

Reconsideration for the Renewal of Community School of Digital and Visual Arts

April 7, 2025

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Office of Charter Schools

Renewal Timeline for Community School of Digital and Visual Arts

- **November 12, 2024 - Renewal Presentation to CSRB**
 - Placed at a 3-year because they are currently designated as CLP.
 - Review Board Members stated concerns for compliance and asked that the school correct issues before voting in January.
- **January 13, 2025 - CSRB Voted to Not Renew**
 - Failure to meet generally acceptable standards of fiscal management
 - Material violation of any of the conditions, standards, or procedures set forth in the charter
 - Other good cause identified - The school's governing board has demonstrated a lack of appropriate governing oversight. The deficiencies include, but are not limited to, the failure of the board to ensure proper operational compliance and a lack of transparency on behalf of the board due to a failure to post full and accurate board minutes, a board calendar, and not submitting financial audits for the past two years.
- **March 4, 2025 - Appeal Hearing Before SBE Appeals Panel**
- **March 6, 2025 - SBE Remanded the Decision back to the CSRB with a request to review additional information.**

The State Board respectfully requests that the Charter Schools Review Board further consider this matter at its April 2025 meeting by addressing the following items:

1. The results of the Community School for Digital and Visual Arts' FY 2023 audit and the anticipated FY 2024 audit;
2. An expected detailed plan from the school for addressing all of the current and documented deficiencies noted by the Office of Charter Schools and the Charter Review Board;
3. Whether the school has met the requirements for a minimum charter renewal;
4. Whether there has been evidence of immediate serious attention to improving the school operations; and
5. Whether the school has demonstrated it will be successful going forward.

Compliance

November 2024

- Governance Noncompliance, Disciplinary Status - Failure to supply all reports and documentation as requested by the Office of Charter Schools (Board Meeting Minutes).
- Non-Compliant on Renewal Performance Framework Measure B5: Compliance with Open Meetings Law – The board has not ensured meeting minutes are public records in compliance with 143-318.10 (e).

January 2025

- Final 2024 Performance Framework showed CSDVA was non-compliant for:
 - A5 - School Nutrition
 - A13 - Evidence of Fire Inspections
 - A17 - Health and Safety Requirements
 - B5 - Open Meetings Law

Academic Outcomes

Academic Performance								
2021 – 2022			2022 – 2023			2023 – 2024		
SPG	SPS	Growth	SPG	SPS	Growth	SPG	SPS	Growth
D	45	Met	D	47	Met	D	50	Exceeded

Low-Performing Status		
2021 – 2022	2022 – 2023	2023 – 2024
Yes LP, CLP	Yes LP, CLP	Yes CLP

Academic Comparability to LEA Composite Score, Percent Level 3 and Above (GLP)								
2021 – 2022			2022 – 2023			2023 – 2024		
School	LEA	Comparison	School	LEA	Comparison	School	LEA	Comparison
34.7%	44%	-9.3	39.4%	47.9%	-8.5	41.6%	47%	-5.4

Subgroup Comparability to LEA Composite Score, Percent Level 3 and Above (GLP)									
Subgroup	2021 – 2022			2022 – 2023			2023 – 2024		
	School	LEA	Comparison	School	LEA	Comparison	School	LEA	Comparison
Economically Disadvantaged	29.8	30.4	-0.6	35.8	36.2	-0.4	39.1	35.9	3.2
Students with Disabilities	8.9	17.8	-8.9	<5	21.6	<-16.6	7.5	20.5	-13
English Learners	34.8	16.9	17.9	30	18.4	11.6	30.8	16.6	14.2
American Indian	n/a	43.1	n/a	n/a	63.3	n/a	n/a	47.3	n/a
Asian	n/a	62.7	n/a	n/a	63.5	n/a	n/a	56.2	n/a
Black	33.2	35.1	-1.9	37.6	39.5	-1.9	42	39.1	2.9
Hispanic	36.4	34.2	2.2	40	37.4	2.6	35.9	35.4	0.5
White	n/a	79.2	n/a	n/a	82.7	n/a	n/a	82.7	n/a
Two or More Races	n/a	52.3	n/a	90	56.8	33.2	50	57.5	-7.5

3-Year Renewal Guidelines (CHTR-007)

