

CHARTER FOR

Appendix A – Charter Accountability and Consequences

ACCOUNTABILITY REQUIREMENTS

The Local Board and State Board shall hold the Charter School accountable for the full performance of the performance framework standards listed below. In the event that data are not available to make a determination regarding one of the goals below, the Department and the Local Board shall use the remaining goals to decide if the school has met its accountability requirements.

The Charter School will receive a report on its performance on each of the standards below from the Department as they become available. The report will include any interventions or consequences that need to be implemented by the Charter School.

***Note:** Accountability for the last year of the Charter term will occur during the first year of a renewal charter, if granted.*

I. ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Goal 1: During each year of its Charter term, the Charter School shall meet at least one of the following performance standards.

First Look – School Performance Gap Closure. The primary academic outcome Georgia seeks from its local charter schools is that they ***increase their College and Career Ready Performance Index (“CCRPI”) score each year until they reach 100.*** The performance standards that measure CCRPI progress include growth in CCRPI itself and in its two major academic components, Content Mastery and Progress Score. The Department’s “First Look” at annual charter school performance is to see if the school has met the standard for any of the following three CCRPI gap-closing measures. Meeting any one of these standards constitutes having achieved Goal 1 for a given year.

- a. Increase its CCRPI score by at least 4% of the gap between 100 and the Charter School’s previous year CCRPI score in each grade band served (elementary, middle, and/or high school);

OR

- b. Increase its CCRPI Content Mastery score by at least 10% of the gap between 100 and the Charter School’s previous year CCRPI Content Mastery score in each grade band served (elementary, middle, and/or high school);

OR

- c. Increase its CCRPI Progress score by at least 10% of the gap between 100 and the Charter School’s previous year CCRPI Progress score in each grade band served (elementary, middle, and/or high school).

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Second Look – School-Local School System Comparisons. If a charter school does not achieve at least one of the “First Look” School Performance Gap Closure standards, consideration will be given for achieving one of the “Second Look” School-Local School System Comparison standards. The secondary academic outcome Georgia seeks from its local charter schools is that they *do better than the local school system schools to which their students would otherwise be zoned*. Performance standards include whether the school exceeds the CCRPI score (CCRPI, Content Mastery, or Progress) of its authorizing local school system or of the average of the three local school system schools to which a majority of the charter school’s students would otherwise be zoned (“majority comparison schools”).

- a. Exceed the CCRPI score of the authorizing local school system or the local school system majority comparison schools;

OR

- b. Exceed the CCRPI Content Mastery scores of the authorizing local school system or the local school system majority comparison schools;

OR

- c. Exceed the CCRPI Progress scores of its authorizing local school system or of the local school system majority comparison schools.

Goal 2: During each year of its Charter term, the Charter School will perform at the level required to stay off the list of Targeted Support and Improvement (“TSI”) and Comprehensive Support and Improvement (“CSI”) schools published annually by GaDOE.

II. SCHOOL CLIMATE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Goal 3: The Charter School shall achieve and maintain a School Climate Star Rating of 4 or more stars during its Charter term.

III. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Goal 4: During each year of its Charter term, the Charter School shall achieve all five of the following financial performance standards.

- a. Not be in default of loan or bond covenant(s) and not be delinquent with debt services payment;

AND

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- b. Achieve a Current Ratio (Working Capital Ratio) that is greater than 1.0 and one-year trend is positive;

AND

- c. Possess a Debt to Asset Ratio that is less than 95 percent;

AND

- d. Unrestricted Days Cash (Total Expenses/365) is greater than 45 days and the one-year trend is positive;

AND

- e. Enrollment Variance equals less than 8 percent;

AND

- f. Aggregate Three-Year Total Margin is positive and the most recent year Total Margin is positive or Aggregate Three-Year Margin is greater than -1.5 percent, the trend is positive for the last two years, and the most recent year Total Margin is positive;

AND

- g. Debt Service Coverage Ratio is equal to or exceeds 1.0;

AND

- h. The Charter School received and submitted to GaDOE by November 1 an annual independent audit with an opinion of the auditor regarding the accuracy of the Charter School's accounting records, financial position, change in financial position, compliance with rules of various governing entities, including GAGAS (Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards, i.e. the "Yellow Book") or, for those schools not yet converted to GAGAS, compliance with GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) that includes:

- An unmodified audit opinion;
- An audit devoid of significant findings and conditions, material weaknesses, or significant internal control weaknesses;
- An audit that does not include a going concern disclosure in the notes or an explanatory paragraph; and
- No other adverse statement indicating noncompliance with applicable laws, rules, regulations, and provisions of the charter contract relating to financial management and oversight.

IV. GOVERNANCE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

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Goal 5: During each year of its Charter term, the Charter School shall achieve all six of the following governance performance standards.

- a. All Governing Board members complied with all applicable open governance requirements, including the Georgia Open Meetings Act and the Georgia Open Records Act;

AND

- b. All Governing Board members attended all required training, including all training required for any new Governing Board members;

AND

- c. The Board met a minimum of seven (7) times;

AND

- d. The Charter School's leadership and Governing Board successfully implemented the Teacher and Leader Keys Effectiveness System as verified by GaDOE;

AND

- e. All Governing Board members acted in accordance with the *Standards for Effective Governance of a Georgia Non-Profit School Governing Board*;

AND

- f. The Board reflects the sociodemographic diversity of the community it serves.

Goal 6: By the last year of its Charter term, the Charter School shall implement all Essential or Innovative Features as defined in Section 5 of the Charter in all material respects.

V. LEGAL COMPLIANCE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Goal 7: During each year of its Charter term, the Charter School shall implement all legal requirements included in federal and state law, rules, and regulations and in its Charter.

Goal 8: The Charter School shall not do anything which results in GaDOE or the authorizing local school system(s) placing the Charter School on probation more than two times in a single school year (July 1 to June 30).

Goal 9: The Charter School shall not do anything which results in GaDOE or the authorizing local school system(s) placing it on probation more than three times during its Charter term.

ACCOUNTABILITY MONITORING AND REVIEW

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The Local Board and State Board shall hold the Charter School accountable for the full performance of the goals outlined in this Charter.

The Local Board is responsible for the annual monitoring and review of the Charter School for full performance of this Charter.

The Department will monitor and review the Charter School for full performance of this Charter.

The State Board shall hold the Local Board accountable for effective authorizing practices in support of this Charter.

The Department will monitor and review the Local Board for effective authorizing practices.

CONSEQUENCES

Failure to meet the goals outlined in this Charter may result in consequences up to and including intervention, probation, termination, or recommendation for nonrenewal.