

2020-21 Charter/Contract School Renewal Recommendations

January 2021 Board Meeting



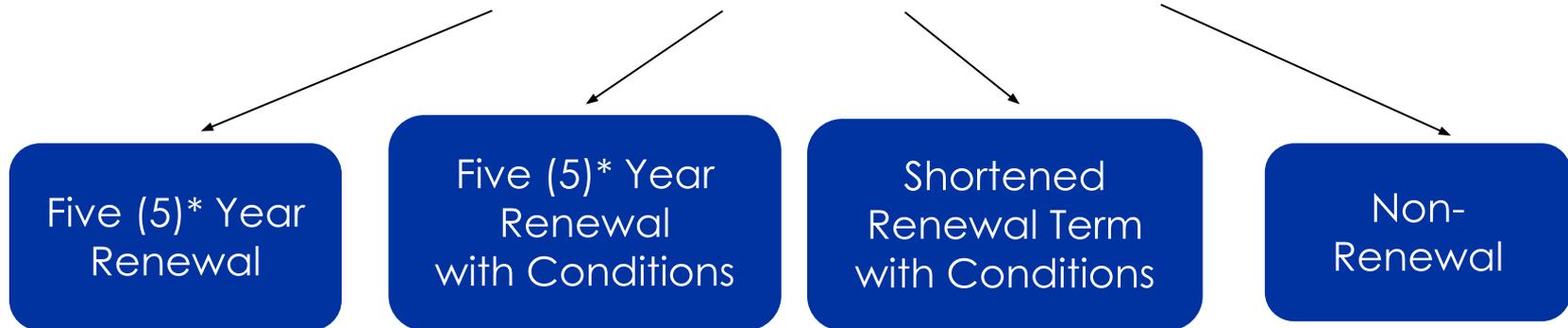
Overview of Standard Renewal Process

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.

Given the difficulties of the pandemic and its impact, alternatives to non-renewal decisions based on poor performance are being considered, as in the case of the Urban Prep - Englewood recommendation.



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 Recommendations



Renewal Recommended Actions

School	Renewal Performance Category	Renewal Performance Rating	Renewal Term Length Recommendation
Alain Locke Charter School¹ Grades K-8 443 Students	Academic	Meets Standards (3Y SQRP avg: 3.0)	Five (5) Year with Conditions
	Financial	Exceeds Standards	
	Operational	Meets Standards	

¹Alain Locke is the only charter school that has a unique accountability framework per their contractual accountability plan, which outlines criteria for renewal that differ than the standard used for all other charter and contract schools. Above performance ratings is the school's performance under the common accountability framework and criteria.



Renewal Recommended Actions

School	Renewal Performance Category	Renewal Performance Rating	Renewal Term Length Recommendation
Little Black Pearl Art & Design Academy Options School Grades 9-12 120 Students	Academic	Meets Standards (3Y SQRP avg: 3.5)	Two (2) Year with Conditions
	Financial	Does Not Meet Standards	
	Operational	Does Not Meet Standards	



Renewal Recommended Actions

School	Renewal Performance Category	Renewal Performance Rating	Renewal Term Length Recommendation
Urban Prep Academy for Young Men - Englewood Grades 9-12 216 Students	Academic	Needs Improvement (3Y SQRP avg: 2.8)	One (1) Year Renewal with Contractual Performance Benchmarks and Conditions¹
	Financial	Does Not Meet Standards	
	Operational	Does Not Meet Standards	

¹ A one (1) year term is being recommended with specific, incremental, and bright line Academic, Financial, and Operational performance benchmarks for Urban Prep to attain throughout the life of the contract. These performance benchmarks will be strictly construed (no leniency, no interpretation). *Urban Prep must meet each and every performance benchmark in their entirety.* Failure of any benchmark on or prior to those set for November 1, 2021 results in a non-renewal of the one year term, and the school will wind-down by June 30, 2022.



Appendix



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



Urban Prep - Englewood Performance Benchmarks



Urban Prep Academic Performance Benchmarks

Urban Prep must perform ALL action steps for improvement set forth in their Academic Remediation Plan (and provide evidence of doing so), provide progress data and updates on self-identified quantitative goals and strategies, adhere to SY22 timelines and activities within the academic remediation process. I&I will monitor all remediation activities and provide feedback on a quarterly basis.

UP - Englewood will be required to submit another Academic Remediation Plan for SY22. For reference, benchmarks for SY22 are as follows:

- By September 1, 2021, Urban Prep Englewood must submit an SY22 board approved Academic Remediation Plan with measurable benchmarks and deliverables to I&I.
- By January 30, 2022, Urban Prep Englewood must have an on-track status for all benchmarks and submitted all deliverables enumerated in its Academic Remediation Plan. Deliverables must provide clear evidence of the full implementation of such plan.
- By June 30, 2022, Urban Prep Englewood must have met all benchmarks and submitted all deliverables enumerated in its Academic Remediation Plan. Deliverables must provide clear evidence of the full implementation of such plan.