1. No Compliance Issues in the past year that shows a pattern of unresolved or persistent issues, or, if Compliance Issues exist, there is a strategic improvement plan in place and is making measurable progress toward meeting it; or
2. Inability to provide sound audits for the immediately preceding year, but the strategic improvement plan addresses this and there is evidence provided to convince the State Board of Education and Charter Schools Review Board that adequate and successful corrective measures are in place; or
3. Academic outcomes have not been Comparable to the local school administrative unit but the school has met growth in at least one of the immediately preceding 3 years or the charter school has a strategic improvement plan and is making measurable progress toward meeting it. If a school's charter results in it providing services to certain targeted subgroups, The Charter Schools Review Board may also consider the comparison to the academic outcomes of students in the same subgroups and in the local school administrative unit where the school is located. Comparability in grade level academic outcomes may also be considered.

Renewal Decision

“Following consideration of these items, CSRB is asked to decide to either affirm its prior January 13, 2025, decision not to renew the charter of the Community School of Digital and Visual Arts or withdraw its prior decision and award the school a renewed charter.”



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PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Renewal Statutes + Guidelines

§ 115C-218.6. Review and renewal of charters.

(a) The Review Board shall review the operations of each charter school at least once prior to the expiration of its charter to ensure that the school is meeting the expected academic, financial, and governance standards.

(b) The Review Board shall renew a charter upon the request of the chartering entity for subsequent periods of 10 years, unless one of the following applies:

(1) The charter school has not provided financially sound audits for the immediately preceding three years.

(2) The charter school's student academic outcomes for the immediately preceding three years have not been comparable to the academic outcomes of students in the local school administrative unit in which the charter school is located. . For purposes of this section, if a school's charter results in it providing services to certain targeted subgroups, the school's academic performance Page 2 Session Law 2023-107 House Bill 219 shall be judged in comparison to the academic outcomes of students in the same subgroups in the local school administrative unit where the school is located

(3) The charter school is not, at the time of the request for renewal of the charter, substantially in compliance with State law, federal law, the school's own bylaws, or the provisions set forth in its charter granted by the Review Board.

If one of the conditions set forth in subdivisions (1) through (3) of this subsection applies, then the Review Board may renew the charter for a period of less than 10 years or not renew the charter.

§ 115C-218.95. Causes for nonrenewal or termination; disputes.

(a) The Review Board may terminate, not renew, or seek applicants to assume the charter through a competitive bid process established by the State Board upon any of the following grounds:

- (1) Failure to meet the requirements for student performance contained in the charter;
- (2) Failure to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management; (3) Violations of law;
- (4) Material violation of any of the conditions, standards, or procedures set forth in the charter;
- (5) Two-thirds of the faculty and instructional support personnel at the school request that the charter be terminated or not renewed; or
- (6) Other good cause identified.

Policy CHTR-007: Charter School Renewal Process

A. Process for Renewal

Section 1: Office of Charter Schools Actions

Section 2: Department of Public Instruction Portfolio

B. Guidelines for Decisions

10 Years

7 Years

5 Years

3 Years

Non-Renewal or Assumption

Charter School Renewal Guidelines

[From SBE Policy CHTR-007, Section B](#)

B. GUIDELINES FOR DECISIONS

To receive a recommendation for renewal, the school must meet the requirements outlined in G.S. 115C-218.6 and the general renewal guidelines below, absent exceptional circumstances as documented by the CSRB. The general renewal guidelines set forth below are used to determine renewal recommendations. For purposes of these guidelines:

- The term “Compliance Issues” may include, but is not limited to, findings within the following programs and divisions: Exceptional Children, Federal Programs, Beginning Teacher Support Program, Child Nutrition, School Business, and Accountability.
- The term “Comparable” is defined as a proficiency score that is no less than 5 points of the local school administrative unit’s Composite score based on the EOG/EOC courses offered;
- A school's charter is considered to result in it providing services to certain targeted subgroups if the charter, as presented in its application or self-study, indicates an intent to target certain subgroups and its enrollment reflects this intent.
- The local school administrative unit shall be assumed to be the local school administrative unit identified in the approved charter application, provided that the Charter Schools Review Board may consider additional factors such as where the charter school is physically located, its proximity to districts across county lines, and the base school district from which a majority of the school’s students are enrolled. The Charter Schools Review Board may consider more than one local school administrative unit, at its discretion, for purposes of this policy.
- In the case of a charter school that has been designated as an alternative school for purposes of accountability pursuant to policy CHTR-020, the Charter Schools Review Board shall consider the charter school’s performance under the accountability model approved for the school pursuant to policy ACCT-038.

