

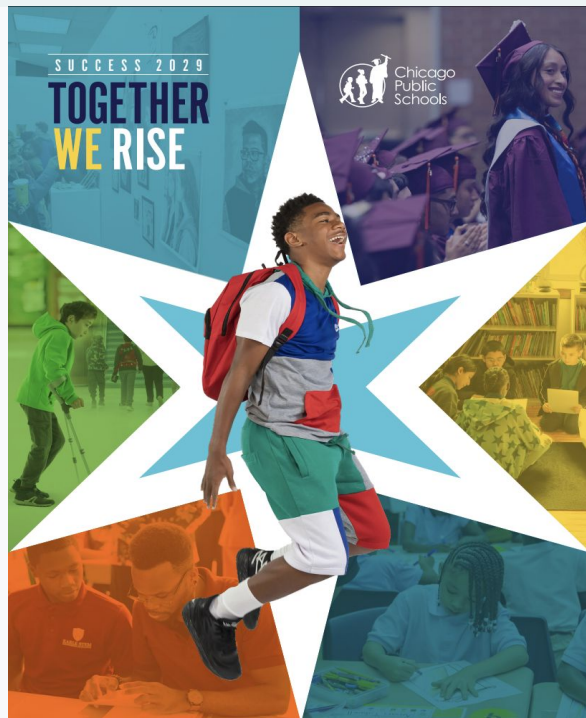
SY26 Charter School Renewal Recommendations

Innovation and Incubation
Office of Portfolio Management

Chicago Board of Education Meeting
May 28, 2026

The District's Responsibility to Students and Families

34 operators with 93 campuses serving 47,043 students



Safe, Stable, & Supportive Environments

Every student deserves continuity, safety, and a rigorous, joyful, and equitable learning environment

Inclusive & Equitable Student Supports

Students with disabilities and diverse populations must receive equitable access and support

Financial Stewardship & Sustainability

Schools must demonstrate responsible financial management and long-term operational viability

Early Intervention & Improvement

Identifying concerns early, strengthening oversight, and intervening before challenges escalate

Transparency & Accountability

Families deserve clear communication and responsible stewardship from authorized charter schools

Strengthening Systems

Lagging Indicators

Annual performance review relied heavily on self-reported data, resulting in financial and operational issues escalating

Lack of visibility into CBA obligations and enrollment-driven financial instability, with expenses outpacing revenue, compounded by aging facilities and ongoing maintenance needs

Interventions

Develop and implement leading and early warning indicators for academic, financials, operations, and governance such as mid-year thresholds for action and intervention framework

Transparent governance and decision-making with partners such as shared tools and protocol

Outcomes

Enable earlier, more effective interventions and reduce the need for crisis-driven closures

Stronger financial and academic sustainability across the portfolio

Enhanced & Improved Oversight

FINANCIAL EARLY WARNING

Implemented in FY27 to monitor **leading indicators** and prevent instability before it requires remediation. Some examples of indicators are:

- Enrollment decline trends
- Spending vs. Budget variance
- Advance payment requests
- Admin competency concerns
- Post-CBA adjustments
- Covenant violations
- Operational deficits
- Consolidation actions

When concerns are identified, CPS will establish action steps, progress monitoring, and direct partnership with the operator.

MID CYCLE REVIEW

A "first-of-its-kind" approach shifting oversight from periodic checkpoints to **real-time feedback** and support.

Formative Approach: Separates annual support from contract-governed renewals.

The Accountability Plan: Integrates Financial & Academic standards into one roadmap.

The Strategic Shift:

BEFORE 2025

No formal checkpoints; reliance on lagging indicators and reactive remediation.

NOW

Leading indicators; early identification; proactive and aligned support.

SY25-26 Charter Renewal Cohort

7 operators with 16 campuses serving 8,307 students

Operator Name	Community	No. of Campuses	Enrollment	Black Students	Latinx Students
Academy for Global Citizenship Charter School	Garfield Ridge	1	491	3.1%	92.1%
Acero Charter School Network (Replicating charter)**	Multiple	8	4101	1.6%	96.9%
Chicago Collegiate Charter School	Pullman	1	233	96.1%	2.6%
Chicago Math and Science Academy (CMSA) Charter School	Rogers Park	1	623	47.7%	37.1%
Christopher House Charter School**	Belmont Cragin	1	470	3.0%	96.0%
Intrinsic Charter School	Irving Park	1	986	2.8%	93.8%
University of Chicago Charter School Network (Replicating charter)	Multiple	3	1403	96%	2.1%

*All operators in this renewal cohort have an executed contract with no IL State complaints

**Acero and Christopher House have CBAs

Overview of Charter/Contract Renewal Process

The school renewal process allows for a comprehensive review and evaluation of school operator's performance. CPS uses the outcomes of this comprehensive review and evaluation process to form a renewal recommendation, which is then presented to the Chicago Board of Education.

