

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION – TOPIC SUMMARY

Topic: The Ivy School (State Sponsored Charter School) Contract and Performance Framework

Date: June 25, 2015

Staff/Office: Kate Pattison/Office of Learning

Action Requested: Informational Only Adoption Later Adoption

Adoption/Consent Agenda

ISSUE BEFORE THE BOARD: New five-year contract and performance framework for The Ivy School, a state sponsored charter school located in NE Portland.

BACKGROUND:

The Ivy School is one of four Oregon State Board of Education sponsored charter schools. Originally, approved for sponsorship in December 2008, The Ivy School opened in September 2009. The school is currently in its sixth year of operation, serving about 260 students in grades 1-8, using the Montessori philosophy and materials.

The State Board of Education received official written request from The Ivy School for renewal of the charter contract in January and approved the renewal in March 2015 for five years. The Department has been working with The Ivy School leadership team and legal counsel to negotiate a new charter contract and identify the performance standards by which the Board will evaluate the quality of public charter school.

We have been working on a performance framework modeled after the [National Association of Charter School Authorizers \(NACSA\) Core Performance Framework](#) to include with the contract as an exhibit. In this framework, we will agree on the performance expectations for the school over the next five years. The framework is designed to help the Department and the State Board evaluate the school's student academic performance, organizational performance, and financial performance. This will provide clarity and transparency for The Ivy School and the Board as well as help guide future discussions about the school's performance.

Below are some components of the **contract** to highlight for discussion:

1. Section 5A Renewal – We added the following statement “The Board shall consider the evaluation of student Academic Performance from the Ivy Performance Framework as the most important indicator of Ivy’s success.” This will include the academic performance of all subgroups. The Ivy School also requested that the Board consider information reported by Ivy regarding how the school has met the legislative goals of a public charter school.
2. Section 14B Student Performance – We have included a performance framework with clear expectations for performance. This framework takes into account The Ivy School’s use of easyCBM assessments to monitor student performance and growth throughout the year.
3. Section 14C School Improvement Plans – If Ivy does not meet any of the student performance expectations in reading or math, they will have a school improvement plan in place that will include an aligned budget with professional development. These plans will be reviewed by the Department and feedback will be given quarterly on progress.
4. Section 14D Required Instructional Time – Since Ivy is not sponsored by a school district and would not necessarily need to align to PPS, we have indicated which other hours may be included in the school’s instructional time as required by the revised rules. Additionally, we have required the school to report to ODE on the percent of students scheduled to receive the minimum hours of instructional time.
5. Section 14G Enrollment Requirements – The school has requested to add kindergarten and serve up to 300 students. Any future increases will be contingent on the school meeting expectations in the performance framework. The school has also request to be allowed to limit enrollment of new

students to kindergarten and grade 4. This aligns with the Montessori cycle. This is not something the school plans to do in the near future, but they are exploring whether or not it is feasible.

Below are some components of the **performance framework** to highlight for discussion:

1. Sections 1-3 – These sections include transparent and explicit expectations for performance on the Smarter Balanced Assessment, including student growth, over the entire contract to be evaluated annually.
2. Section 4 – We will be evaluating the school’s individual student growth using easyCBM benchmark data from the fall and spring assessments.

The first read of this contract and framework was during the May 2015 meeting. It is now before the Board for a final decision.

POLICY QUESTIONS:

- The performance expectations in the framework reflective of State Board expectations?

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the new contract and include the performance framework as an exhibit and tool for evaluating The Ivy School’s performance each year.