

**Executive Limitation 3.J  
Charter Schools**



To: Board of Education

From: William Pierce, Superintendent of Schools

Re: Internal Expectations of the Board Report - 3.J Charter Schools

I hereby present my report on our Charter Schools, Executive Limitation 3.J, in accordance with the monitoring schedule set forth in Board policy. I certify the information in this report is true.

Signed: 

William Pierce  
Superintendent, School District 27J

Date: September 25, 2024



27J SCHOOLS  
GOVERNING POLICY OF  
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION



### **Policy 3.J – CHARTER SCHOOL**

*Date Adopted:* January 27, 2009

*Revised:* November 10, 2009, April 16, 2013

June 25, 2013, April 28, 2015

*Management Limitations*

**Monitoring Date: September 25, 2024**

The superintendent shall not allow charter school contract applications to be recommended and shall not allow existing charter school contracts to continue if fiscal jeopardy or failure to make consistent progress towards their stated objectives is a likely outcome or is evident. In addition, the superintendent shall not allow existing charter schools to operate in a manner that would jeopardize the learning or well-being of their students such as any conditions or procedures that are unclear, unfair, unsafe, untimely, undignified or unnecessarily intrusive.

*I interpret “charter school” to mean:*

*a public school operated by a group of parents, teachers, and/or community members as a semi-autonomous school of choice, operating under a contract or “charter” contract between the members of the charter school community and the authorizer. The school must be nonsectarian and non-home-based, but may be web based under certain circumstances. 22-30.5-104(1), C.R.S.*

*I interpret “fiscal jeopardy” to mean:*

*entering into an agreement to pay expenses when the source of income to pay for those expenses has not been determined, or not having cash available to pay expenses when they are due.*

*I interpret “unclear” to mean:*

*published information or interactions which do not result in clearly defined expectations, opportunities or intent.*

*I interpret “unfair” to mean:*

*not uniform, ill-balanced, discriminatory, or judicial. A practice or procedure which is meant to ameliorate a predefined right.*

*I interpret “unsafe” to mean:*

*dangerous: not secure. This places an affirmative obligation on all school personnel to take necessary measures to ensure that the school environment is safe and conducive for use by students and the public. Action is not required in the absence of foreseeable danger.*

*I interpret “untimely” to mean:*

*an unreasonable length of time as may be fairly, properly and reasonably allowed or required, having regard to the nature of the act or duty, or of the subject matter, and to the attending circumstances.*

*I interpret “undignified or unnecessarily intrusive” to mean:*

*absent good faith and with an intent to harm others, to mean actions which are arbitrary, capricious, or motivated by personal and political objectives. Lacking an etiology that would require the information.*

### **Data Reported**

School District 27J has authorized seven charter schools within its boundaries: Belle Creek, Bromley East, Capstone Academy (Year 0), Eagle Ridge, Foundations, Landmark and STEAD.

### **Enrollment:**

The table below shows the enrollment data for each operating charter school from October 1, 2023 through September, 2024. The October 1, 2023 enrollment figures served as the basis for state funding for the year.

Charter School	School Projected for 23-24	Oct 2023 Official	1-3-24 Mid-Year	School Projected for 24-25	Wait List Total (9/1)	Sept 2024 Enrollment (9/1)
<b>K- 8</b>						
Belle Creek	580	558	569	540	0	512
Bromley East	1,237	1,211	1,226	1,215	64	1,214
Foundations	747	768	761	747	133	772
Landmark	747	798	787	747	382	760
Total Students in K-8 Charter Schools	3,288	3,335	3,343	3,249	579	3,258
<b>High Schools</b>						
Eagle Ridge Academy (9-12)	530	571	496	580	45	590
STEAD (9 - 10)	390	370	357	425	0	423
Total Students in High School Charters	905	941	853	1,005	45	1,013
Total Charter School Students	4,193	4,276	4,196	4,254	624	4,271

**Charter Application Process**

Per the first paragraph of this policy and this monitoring report, accordingly, during the charter school application process the superintendent may not:

- 1. Fail to provide the Board with an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of each charter application.**

**Data Reported:**

27J did not receive any applications for this reporting period.

