



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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Enclosure 7d1
 September 8, 2014

Deborah A. Gist
 Commissioner

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TO: Council on Elementary and Secondary Education

FROM: Deborah A. Gist, Commissioner 

RE: Renewal of The Greene School

The Greene School (Greene), located in West Greenwich, opened in the 2010 – 11 school year and is currently undergoing its first renewal process. The school serves 166 students in grades 9 – 12 from 23 cities and towns across Rhode Island in accordance with the school’s statewide catchment area. The school’s current charter term expires at the conclusion of the 2014-2015 school year.

In accordance with the Rhode Island Board of Regents’ Regulations Governing Public Charter Schools C-4-3, the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) coordinated the process of evaluating Greene’s performance during this charter term to determine the merits of the charter. Continuation of Greene’s charter is dependent upon the Commissioner’s recommendation and subsequent approval of that recommendation by the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW PROCESS SUMMARY

In order to support the Commissioner’s renewal recommendation to the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education, the Office of Charter Schools conducts a review of the school’s performance based on the three following core questions:

- 1) Is the school’s educational program an academic success?
- 2) Is the school providing the appropriate conditions for academic success?
- 3) Is the school a viable organization?

The **first** question of the review considers relevant student outcome measures using the most generalizable data available. Those measures include Mathematics and Reading NECAP performance, IDEA SPP indicators, ESEA waiver requirements, and, if applicable, student-level growth and ACCESS proficiency.

The **second** question of the review considers implementation relative to the standards set forth in the Board of Regents Basic Education Program (BEP), including and in addition to instructional leadership, classroom instruction, and curriculum development. Evidence for this portion of the review is gathered through a three-day site visit accompanied by a document review.

The **third** question of the review considers organizational viability, including parent/guardian satisfaction, student attendance and whether or not a school is using public funds responsibly. RIDE staff review the school's financial audits over the course of the charter term as well as other relevant documentation on the school's compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements.

The school completed a Renewal Application. This application provides the school an opportunity to:

- 1) Present any important new or supplemental information pertaining to the above guiding questions, to enable a more comprehensive assessment of school performance; and
- 2) Articulate the school's strategies and capacities for sustaining success and continuing to improve over the next charter term.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW RESULTS SUMMARY

- ❖ **The Greene School demonstrated academic success during the charter term.** Greene has matched or improved the percentage of students demonstrating proficiency during the course of the charter term. The school has maintained at or above the typical performance of the sending district and similar schools, except math performance compared with similar schools where Greene has sustained a below typical performance rating. Greene earned a "Leading" school classification in the two years that it has received a report card.
- ❖ **The Greene School has provided the appropriate conditions for academic success over the course of the charter term.** Greene met each sub-standard by demonstrating either substantial development or progress in all indicator areas. In particular, the school has a fully documented and aligned curriculum and established a safe and supportive learning environment.
- ❖ **The Greene School has demonstrated that it is a viable organization.** The school has received an unqualified opinion by the private accounting firm that conducted the school audit for each year of operations and has sustained financial health. The school has remained compliant with federal and state requirements and maintained high levels of parent satisfaction.

RECOMMENDATION: THAT, the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education moves to renew the charter of The Greene School for a term of up to five (5) years, to operate in accordance with and comply with the condition set forth in this recommendation from July 1, 2015 to June 30th, 2020, as presented.

This renewal is subject to the following condition being met by or before July 1, 2015:

1. The Greene School must meet the financial standards as set forth in Standard 3.1 of the Rhode Island Charter School Performance Framework.

This condition shall be removed upon a review of evidence indicating the condition has been met.

Attachment 1

1 IS THE SCHOOL'S EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM AN ACADEMIC SUCCESS?			2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
1.1	Is the school making measurable gains in math and ELA NECAP Performance? - Model I	Math		Typical	Typical
		Reading		Above	Typical
1.2	Is the school outperforming its students' sending districts as measured by NECAP?	Math	Typical	Typical	Typical
		Reading	Above	Above	Typical
1.3	Is the school outperforming demographically similar schools as measured by NECAP?	Math	Below	Below	Below
		Reading	Above	Above	Above
1.4	Is the school's student-level growth percentile higher than the state's median (elementary and middle school only)?	Math	Growth is not calculated for Rhode Island high schools.		
		Reading			
1.5	Are students with Limited English Proficiency making typical growth in English fluency as measured by ACCESS?	Fewer than 30 students identified as ELL.			
1.6	Is the school meeting its mission-specific educational goals?	No MSG established during the term.			
				2013 Report Card	2014 Report Card
1.7	Is the school meeting federally required academic performance targets?			Leading	Leading

Sending District = A weighted average of a school's sending district(s)' proficiency levels. The Greene School draws students from across the state.

Similar Schools = An estimate of the proficiency level of Rhode Island schools with similar numbers of ELL, SPED, and FRPL students as The Greene School.