

November 4, 2025

AMEND BOARD REPORT 24-0125-EX4**AUTHORIZE THE RENEWAL OF THE CHICAGO HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS AGREEMENT WITH CONDITIONS****THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:**

Authorize renewal of The Chicago High School for the Arts Agreement (the "Contract School Agreement") with conditions for an additional two-year period. A new Contract School Agreement applicable to this renewal term will be negotiated. The authority granted herein shall automatically rescind in the event a written Contract School Agreement is not executed by the Board and the school operator within 120 days of the date of this Board Report. Information pertinent to this renewal is stated below.

This October 2025 amendment is necessary to authorize the termination of the existing Contract School Agreement with The Chicago High School of the Arts at the end of the 2025-2026 school year by mutual consent of the parties. The Chicago High School of the Arts provided notice to the Office of Innovation and Incubation in September 2025 of its intent to not submit a renewal application to extend its Contract School Agreement at the end of the 2025-2026 school year. The Chicago High School of the Arts shall wind down and cease operations of its contract school effective as of July 1, 2026.

SCHOOL OPERATOR: The Chicago High School for the Arts
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Chicago, IL 60622
Phone: 773-534-9710
Contact Person: Tina Boyer Brown, Executive Director

CONTRACT SCHOOL: The Chicago High School for the Arts
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Chicago, IL 60622
Phone: 773-534-9710
Contact Person: Nestor Corona, Principal

OVERSIGHT: Office of Innovation and Incubation
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Phone: 773-553-1530
Contact Person: Zabrina M. Evans, Executive Director

ORIGINAL AGREEMENT: The original Contract School Agreement (authorized by Board Report 07-1024-EX12) was for a term commencing July 1, 2009, and ending June 30, 2014, and authorized the operation of a contract school serving no more than 600 students in grades 9 through 12. The school was designated as a contract school pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/34-2.4b. The Contract School Agreement was subsequently renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2014, and ending June 30, 2019 (authorized by Board Report 14-0226-EX11). The Contract School Agreement was subsequently renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2019, and ending June 30, 2024, and serving no more than 640 students (authorized by Board Report 19-0123-EX10).

CONTRACT RENEWAL PROPOSAL: The Chicago High School for the Arts submitted a renewal proposal on July 18, 2023, to continue the operation of The Chicago High School for the Arts ("ChiArts") as a contract school. The contract school shall continue to be located at 2714 W. Augusta Boulevard and shall continue to serve grades 9 through 12 with a maximum enrollment of 640 students.

The agreement will incorporate an accountability plan in which the contract school is evaluated by the

Board each year based on numerous factors related to its academic, financial, and operational performance.

On August 25, 2025, the Chicago High School for the Arts provided written notice of its intent not to submit a renewal application to extend its Contract School Agreement at the end of the 2025-2026 school year. In October 2025, the Chicago High School of the Arts notified all families of its intent to cease operations at the end of this school year.

The Office of Portfolio Management recommends accepting the Chicago High School of the Arts' decision not to submit a renewal application and to cease operations at the end of the 2025-2026 school year, by mutual consent of the parties. The Chicago High School of the Arts shall wind down and cease operations of the contract school effective July 1, 2026.

CONTRACT SCHOOL EVALUATION: After receiving the contract renewal proposal, the Office of Innovation and Incubation conducted a comprehensive evaluation of ChiArts' academic performance, financial viability, and legal and contract compliance. This evaluation included a review of the proposal, academic results, financial performance, governance documents, parental issues, facilities surveys, and special education documentation. A public hearing was held on January 9, 2024, for all contract and charter schools going through renewals to receive public comments, including ChiArts. The Office of Innovation and Incubation recommends that, based on the school's performance on these and other accountability criteria, as well as the school's demonstration of intent to satisfy the "Additional Terms and Conditions" referred to herein below, ChiArts be authorized to continue operating as a contract school.

RENEWAL TERM: The term of ChiArts' agreement is being extended for a two (2) year term commencing July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2026.

ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS: The following preconditions shall be required before the Board of Education of the City of Chicago enters into an agreement with The Chicago High School for the Arts:

- On or before June 30, 2024, the school must submit a complaint policy regarding its Students in Temporary Living Situations.
- On or before June 30, 2024, the school must update its website to list the process for addressing parent and community concerns.

The following conditions shall be incorporated into the Charter Agreement between the Board of Education of the City of Chicago and The Chicago High School for the Arts:

- On an annual basis throughout the term, the organization must receive a rating of "Meets Standards" or higher on the Document Timeliness indicator on the Financial and Compliance Scorecard generated by CPS.
- The school must demonstrate progress toward implementing the Recommendations codified in the Special Education Renewal Site Visit Report by the Office of Diverse Learner Supports and Services (ODLSS).
- On an annual basis throughout the term, all applicable campuses must meet state and federal rules governing English Learners as demonstrated by a rating of Partial or higher on formal compliance reports from the Office of Language and Cultural Education (OLCE). Chicago Public Schools has designated OLCE to conduct school visits and determine school compliance with state and federal rules regarding English Learner programs.
- On an annual basis throughout the term, all staff must complete the required CPS Title IX (Protecting Chicago's Children or equivalent) training in SafeSchools.

AUTHORIZATION: Authorize the General Counsel to include relevant terms and conditions, including

any indemnities to be provided to the school operator, in the written Contract School Agreement. Authorize the President and Secretary to execute the written Contract School Agreement. Authorize the Chief Operations Officer to execute any ancillary documents related to food services in connection with the operation of the school. Authorize the Chief Portfolio Officer of the Office of Portfolio Management to issue a letter notifying the Illinois State Board of Education of The Chicago High School of the Arts' decision not to apply to renew its Contract Agreement, and any other information as may be necessary due to the cessation of operations of the contract school.

LSC REVIEW: Approval of the Local School Council is not applicable to this report.

FINANCIAL: The financial implications will be addressed during the 2024-2025 fiscal year budget development. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond FY24 are deemed to be contingent liabilities only, subject to appropriation in subsequent fiscal year budgets.

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS: As a contract school operator, The Chicago High School for the Arts will continue to employ its own principal, teachers, and staff.

GENERAL CONDITIONS:


Inspector General - Each party to the agreement shall acknowledge that, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-13.1, the Inspector General of the Board of Education has the authority to conduct certain investigations and that the Inspector General shall have access to all information and personnel necessary to conduct those investigations.

Conflicts - The agreement shall not be legally binding on the Board if entered into in violation of the Provisions of 105 ILCS 5/34-21.3, which restricts the employment of, or the letting of contracts to, former Board members during the one-year period following expiration or other termination of their terms of office.


Indebtedness - The Board's Indebtedness Policy adopted June 26, 1996 (96-0626-PO3), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

Ethics - The Board's Ethics Code adopted May 25, 2011 (11-0525-PO2), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.


Approved for Consideration:

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Alfonso Carmona
Acting Chief Education Officer

Approved:

Signed by:

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Macquline King, Ed.D
Interim Superintendent/Chief Executive Officer

Approved as to Legal Form: 

Signed by:

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Elizabeth K. Barton
Acting General Counsel