**Conclusion:** I report compliance.

- 2. Fail to have a standard application format, complete with dates for submittal and expectations of thoroughness that includes and requires documentation of all areas of concern to the Board. The critical questions format used by district staff is available on the website with the directions for applications.**

*I interpret standard application format to mean the explicit set of requirements and supporting documentation, including Application, Checklist, and Review Rubric, set forth by the Colorado Department of Education for the completion and submission of charter school applications.*

**Data Reported:**

Superintendent Policies LBD and LBD-R contain the district requirements and deadlines for all new charter applications. These policies were developed in accordance with Colorado State Statute set forth in CRS 22-30.5-106, Charter Applications and CRS 22-30.5-107, Charter Application and Process. The 27J New Charter Application was revised and updated during the RFP process to align with the Colorado Association of Charter School Authorizers' Colorado Standard Application which was created in partnership with authorizers across the State and the Colorado Department of Education's Schools of Choice Unit. The application is housed in Anvilar, the district's reporting system. That system can be accessed through the [School District 27J website](#) during the application window.

**Conclusion:** I report compliance.

- 3. Fail to ensure that members of the Board of Education receive a single completed application and any other relevant information at least two weeks prior to the public hearing for each charter applicant.**

CRS 22-30.5-107 requires that an application be submitted to the local board of education by a date determined by the local board of education to be eligible for consideration for the following school year. The date determined by a local board of education for filing of applications shall not be any earlier than August 15, or later than October 1. Our Superintendent Policies require applications to be submitted by August 15th for schools wishing to open in the following school year. This date will be adjusted to be in alignment with changes to State Law in October, 2024.

**Data Reported:**

There were no applications submitted during this reporting period.

**Conclusion:** I report compliance.

4. **Fail to ensure that members of the Board of Education receive all revision to the charter application, answers to questions raised by board members and district staff, and all other relevant information at least two weeks prior to Board action on each charter application.**

**Data Reported:**

There were no applications submitted during this reporting period.

**Conclusion:** I report compliance

5. **Fail to have the application easily available to prospective applicants by providing phone and email addresses to access an application.**

**Data Reported:**

School District 27J has an application available for prospective applicants in the Charter School Section of the SD27J website under Our Schools. Resources on that website include: Superintendent Policy LBD - Charter Schools, Superintendent Policy LBD-R - District Relations with Charter Schools, and Superintendent Policy LBD-E - Intent to Apply to Become a Charter School. In addition, potential applicants are directed to the Partner School Liaison for guidance on how to access the application through Anvilar.

Please note that all three policies will be adjusted in the Fall of 2024 to align with modifications to State law. The most significant modification is the change to the new charter school application process. The new window is from February to April, eighteen months prior to the proposed start of the new school.

**Conclusion:** I report compliance.

6. **Fail to require a detailed and realistic financial plan and analysis by the applicant which shall include:**
  - a. **Provision for placing three percent of the operating or three percent of the capital budget in a TABOR reserve fund**
  - b. **Cash flow projections for the first year displayed month-by-month and a plan to fund any cash-flow shortfalls**

*I interpret financial plan to mean how the applicant will afford to achieve its strategic goals and objectives.*

**Data Reported:**

There were no applications submitted during this reporting period.

**Conclusion:** I report compliance.

**7. Fail to assess the viability of a charter school applicant by assuring that the following requirements are appropriately addressed before a favorable recommendation can be given:**

- a. An analysis of the monetary impact on the district budget, with the consideration of the impact the new charter school will have on the education of students in other district schools.**

*I interpret viability to mean capable of being successful in all aspects of operating a charter school.*

*I interpret monetary impact to mean the fiscal or financial result.*

- b. An impact statement of the proposed school, given its proposed location, on neighborhood schools and other charter schools.**

*I interpret impact statement to mean brief narrative statements which summarize significant outcomes that the opening of the charter school will have on neighborhood schools and other charter schools.*

- c. Documentation that substantiates that current availability to the program is limited and that demonstrates sufficient commitments to attend the school by students who are eligible to attend.**

- d. Description of a program of study or curriculum, including whether the program or curriculum currently exists in the district as a whole or in the geographic area of the district where the charter school proposes to locate or is in high demand with little or no space available.**

*I interpret curriculum to mean the set of courses, and their content, offered at a school or university.*

- e. Documentation that the proposed school has located a prospective site or sites that is/are sufficient for the program is/are financially feasible, and is/are likely to meet the criteria for site development in the district.**

- f. Description of how the proposed school addresses the needs of at-risk students**

*I interpret at-risk students to mean those that have a higher probability of academic failure based on conditions or circumstances in their lives that could impact their educational success.*

- g. Description of how the needs of identified special needs students are sufficiently addressed according to law and policy.**

*I interpret special needs students to mean individuals who require assistance for documented disabilities.*

**Data Reported:**

There were no applications submitted during this reporting period.