GENERAL RENEWAL GUIDELINES*

10 Years

1. The charter school has provided financially sound audits for the immediately preceding three years; and
2. The charter school's student academic outcomes for the immediately preceding three years have been Comparable to the academic outcomes of students in the local school administrative unit in which the charter school is located. If a school's charter results in it providing services to certain targeted subgroups, The Charter Schools Review Board may also consider the comparison to the academic outcomes of students in the same subgroups and in the local school administrative unit where the school is located. Comparability in grade level academic outcomes may also be considered; and
3. The charter school is currently in compliance, and has been in compliance for the immediately preceding three years, with State law, federal law, the school's own bylaws, and the provisions set forth in its charter granted by the Charter Schools Review Board.

7 Years

1. No evidence of Compliance Issues in the past 2 years that would show a pattern of unresolved or persistent issues; and
2. The charter school has provided financially sound audits for the immediately preceding 2 years; and
3. The school has not been on Financial Noncompliance Disciplinary Status at any time in the immediately preceding three years; and
4. Academic outcomes have been Comparable to the local school administrative unit for the last 2 out of 3 years or has met or exceeded growth in each of the immediately preceding 3 years. If a school's charter results in it providing services to certain targeted subgroups, The Charter Schools Review Board may also consider the comparison to the academic outcomes of students in the same subgroups and in the local school administrative unit where the school is located. Comparability in grade level academic outcomes may also be considered; and
5. The school is not currently designated as low-performing.

5 Years

1. No evidence of Compliance Issues in the past year that would show a pattern of unresolved or persistent issues; and
2. The charter school has provided financially sound audits for the immediately preceding 2 years; and
3. The school has not been on Financial Noncompliance Disciplinary Status at any time in the immediately preceding two years; and
4. Academic outcomes have been Comparable to the local school administrative unit for 1 out of the last 3 years or has met or exceeded growth in 2 of the past 3 years. If a school's charter results in it providing services to certain targeted subgroups, The Charter Schools Review Board may also consider the comparison to the academic outcomes of students in the same subgroups and in the local school administrative unit where the school is located. Comparability in grade level academic outcomes may also be considered; and
5. The school is not currently designated as continually low-performing.

3 Years

1. No Compliance Issues in the past year that shows a pattern of unresolved or persistent issues, or, if Compliance Issues exist, there is a strategic improvement plan in place and is making measurable progress toward meeting it; or
2. Inability to provide sound audits for the immediately preceding year, but the strategic improvement plan addresses this and there is evidence provided to convince the State Board of Education and Charter Schools Review Board that adequate and successful corrective measures are in place; or
3. Academic outcomes have not been Comparable to the local school administrative unit but the school has met growth in at least one of the immediately preceding 3 years or the charter school has a strategic improvement plan and is making measurable progress toward meeting it. If a school's charter results in it providing services to certain targeted subgroups, The Charter Schools Review Board may also consider the comparison to the academic outcomes of students in the same subgroups and in the local school administrative unit where the school is located. Comparability in grade level academic outcomes may also be considered.

NON- RENEWAL OR ASSUMPTION

1. A Failure to meet the requirements for student performance contained in the charter and academic outcomes have not been Comparable to the local school administrative unit in any of the immediately preceding 3 years and the school has not met or exceeded growth in the last 2 years (with either no strategic improvement plan or measurable progress identified toward meeting that plan); or
2. A persistent pattern of failure to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management and lack of financially sound audits in 2 of the preceding 3 years; or
3. A pattern of unresolved, persistent and/or intentional material violations of law; or
4. A pattern of unresolved, persistent and/or intentional material violation of any of the conditions, standards, or procedures set forth in the charter; or
5. Two-thirds of the faculty and instructional support personnel at the school request that the charter be terminated or not renewed; or
6. Current and persistent patterns of material noncompliance with directives of the Office of Charter Schools, the Charter Schools Review Board and/or the State Board of Education; or
7. Other documented good cause identified.

ADDITIONAL FACTORS THAT MAY AFFECT RENEWAL RECOMMENDATION

1. Feedback from Site Visits
2. Declining or Increasing ADM
3. Pattern of high, or low, student and/or staff attrition

*Any renewal of the Charter can be revoked according to SBE Policy CHTR-010.

*CSRB and NCSBE reserve the right to add stipulations to any renewal period.



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