



# Board of Education

Office of the Board  
1 North Dearborn Street  
Suite 950  
Chicago, IL 60602

## Board Report

25-0424-EX12 DEFERRED

Agenda Date: 4/24/2025

### AUTHORIZE RENEWAL OF THE NORTH LAWDALE COLLEGE PREPARATORY CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL AGREEMENT WITH CONDITIONS

#### THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:

Authorize renewal of the North Lawndale College Preparatory Charter High School Agreement (the "Charter School Agreement") with conditions for an additional three-year period. 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/** North Lawndale College Preparatory Charter High School, IL not-for-profit corp.

**CHARTER SCHOOL:** 1615 S. Christiana Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60623  
Phone: 773-542-1490  
Contact: Jemia Cuningham-Elder, Chief Executive Officer

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

**ORIGINAL AGREEMENT:** The original Charter School Agreement (authorized by Board Report 97-1217-EX2) was for a term commencing July 1, 1998 and ending June 30, 2003 and authorized the operation of a charter school serving no more than 400 students in grades 9 through 12. The charter and Charter School Agreement were subsequently renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2003 and ending June 30, 2008 (authorized by Board Report 03-0225-EX04). The charter and Charter School Agreement were further renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2013, serving no more than 1,100 students (authorized by Board Report 08-0227-EX27). The charter and Charter School Agreement were then renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2013 and ending June 30, 2018 (authorized by Board Report 13-0227-EX8). The charter and Charter School Agreement were then renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2020 (authorized by Board Report 17-1206-EX15). The charter and Charter School Agreement were further renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2023 (authorized by Board Report 20-0227-EX8). The charter and Charter School Agreement were then renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2025 (authorized by Board Report 23-0125-EX13).

**CHARTER RENEWAL PROPOSAL:** North Lawndale College Preparatory Charter High School submitted a renewal proposal on July 31, 2024, to continue the operation of North Lawndale College Preparatory Charter High School ("NLCP") under a unified mission.

On October 29, 2024, the North Lawndale College Prep (NLCP) Board of Directors unanimously approved a motion to authorize NLCP to explore the potential relocation of the North Lawndale College Prep - Collins High School campus. This motion was approved to relocate the facilities for the NLCP Collins campus with NLCP Christiana campus housed in the CPS facility located at 1615 S. Christiana Avenue effective no earlier than August 18, 2025. NLCP will continue to operate campus Christiana to serve grades 9-12 with a maximum enrollment of 500 students and NLCP will continue to operate campus Collins to serve grades 9-12 with a maximum enrollment of 600 students. Christiana campus and Collins

campus shall remain as two distinct schools.

25-0424-EX12

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Campus Name	Year Opened	Address	At Capacity Grades	At Capacity Enrollment
Christiana	1998	1615 S. Christiana Avenue	9 -12	500
Collins	2007	4343 S.Sacramento Avenue 1616 S. Spaulding Avenue	9 -12	600

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 NLCP'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 February 4, 2025, for all charter schools going through renewal to receive public comments, including NLCP. 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, NLCP be authorized to continue operating as a charter school.

**RENEWAL TERM:** The term of NLCP's charter and agreement is being extended for a three (3) year term commencing July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2028.

**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 North Lawndale College Preparatory Charter High School:

- Both campuses 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 or more frequent basis throughout the term, the network 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 network will notify staff in writing of deficiencies and pending licensure renewal deadlines, as needed. On an annual basis throughout the term, the network must demonstrate compliance with the requirement of 75% teacher licensure.
- By July 1st, 2025, 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.

**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 2025-2026 fiscal year budget. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond FY25 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:

**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 adopted June 26, 1996 pursuant to Board Report 96-0626-PO3; Ethics provision, in accordance with the Board's Ethics Code as amended, and a Contingent Liability provision.

**Approved for Consideration:**

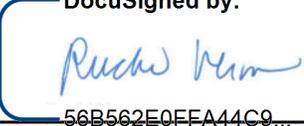
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**Alfonso Carmona**  
Chief Portfolio Officer

**Approved:**

Signed by:  
*Pedro Martinez*  
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**Pedro Martinez**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Approved as to Legal Form:**

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**Ruchi Verma**  
General Counsel