**Conclusion:** I report compliance.

- 8. Fail to collaborate with new charter applicants to mutually agree to reasonable timelines for consideration of their application.**

**Data Reported:**

There were no applications submitted during this reporting period.

**Conclusion:** I report compliance

## **Existing Charter Schools**

**In regard to existing charter schools, the superintendent may not:**

- 1. Fail to monitor the charter school environment and ensure that their students and public are treated according to policy 3A.**

*I interpret monitor to mean systematically checking for incorrect or unfair conduct.*

*I interpret charter school environment to mean the students, staff, administration, parents and community members.*

*I interpret students to mean those persons officially enrolled in the academic program of the charter school.*

*I interpret public to mean relating to or concerning the people at large or all members of a community.*

**Data Reported:**



District-authorized charter schools agree in their contracts to submit regular reports through our Anvilar reporting system. All charters submitted data and evidence each quarter throughout the 2023-2024 School Year.

Charter school leaders collaborate monthly to increase communication between school leaders and district staff and to serve as think partners as challenges arise in schools. In addition, the frequent collaboration allows the Partner School Liaison to keep current on school needs and to identify areas of support.

The Charter School Liaison attended charter school board meetings at least twice each semester to ensure accuracy and completion of school environment and financial reports to their respective boards. All charter principals are invited to attend our monthly District Leadership Meetings and they meet with the liaison as a group monthly. In an effort to continue improving authorizing practices, School District 27J is a member of the Colorado Association of Charter School Authorizers and has representation on its Board as well as membership on the governing council of the National Network for District Authorizing. District personnel regularly participate in learning opportunities to increase the capacity of 27J to best support our charter partners while increasing overall accountability.

**Conclusion:** I report compliance.

- 2. Fail to monitor progress toward goals at least twice each year for charters in their first two years of existence and yearly in the school accountability plan of all other charter schools.**

*I interpret school accountability plan to mean the document or documents and supporting evidence outlining protocols and procedures the school will use to document student achievement and progress.*

**Data Reported:**

All charter schools have complied with their contracts by submitting their Unified Improvement Plans (UIPs) in accordance with the District's protocols and timelines for submission for all schools. Each charter school submitted their one page summary of their plans in September, 2023 and submitted their final UIPs to the District and the State in October, 2023. Principals and/or their designees presented their UIPs and progress toward their major improvement strategies to the District Accountability Committee in January, 2024.

Schools report on progress toward their UIP goals in each quarterly report to the Partner School Liaison and final summaries are provided by the partner school leader in each of their 3.J Charter Schools Annual Data Request.

**Conclusion:** I report compliance.

- 3. Fail to require, review, and analyze quarterly financial reports from each charter school, including an annual audit of all of the charter school accounts conducted by a licensed and accredited auditor approved by the district.**

*I interpret quarterly financial reports to mean financial statements, including a balance sheet and statement of revenues and expenditures.*

*I interpret annual audit to mean an independent, outside audit by a certified public accountant of financial and administrative operations on an annual basis that complies with state requirements.*

**Data Reported:**

Effective July 1, 2010, the Public School Financial Transparency Act (the Act) requires any 'local education provider' to post certain financial information online, in a downloadable format, for free public access. Included in the requirements are quarterly financial statements commencing with the statements for the 2010-11 budget year. The websites for each charter school are checked for compliance and quarterly financial reports are reviewed to ensure compliance with the statute.

The Local Government Audit Law (C.R.S. 29-1-601 et seq) requires Colorado local governments to have an annual audit of their financial statements. The law states that the audit must be performed by an independent Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and be in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards.

**Conclusion:** I report compliance.

- 4. Fail to inform the Board and place on the consent agenda any loans from the School District to charter schools.**

**Data Reported:**

No loans or repayment plans were made or entered into between the District and any charter school during the 2023-2024 school year. Per The STEAD School's charter contract, the district waived Direct Costs for the 2022-2023 school year for the STEAD School and will continue to do so until the start of the 2024-2025 school year. All Direct Costs will be paid back by arrangement between The STEAD School and School District 27J starting the 2025 - 2026 school year. Representatives from 27J and The STEAD School and started conversations regarding a payment plan. We anticipate a resolution by November 1, 2024.