Urban Prep Financial Performance Benchmarks

Urban Prep has been in financial remediation for the last 5 years and has been required to submit Financial Corrective Action Plans (FCAPs). The Financial Corrective Action Plan process provides a five-year timeline for schools to improve Key Indicators that are failing to meet financial standards.

If a school's financial situation is severe enough that it impacts the education of students, if the school is not successful in implementing its Financial Corrective Action Plan, or if the school remains in Financial Remediation for more than half of the duration of its Agreement, these factors may be considered in non-renewal or revocation decisions.

- On a **monthly** basis, Urban Prep must submit cash flow statements that reflect a positive balance and the activities of the entire organization.
- By **July 1, 2021**, the school must submit an updated FY22 Financial Corrective Action Plan with action steps reflecting the activities of the entire organization. The plan must be updated reflecting a status of “on-track” by November 1, 2021.
- By **November 1, 2021**, Urban Prep must submit the FY21 Finance and Compliance Audit along with the SPED Breakdown, Board Affidavit, Loan Timeliness Form, and the Financial and Compliance Scorecard Template.
- By **June 30, 2022**, Urban Prep must meet two (2) of the four (4) financial Key Indicators as defined in the Accountability Plan.



Urban Prep Operational Performance Benchmarks

- Meeting all criteria in the School Governance Corrective Action Plan by July 1, 2021.
- **Curing Open Meetings Act Violations:**
 - Consistently complying with Open Meetings Act: Posting meeting schedules, public access to meeting; agendas, complete and properly-formatted Board meeting minutes
 - Providing backdated meeting minutes for all FY20 meetings held
 - Systematic benchmarks throughout the term of the contract to ensure compliance.
- **Meeting Special Education Requirements:**
 - The school must be in compliance with all special education requirements dictated by the Agreement and ODLSS. This includes, but is not limited to, ensuring that IEPs are up to date, all service minutes have been provided, and all service capture minutes and SPED minutes have been entered into SSM.
- **SPED and OMA Compliance Checks must be uniformly met on a frequent basis. Assessments taken:**
 - July 1, 2021
 - August 1, 2021
 - September 1, 2021
 - October 1, 2021
 - November 1, 2021
 - January 30, 2022
 - April 9, 2022
 - June 30, 2022
- **Improving Timeliness Submission Benchmarks:**
 - By **July 1, 2021**, the organization must receive a Document Timeliness rate of at least 50% for all compliance requirements requested in FY21.
 - By **June 30, 2022**, the organization must receive a Document Timeliness rate of at least 80% for all compliance requirements requested in FY22.



Urban Prep Englewood Renewal Approach



Urban Prep Contractual Performance Summary

Urban Prep has a track record of academic, financial, and operational issues that raise significant concerns about whether all students are being adequately served.

We propose a different standard of evaluation for Urban Prep. Urban Prep's failure to meet express academic, financial, and operational benchmarks defined below will expressly be considered a material violation of their contract. In their contract, and as discussed with Urban Prep, failure to meet any benchmark during defined periods in the contract will enable CPS to render a non-renewal decision of the one-year agreement, causing the closure of Urban Prep - Englewood on June 30, 2022.

We recommend a one (1) year term with specific, incremental, and bright line Academic, Financial, and Operational performance benchmarks for Urban Prep to attain throughout the life of the contract. These performance benchmarks will be strictly construed (no leniency, no interpretation).

*Urban Prep must meet **each and every performance benchmark in its entirety**. Failure at any point between July 1 and November 1, 2021 results in a non-renewal decision of the one-year term.*

This is a departure from standard charter renewals, where renewal conditions built into contracts are assessed as part of the overall operational performance of the school.



Traditional Renewal Conditions vs. Urban Prep Plan

	<u>Traditional Renewal Conditions</u>	<u>Urban Prep Plan</u>
When Assessed	Performance on assigned conditions assessed <u>at the end</u> of the contract term.	Performance on benchmarks assessed <u>throughout</u> the contract term.
How Assessed	Performance on assigned conditions graded <u>as part of overall Operational metrics</u> ; considered a factor during renewal for next contract term.	Performance on assigned benchmarks assessed independently to <u>determine whether Urban Prep will continue to operate</u> or close by the end of the contract term.
Scope	Often used to bring attention and support to <u>one or a few areas of focus</u> for improvement.	Benchmarks exist <u>across all areas</u> - academic, financial, and operational - to bring school into compliance to serve students adequately.
Consequences	No specific contractual language on consequences for failure to meet conditions; failure to meet conditions is assessed during renewal evaluation (final year of contract term).	Express contractual language triggering a non-renewal decision for material violation of the charter if failing to meet a single benchmark on or before the 11/1/2021 date; assessed monthly prior to that time and quarterly throughout the remainder of the term for future renewal decisions.
Appeals	If non-renewed or revoked, school has inherent appeal right to ISBE.	If non-renewed, school has inherent appeal right to ISBE. However, failure to meet the contractual benchmarks represents a material violation, thus significantly weakening appeal merits and likelihood of appeal.

