports generated in 2018 and 2019.



LEARN Discipline Changes



Discipline Practice Modifications

- The LEARN Network has adopted a vast majority of the language from the CPS Student Rights and Responsibilities (Student Code of Conduct) policy.
- LEARN has a strategic plan designed to emphasize the use of positive and restorative practices, while reducing the use of restrictive responses to behavioral infractions.
- If the average suspension rate for any school or the network is at or above the CPS average, LEARN's Board Chair, CEO and Academic Achievement Committee Chair will receive immediate notification and Principal(s) must submit a remediation plan, within 3 days, to reduce the suspension rate.
- Similar to the district, LEARN will implement a discipline referral process that includes a consequence hierarchy and menu of interventions; systems of accountability and support will be implemented to ensure this process is implemented with 100% fidelity.
- Leaders from each of the LEARN campuses will participate in the annual cadence of trainings designated by the Office of Social and Emotional Learning.



Academic Performance Criteria



Renewal Evaluation Criteria

Academic Performance

Rating	Replicating Network Criteria	Single Site and Non-Replicating Criteria
Exceeds Standards	All campuses meet minimum standards for renewal and network maintains a 3-year SQRP average of 3.7 or greater.	The school meets minimum standards for renewal and maintains a 3-year SQRP average of 3.7 or greater.
Meets Standards	Any network that does not meet the criteria for "Exceeds Expectations" that maintains a 3-year SQRP average of 3.0 or greater.	The school meets minimum standards for renewal and maintains a 3-year SQRP average from 3.0 to 3.6.
Needs Improvement	Any network that does not meet the criteria for "Meets Standards" that maintains a 3-year SQRP average of 2.5 or greater and has at least one campus that meets standards for renewal.	The school meets minimum standards for renewal and maintains a 3-year SQRP average of 2.9 or below.
Failing to Meet Standards or Make Reasonable Progress	Any school that does not meet the minimum standards for renewal.	The school does not meet the minimum standards for renewal.

Standards for renewal are typically derived from the non-renewal thresholds outlined by the Charter School Quality Policy. As schools received an Inability to Rate SY21 SQRP rating, Academic performance is assessed utilizing 3-year SQRP averages.

Financial Performance Criteria



Renewal Evaluation Criteria

Financial Performance

Financial performance will be assessed based on six indicators of financial performance identified in the renewal rubric and your School Agreement.

Four of the six indicators will be considered “**Key Indicators**”: Change in Net Assets, Current Ratio, Net Asset Ratio, and Cash on Hand Ratio. Loan Delinquency and Annual Audit are also considered.

Rating	Contractual Criteria
Exceeds Standards	Received an “Exceeds Standards” rating on at least three of the four Key Indicators in each of the last two fiscal years, and received no less than a “Meets Standards” rating on any of its indicators in each of the last two fiscal years.
Meets Standards	Any school or network that does not meet the criteria for “Exceeds Standards”, but received a “Meets Standards” rating or higher on at least three of the four Key Indicators in each of the last two fiscal years.
Does Not Meet Standards	Received a “Does Not Meet Standards” rating on two or more Key Indicators in either of the last two fiscal years.



Operational Performance Criteria



Renewal Evaluation Criteria

Operational Performance

<u>Overall Operational Performance</u>	
Rating	Criteria
Meets Standards	Receives a rating of Does Not Meet Standards on 3 or less of the subdomains
Partially Meets Standards	Receives a rating of Does Not Meet Standards on 4 of the subdomains
Does Not Meet Standards	Receives a rating of Does Not Meet Standards on 5 or more of the subdomains

13 Operational Sub-categories

1. Legal Compliance
2. Governance
3. Diverse Learners
4. English Learners
5. Students in Temporary Living Situations
6. Parent Issues Review
7. Student Admission and Enrollment
8. Teacher Licensure
9. Student Transportation
10. Student Discipline
11. Student Safety
12. Facilities and ADA
13. Agreement Conditions