Potential Recommendations

The renewal process is evidence-based, transparent, forward-looking

Greater than Five (5)** Year
Renewal with Conditions

Five (5) Year*
Renewal with Conditions

Shortened Renewal
with Conditions

Non-Renewal

**Contract schools are not eligible to be awarded renewal terms of more than five years.*

***Charter schools that exceed and meet performance expectations may be awarded renewal terms of more than five years.*

Non-Renewal

Illinois School Code 105 ILCS 5/27A-9(c)

Per IL Charter Schools Law, a Charter School may be non-renewed for any one or combination of four reasons:

(1)

Committed a material violation of any of the conditions, standards, or procedures set forth in the charter

(2)

Failed to meet or make reasonable progress toward achievement of the content standards or pupil performance standards identified in the charter

(3)

Failed to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management

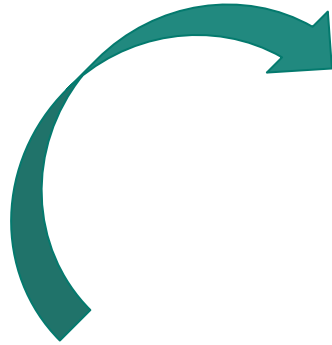
(4)

Violated any provision of law from which the charter school was not exempted

The law allows the Illinois State Board of Education to reverse a local school board's charter school non-renewal decision as it considers whether the charter school closure is in compliance with Article 27A of the Code and is in the best interests of the students the charter school is designed to serve.

Charter Renewal Process At a Glance

Midcycle Performance Review and Early Warning Indicators



Renewal Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation of school- or campus-specific evidence is carried out across four renewal evaluation domains, each with specific criteria and performance ratings codified within the School Renewal Rubric.



**Academic
Performance**



**Financial
Performance**



**Inclusive Programming
& Equitable Systems***



**Organizational
Compliance**

2025-26

Preliminary Charter Renewal
Recommendations

Academy for Global Citizenship Charter School

Recommendation: 7 year term

- A K-8 traditional charter school in the Garfield Ridge community.
 - SY26 20th Day: 468 (93% of cap)
- Serves a student population that is largely Latinx (92.1%) and Economically Disadvantaged (58.9%)
- Received a 2025 ISBE Summative Designation of Commendable, meeting Academic Standards
- Received a rating of Exceeds Standards for Financial Performance.
- Although the school received a rating of Minimal on its last English Learner Program Report led by OMME, it received a rating of Strong Performance on the Special Education Renewal Site Visit led by OSD, and a rating of Meets Standards for Student Discipline and Teacher Licensure, leading to a rating of Meets Standards for the IPES domain.

Domain/Focus	Rating Based on Evidence Collected
Academic Performance	Meets Standards
Financial Performance	Exceeds Standards
Inclusive Programming and Equitable Systems	Meets Standards
Organizational Compliance	Meets Standards

Acero Charter School Network

Recommendation: 5 year term

- A charter school network renewing eight traditional charter school campuses (SY26 20th day: 4,101 (76% of cap))

Domain	Overall Rating	Campus Outcomes							
Academic Performance	Meets Standards	BP	Idar	Garcia	Marquez	Torres	Clemente	Zizumbo	Soto
		Approaching	Meets Standards	Meets Standards	Meets Standards	Approaching	Meets Standards	Meets Standards	Meets Standards
Financial Performance	Meets Standards								
Inclusive Programming and Equitable Systems	Meets Standards	BP	Idar	Garcia	Marquez	Torres	Clemente	Zizumbo	Soto
	<i>Students w/ Disabilities</i>	Meets Standards (cumulative network score)							
	<i>English Learner Compliance</i>	Needs Imp.	Meets Standards	Needs Imp.	Needs Imp.	Needs Imp.	Needs Imp.	Meets Standards	Needs Imp.
	<i>Discipline</i>	Meets Standards	Meets Standards	Meets Standards	Meets Standards	Meets Standards	Needs Imp.	Meets Standards	Meets Standards
	<i>Teacher Licensure</i>	Meets Standards (cumulative network rate)							
Organizational Compliance	Meets Standards								

Chicago Collegiate Charter School

Recommendation: 4 year term

- A 6-12 traditional charter school in the West Pullman community
 - FY26 20th day: 233 (27.4% of cap)
- Serves a student population that is largely Black/African American (96.1%) and Economically Disadvantaged (90.1%)
- Received a 2025 ISBE Summative Designation of Commendable, leading to a rating of Meets Standards for Academic Performance.
- Exited Financial Remediation in FY25, leading to a rating of Approaching Standards for Financial Performance.
- Received a rating of Approaching Standards in IPES due to:
 - Receiving a rating of Weak Performance on the Special Education Renewal Site Visit led by OSD; and
 - Having a high level of exclusionary discipline over the term.
 - However, the school received a rating of Meets standards for English Learner Compliance and Teacher Licensure.

