



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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Enclosure 7d3
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 NEL-CPS Career and Construction Academy**

The New England Laborers' - Cranston Public Schools Construction and Career Academy Charter School (C&CA) is a district charter school located in Cranston that opened in 2002. C&CA serves 141 students in grades 9 - 12 from 15 Rhode Island cities and towns. 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 C&CA's performance during this charter term to determine the merits of the charter. Continuation of C&CA'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 Construction and Career Academy demonstrated progress improving the academic success of its students during the charter term.** Although the school has sustained below typical performance in mathematics relative to its sending districts and demographically similar schools, C&CA has matched or improved the percentage of students demonstrating proficiency in mathematics and reading during the course of the charter term. The Construction and Career Academy received a "Warning" school classification on the 2013 school report card and "Focus" school classification on the 2014 school report card.
- ❖ **The Construction and Career Academy demonstrated progress improving the conditions for academic success during the course of the charter term.** The school has made substantial progress implementing practices essential to leading the focus on teaching and learning. However, the school's systems for analyzing data, reviewing curriculum, and engaging the community are in development. Furthermore, the systems for academic supports and interventions are also in development.
- ❖ **The Construction and Career Academy has demonstrated that it is a viable organization.** The school has remained compliant with federal and state requirements and maintained high levels of parent satisfaction. The school has received an unqualified opinion by a private accounting firm for each year of operations and sustained financial health in all but one indicator.

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

This renewal is subject to the following conditions being met by or before December 15, 2014:

1. NEL-CPS Career and Construction Academy leadership must establish practices for student performance data collection and analysis as set forth in Standard 2.1.b.3.
2. NEL-CPS Career and Construction Academy leadership must establish practices for fiscal oversight as set forth in Standard 2.1.b.8

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

1. NEL-CPS Career and Construction Academy Board of Directors must articulate an agreement for services provided by the Cranston Public Schools as set forth in RIGL § 16-77.2-2(8).

These conditions shall be removed upon a review of evidence indicating the conditions have been met.

Attachment 1

| 1 IS THE SCHOOL'S EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM AN ACADEMIC SUCCESS? | | 2012-2013 | 2013-2014 | |
|---|---|---|---|----------------|
| 1.1 | Is the school making measurable gains in math and ELA NECAP Performance? - Model I | Math | Typical | Typical |
| | | Reading | Typical | Typical |
| Progress toward targets at this point in the term. | | | | |
| 1.2 | Is the school making measurable gains in math and ELA NECAP Performance? - Model II | Math | Typical | |
| | | Reading | Above | |
| 1.3 | Is the school outperforming its students' sending districts as measured by NECAP? | Math | Below | Below |
| | | Reading | Below | Typical |
| 1.4 | Is the school outperforming demographically similar schools as measured by NECAP? | Math | Below | Below |
| | | Reading | Below | Above |
| 1.5 | 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 | | |
| 1.6 | Are students with Limited English Proficiency making typical growth in English fluency as measured by ACCESS? | Fewer than 30 students identified as ELL. | | |
| 1.7 | 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? | Warning | Focus | |

Sending District = A weighted average of a school's sending district(s)' proficiency levels. NEL-CPS Career and Construction Academy 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 NEL-CPS Career and Construction Academy.