**Conclusion:** I report compliance.

- 5. Fail to document, in writing, any discrepancies or deficiencies, whether fiscal, educational, or related to school climate, and the steps and timelines for correction and additional monitoring. Copies shall be provided to the charter school board chairperson and the members of the Board of Education.**

*I interpret discrepancies to mean a divergence or disagreement, as between facts or claims. I interpret deficiencies to mean a lack or incompleteness.*

**Data Reported:**

No discrepancies or deficiencies were noted during the 2023-2024. Summaries of culture data and actions taken to respond to the data can be found in each school's 3.J Charter Schools Annual Monitoring Report.

**Conclusion:** I report compliance.

- 6. Fail to assure compliance with the charter school contract.**

*I interpret compliance to mean observance of official requirements.*

**Data Reported:**

District staff has provided professional development and training in contractual, legal and student issues for all administrators of charter schools. The charter administrators work with board presidents to provide training to meet district standards and to respond to matters of compliance. These training agendas are established based on the unique needs of each charter school board member. Information about each school's board can be found in the Board Membership and Training section of each school's 3.J Charter Schools Annual Monitoring Report.

There were no incidences of material violations of the charter school contracts in 2023-2024,

**Conclusion:** I report compliance.

- 7. Fail to inform the Board annually of the student achievement attained by charter schools, as well as regular public schools, using the same statistical analyses.**

*I interpret student achievement to mean the amount of growth exhibited by students during a one-year period.*

**Data Reported:**

All charter schools are required to participate in all mandatory state testing. School Performance Framework data is located on page 12. More specific information can be found in the Annual Report for All Charter Schools in the Additional Data section of this report on page 14.

**Conclusion:** I report compliance.

## SPF Summary

2024					
Plan	Overall Performance	Overall Score	Achievement	Growth	PWR (HS only)
<b>Eagle Ridge*</b>	Improvement**	70.5	18.5	24.8	27.2
Innovations and Options	performance	69.8	22	44.4	
Padilla	performance	66.4	24.6	38.6	
Brantner	performance	63.2	18.5	19	23.3
<b>the STEAD*</b>	performance	60.8	27.6	32.7	
Discovery	performance	60.3	25	34	
West Ridge	Performance	59	27.7	31	
<b>Landmark*</b>	performance	58.7	24	34.5	
<b>Foundations*</b>	performance	58.5	12.8	45.5	
South	performance	58.3	26.3	31.7	
Reunion	performance	58	18	39.8	
Southlawn	performance	57.8	18.6	39.7	
Second Creek	performance	57.7	15.3	40.4	
Henderson	performance	55.7	18	36.9	
Thimmig	performance	54.9	20.3	34.3	
<b>Belle Creek*</b>	performance	54.6	12.6	22.5	18.9
Brighton High	performance	54	13.2	18.6	21.2
Prairie View High	improvement**	53	13.7	18.9	20.3
Riverdale Ridge	improvement	52.9	18	34.3	
Quist	improvement	52.3	15.3	18.9	16.4
Colorado Connections	improvement	50.6	15.2	33.8	
Southeast	improvement	49	16.7	31.6	
Prairie View Middle	improvement	48.3	18	27.7	
Pennock	improvement	45.7	17.5	27.9	
<b>Bromley East*</b>	improvement	45.4	15.2	28.9	
Turnberry	improvement	44.1	10	32.2	
Northeast	improvement	42.2	7.5	17.3	15
27J OLA	Turnaround	39.8	10	26.8	
Vikan	Priority Improvement	36.8	10	23	
Overland Trail	turnaround	33	12.3	18.2	
Stuart	turnaround	30.5			

\* Denotes Charter School.

\*\*Denotes reduction based on participation. Due to a staffing error, Eagle Ridge Academy had 25 tests that were not counted based on misadministration.

- 8. Fail to collaborate with existing charter schools applying for a renewal of their contact to mutually agree to reasonable timelines for consideration of their renewal application.**

**Data Reported:**

No charter contracts were up for renewal in the 2023-2024 school year.

