



Board of Education

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

Board Report

25-0424-EX13

Agenda Date: 4/24/2025

AUTHORIZE THE RENEWAL OF THE PERSPECTIVES CHARTER SCHOOL AGREEMENT WITH CONDITIONS

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:

Authorize renewal of the Perspectives Charter School Agreement (the "Charter School Agreement") with conditions for an additional four-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/ Perspectives Charter School

CHARTER SCHOOL: 1530 South State Street, 2nd Floor
Chicago, IL 60605
Phone: (312) 604-2123
Contact Persons: Rick Fezell, Board Chair and
Deborah Stevens, CEO

OVERSIGHT: Office of Innovation and Incubation
42 West Madison Street, 3rd Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60602
Phone: 773-553-1530
Contact Person: Alfonso Carmona, Chief Portfolio Officer

ORIGINAL AGREEMENT: The original Charter School Agreement (authorized by Board Report 97-0122-EX4) was for a term commencing July 1, 1997 and ending June 30, 2002 and authorized the operation of a charter school serving no more than 150 students in grades 6 through 12. The charter and Charter School Agreement were subsequently renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2002 and ending June 30, 2007, serving no more than 300 students (authorized by Board Report 01-1128-EX2). The charter and Charter School Agreement were further renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2012, serving no more than 1,900 students (authorized by Board Report 07-0523-EX6). The charter and Charter School Agreement were then renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2012 and ending June 30, 2017, serving no more than 2,600 students (authorized by Board Report 12-0328-EX12).

The charter and Charter School Agreement were then renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2022, serving no more than 2,600 students (authorized by Board Report 16-1207-EX11).

The charter and Charter School Agreement were amended to delay the relocation of the Leadership Academy and Tech HS to the independent facility at 8522 S. Lafayette Ave. until the fall of 2018 (authorized by Board Report 17-0828-EX13). The charter and Charter School Agreement were then amended to delay the relocation of the Leadership Academy and Tech HS to the independent facility at 8522 S. Lafayette Ave. until the fall of 2020 (authorized by Board Report 18-0425-EX8). The charter and Charter School Agreement were further amended to increase the at capacity enrollment at the Math & Science Academy Campus by 80 students to 660 students, thereby increasing the overall at capacity enrollment of the charter school from 2,600 students to 2,680 students beginning in the fall of 2019 (authorized by Board Report 19-0424-EX4). The charter and Charter School Agreement were then renewed for a term commencing on July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2025 (authorized by Board Report 22-0126-EX3).

CHARTER RENEWAL PROPOSAL: Perspectives Schools submitted a renewal proposal on July 31, 2024, to continue the operation of Perspectives Charter School. The Perspectives Charter School campuses shall continue to be located

according to the chart below and shall continue to serve grades 6 through 12 with a maximum enrollment of 2680 students:

Campus Name	Year Opened	Address	At Capacity Grades	At Capacity Enrollment
Rodney D. Joslin	1997	1930 S. Archer Avenue	6-12	400
Leadership Academy	2006	8522 S. Lafayette Avenue	6-12	1080
High School of Technology	2007	8522 S. Lafayette Avenue	9-12	540
Math and Science Academy	2008	3663 S. Wabash Avenue	6-12	660

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 Perspectives 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 February 4, 2025, for all charter schools going through renewals to receive public comments, including Perspectives 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, Perspectives Charter School be authorized to continue operating as a charter school.

RENEWAL TERM: The term of Perspectives Charter School's charter and agreement is being extended for a four (4) year term commencing July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2029.

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 Perspectives Charter School:

- 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.
- All 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 basis throughout the term, the organization must receive a rating of "Meets Standards" or higher on the Legal Compliance indicator on the Financial and Compliance Scorecard generated by CPS.
- 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 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 2025-26 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.

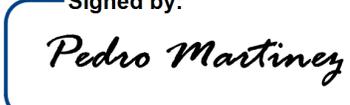
GENERAL CONDITIONS: The agreement shall contain general conditions including but not limited to the following: Inspector General provision, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-13.1; Conflicts provision, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-21.3; Indebtedness provision, in accordance with the Board's Indebtedness 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:

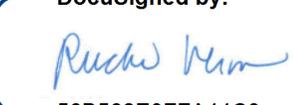
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Alfonso Carmona
Chief Portfolio Officer

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Pedro Martinez
Chief Executive Officer

Approved as to Legal Form: 

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Ruchi Verma
General Counsel