

May 28, 2026

**AUTHORIZE RENEWAL OF THE INTRINSIC CHARTER SCHOOL AGREEMENT WITH CONDITIONS****THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:**

Authorize renewal of the Intrinsic Charter School Agreement (the "Charter School Agreement") with conditions for an additional four-year period and approve the use of their annex located at 3254 N Kilbourn. A new Charter School Agreement applicable to this renewal term will be negotiated. The authority granted herein shall automatically rescind in the event a written Charter School Agreement is not executed by the Board and the charter school's governing board within 120 days of the date of this Board Report. The agreement authorized herein will only take effect upon certification by the Illinois State Board of Education. The Renewal and any related contracts must be executed by the current contract's expiration date in order for First Quarter funding to be released for the new contract term. Information pertinent to this renewal is stated below.

**SCHOOL OPERATOR:** Intrinsic Schools, an IL not-for-profit corporation  
4540 W. Belmont Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60641  
Phone: 847-544-4700  
Contact: Jim Frank, Board Chair

**CHARTER SCHOOL:** Intrinsic Charter School  
4540 W. Belmont Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60641  
Phone: 312-384-9903  
Contact: Melissa Zaikos, Chief Executive Officer

**OVERSIGHT:** Office of Innovation and Incubation  
42 W. Madison Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Chicago, IL 60602  
Phone: 773-553-1530  
Contact Person: Acting Chief Portfolio Officer, Conrad Timbers

**ORIGINAL AGREEMENT:** The original Charter School Agreement (authorized by Board Report 13-0424-EX16) was for a term commencing July 1, 2013 and ending June 30, 2018 and authorized the operation of a charter school serving no more than 1,000 students in grade 7 through 12. The charter and Charter School Agreement were further renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2023 (authorized by Board Report 17-1206-EX14). The charter and Charter School Agreement were subsequently renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2026 (authorized by Board Report 23-0125-EX12).

**CHARTER RENEWAL PROPOSAL:** Intrinsic Schools submitted a renewal proposal on September 30, 2025 to continue the operation of Intrinsic Charter School. Intrinsic Schools also submitted an Application for Amendment on February 6, 2026 to request approval for use of their annex located at 3254 N Kilbourn. The charter school shall continue to be located at 4540 W. Belmont Avenue and shall continue to serve grades 7 through 12 with a maximum enrollment of 1,000 students.

The agreement will incorporate an accountability plan in which the charter school is evaluated by the Board each year based on numerous factors related to its academic, financial and operational performance.

**CHARTER EVALUATION:** After receiving the charter renewal proposal, the Office of Innovation and Incubation conducted a comprehensive evaluation of Intrinsic Charter School's 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 8, 2026 for all charter schools going through renewal to receive public comments, including Intrinsic Charter School. 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, Intrinsic Charter School be authorized to continue operating as a charter school.

**RENEWAL TERM:** The term of Intrinsic Charter School's charter and agreement is being extended for a four (4) year term commencing July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2030.

**ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS:** The following conditions shall be incorporated into the Charter Agreement between the Board of Education of the City of Chicago and Intrinsic Schools:

- By July 1st, 2026, and annually throughout the term, no one person shall hold a directorship and an executive position or other position with substantial financial decision-making authority.
- The school must demonstrate progress toward implementing the Recommendations codified in the Special Education Renewal Site Visit Report by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD).
- On an annual basis throughout the term, the school 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 Multilingual-Multicultural Education (OMME). Chicago Public Schools has designated OMME to conduct school visits and determine school compliance with state and federal rules regarding English Learner programs.
- On an annual basis throughout the term, the network 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 or more frequent basis throughout the term, the school must ensure the accuracy of teachers reported as licensed in the Employee Roster by validating it with the ISBE Educator Licensure Information System (ELIS). The school will notify staff in writing of deficiencies and pending licensure renewal deadlines, as needed. On an annual basis throughout the term, the school must demonstrate compliance with the requirement of 75% teacher licensure.
- On a bi-annual basis throughout the term, the school must submit a facility deficiency repair plan to communicate the status of the facility and ADA issues identified in the Facilities Assessment Report.


**AUTHORIZATION:** Authorize the General Counsel to include relevant terms and conditions, including any indemnities to be provided to the charter school, in the written Charter School Agreement. Authorize the President and Secretary to execute the written Charter School Agreement. Authorize the Executive Director of the Office of Innovation and Incubation to issue a letter notifying the Illinois State Board of Education of the action(s) approved hereunder and to submit the approved proposal and signed Charter School Agreement to the Illinois State Board of Education for certification. Authorize the General Counsel to further negotiate and execute any amendments to the Charter School Agreement as required by the Illinois State Board of Education.

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


**FINANCIAL:** The financial implications will be addressed during the development of the 2026-2027 fiscal year budget. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond FY26 are deemed to be contingent liabilities only, subject to appropriation in subsequent fiscal year budgets.

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** The agreement shall contain general conditions including but not limited to the following: Inspector General provision, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-13.1; Conflicts provision, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-21.3; Indebtedness provision, in accordance with the Board's Indebtedness Policy Section 404.2; Ethics provision, in accordance with the Board's Ethics Code as amended, and a Contingent Liability provision.


**Approved for Consideration:**

Signed by:  
  
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**Conrad Timbers-Ausar**  
Acting Chief Portfolio Officer

**Approved:**

Signed by:  
  
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**Macquiline King, Ed.D**  
Superintendent/Chief Executive Officer

Approved as to Legal Form: 

Signed by:  
  
974F0DEB7385497...  
**Elizabeth K. Barton**  
General Counsel