**Conclusion:** I report compliance.

- 9. Fail to require charter schools to submit revised budgets to the charter school administrator when their official October 1 count of students is more than 5 percent less than the projected student enrollment that has been submitted to the District.**

**Data Reported:**

All Charter schools submitted their Charter School Board of Directors' adopted budget by August, 2024. All schools (district managed and charters) are required to submit a mid year budget revision. A procedure is in place to monitor student enrollment counts and to require new budgets be submitted based on these enrollments through Anvilar and our Planning Manager.

**Conclusion:** I report compliance.

- 10. Fail to provide to the Board documentation of the revised budgets of charter schools whose official October 1st count is more than 5 percent less than the projected student enrollment that has been submitted to the school district.**

**Data Reported:**

The Board of Education is provided documentation of charter schools' official enrollment compared to projected enrollments. All Charter Schools are required to submit revised budgets to the district for approval based on October 1 student enrollment.

**Conclusion:** I report compliance.

# Additional Data

## **Annual Reports**

Over the course of the past 18 months the partner schools and 27J have collaborated to create a charter school annual report framework. The purpose of this annual report is to highlight areas of performance beyond academics so that we can identify and address any indicators of distress. Sections of the report include:

- Academics
- School/District Academic Comparison
- School/District Special Populations Comparison
- School Environment
- Governing Board
- Financial Performance
- Compliance

Each of the schools have received their individual reports and are currently working on their response to the data they see within it. The aggregated report is provided for you: [All Charter School 23-24 Annual Report](#).

## Historical SPF Rating

2024	2023	2022	2019
Plan	Plan	Plan	Plan
<b>Eagle Ridge*</b>	Innovations & Options	Brantner	Reunion
Innovations and Options	<b>Eagle Ridge*</b>	<b>Foundations*</b>	<b>Landmark*</b>
Padilla	<b>the STEAD*</b>	Padilla	<b>Eagle Ridge*</b>
Brantner	Thimmig	West Ridge	<b>Foundations*</b>
<b>the STEAD*</b>	Reunion	Thimmig	Turnberry
Discovery	Second Creek	<b>Eagle Ridge*</b>	<b>Belle Creek*</b>
West Ridge	Brantner	<b>Landmark*</b>	West Ridge
<b>Landmark*</b>	<b>Landmark*</b>	Reunion	Second Creek
<b>Foundations*</b>	<b>Foundations*</b>	<b>Belle Creek*</b>	Prairie View Middle
South	West Ridge	Southeast	Riverdale
Reunion	Southlawn	Pennock	Pennock
Southlawn	Padilla	<b>Bromley East*</b>	<b>Bromley East*</b>
Second Creek	Riverdale Ridge	Second Creek	South
Henderson	Quist	Riverdale Ridge	Brantner
Thimmig	Prairie View High	Prairie View Middle	Thimmig
<b>Belle Creek*</b>	Brighton	South	Prairie View High
Brighton High	Southeast	Northeast	North
Prairie View High	Pennock	Prairie View High	Southeast
Riverdale Ridge	<b>Bromley East*</b>	Quist	Brighton High
Quist	Colorado Connections	Brighton High	Henderson
Colorado Connections	Turnberry	Turnberry	Quist
Southeast	<b>Belle Creek*</b>	<b>the STEAD*</b>	Northeast
Prairie View Middle	Prairie View Middle	Henderson	Heritage Academy
Pennock	Henderson	Overland Trail	Stuart
<b>Bromley East*</b>	Vikan	Stuart	Overland Trail
Turnberry	Northeast	Vikan	Vikan



Northeast	Overland Trail	Heritage Academy	BOLT
27J OLA	South	27J OLA	
Vikan	Stuart		
Overland Trail	27J OLA		
Stuart			
<b>School Legend:</b>			
Performance		at or above 53%	
Improvement		at or above 42% - below 52%	
Priority Improvement		at or above 34% - below 42%	
Turnaround		below 34%	

\*Denotes Charter Schools

### Staffing Data

Teacher, Staff and Administration - September 2024					
School Name	Teachers	New Teachers	Additional Support Staff	Admin	Total Staff
Belle Creek Charter School	34	4	21	2	69
Bromley East Charter School	60	19	57	8	125
Foundations Academy	41	12	13	4	58
Landmark Academy	48	1	13	6	69
Eagle Ridge Academy HS	27	4	14	4	49
The STEAD School	33	8	11	4	56
<b>TOTALS</b>					