Domain/Focus	Rating Based on Evidence Collected
Academic Performance	Meets Standards
Financial Performance	Approaching Standards
Inclusive Programming and Equitable Systems	Approaching Standards
Organizational Compliance	Meets Standards

Chicago Math and Science Academy Charter School

Recommendation: 4 year term

- A 7 -12 traditional charter school in the Rogers Park community
 - SY26 20th day: 623 (104% of cap)
- Serves a student population that is largely Black/African American (47.7%), Latinx (37.1%), and Economically Disadvantaged (87.7%)
- Received a 2025 ISBE Summative Designation of Commendable, leading to a rating of Meets Standards for Academic Performance.
- Received a rating of Meets Standards for Financial Performance.
- Received a rating of Needs Substantial Improvement in the IPES domain due to:
 - Receiving a rating Weak Performance on the Special Education Renewal Site Visit led by the Office for Students with Disabilities;
 - Receiving a Minimal rating on the English Learner Program Review conducted by the Office of Multilingual - Multicultural Education, and;
 - Has high rates of exclusionary discipline in the elementary school grades

Domain/Focus	Rating Based on Evidence Collected
Academic Performance	Meets Standards
Financial Performance	Meets Standards
Inclusive Programming and Equitable Systems	Needs Substantial Improvement
Organizational Compliance	Meets Standards

Christopher House Charter School

Recommendation: 4 year term

- A K-8 traditional charter school in the Belmont Cragin Park community.
 - SY26 20th day: 540 (87% of cap)
- Serves a student population that is largely Latinx (96.0%) and Economically Disadvantaged (83.5%).
- Received a 2025 ISBE Summative Designation of Targeted and is in I&I's Academic Support process.
- Received a rating of Meets Standards for Financial Performance.
- Despite receiving a rating of Minimal on its last English Learner Program Report led by OMME, it received a rating of Average Performance on the Special Education Renewal Site Visit led by OSD and a rating of Meets Standards for Student Discipline and Teacher Licensure.

Domain/Focus	Rating Based on Evidence Collected
Academic Performance	Approaching Standards
Financial Performance	Meets Standards
Inclusive Programming and Equitable Systems	Meets Standards
Organizational Compliance	Meets Standards

Intrinsic Charter School

Recommendation: 4 year term

- A 7-12 traditional charter school in the Irving Park community.
 - SY26 20th day: 986 (98.6% of cap)
- Serves a student population that is largely Latinx (93.8%) and Economically Disadvantaged (90.3%)
- Received a 2025 ISBE Summative Designation of Commendable, leading to a rating of Meets Standards for Academic Performance.
- Received a rating of Meets Standards for Financial Performance.
- Received a rating of Needs Substantial Improvement in the IPES domain due to:
 - Receiving a Minimal rating on the English Learner Program Review conducted by OMME;
 - Having high rates of exclusionary discipline in the elementary school band; and
 - Not having the required number of licensed teachers
- This recommendation includes a requested use of their new annex building at 3254 N Kilbourn; secured through philanthropic funds. Use of the annex allows for enhanced educational quality by offering several improved learning spaces, including science laboratories, art studios, extra-curricular sports and activities rooms as well as office and meeting space.

Domain/Focus	Rating Based on Evidence Collected
Academic Performance	Meets Standards
Financial Performance	Meets Standards
Inclusive Programming and Equitable Systems	Needs Substantial Improvement
Organizational Compliance	Meets Standards

University Of Chicago Charter School Network

Recommendation: 4 year term

- Currently operates three traditional charter school campuses
 - SY26 20th day: 1,403 (88.5% of cap)
- Serves a student population that is largely Black/African American (96.0%) and Economically Disadvantaged (81.8%)

Domain	Overall Rating	Campus Outcomes		
Academic Performance	Meets Standards	Donoghue	NKO	Woodlawn
		Meets Standards	Meets Standards	Meets Standards
Financial Performance	Meets Standards			
Inclusive Programming and Equitable Systems	Needs Substantial Improvement	Donoghue	NKO	Woodlawn
	<i>Students w/ Disabilities</i>	Needs Improvement (cumulative network score)		
	<i>English Learner Compliance</i>	Needs Improvement	Needs Improvement	Needs Improvement
	<i>Discipline</i>	Meets Standards	Meets Standards	Meets Standards
	<i>Teacher Licensure</i>	Needs Improvement (cumulative network rate)		
Organizational Compliance	Meets Standards			



