

# Iowa State Board of Education

## Executive Summary

July 16, 2025

**Agenda Item:** Charter School Contract Amendment Request, Red Barn Schoolhouse

**State Board Goal:** Goal 5

**State Board Role/Authority:** The State Board of Education is the sole authorizer of Iowa charter schools 256E.1(4).

**Presenter(s):** Barbara Ohlund, Executive Officer 4  
Division of PK-12 Learning

**Attachment(s):** One

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the State Board approve the amendment requests for Red Barn Schoolhouse.

**Background:** After authorization, “an enforceable and renewable charter school contract shall be executed between the founding group and the state board setting forth the academic and operational performance expectations and measures by which the charter school will be evaluated” pursuant to Sections 256E.9 and 256E.10 and the other rights and duties of the parties 256E.6(1). As the authorizing agent for the State Board, the Department of Education has reviewed the charter school contract amendment request and provides a recommendation.

Red Barn Schoolhouse has submitted contract amendment language, rationale, desired outcome, governing board approval and evidence of a public meeting.

# Iowa Charter School Amendment Request Form

## Exhibit 1

The **Iowa Charter School Amendment Request Form** is completed by an authorized Charter School that requests consideration of a proposed contract amendment to the State Board of Education. To submit this document, make a copy and submit the completed form to [charters@iowa.gov](mailto:charters@iowa.gov) labeled: **Amendment Request Form\_2025\_NAME OF YOUR CHARTER**.

### 1. Requested Amendment

A. Cite existing contract language to be amended.	B. Provide specific proposed amended language.
2.3 - August 25, 2025 2.4 - 20525 Monument Road, Crescent, IA 51526 7.8 - No later than July 1 commencement year 18.1 John M. Newman % Red Barn Schoolhouse 20525 Monument Road Crescent, IA 51542	2.3- August 24, 2026 2.4 TBD 7.8 Revised calendar to be submitted by 12/1/25 18.1 Notice to: Sharon Oamek, Governing Bd. 25593 Old Lincoln Highway Honey Creek, IA 51542

### 2. Rationale Describe the rationale for the language revision from 1A to 1B. Provide sufficient detail to explain the need for the amendment.

After securing a letter of intent on March 4, 2025 regarding the lease for the proposed school site at 20525 Monument Road, ultimately the terms offered in the lease were untenable. Delays with the lease affected hiring and meant most teachers were already under contract for the 2025-26 school year. The RBS needs to have time to have a broad outreach for staff recruitment. Additional operating funds were needed. We raised over \$117,000 through community contributions and fundraising events in merely 3 months. However, the RBS was still short of the financing needs of \$200,000 to cover staffing and operation costs prior to September 2025.

### 3. Desired Outcome Describe the desired outcome of the amendment.

Amend the opening date until August 2026. Permit additional time to secure a new, permanent site.

### 4. Best Practices Describe how previous practices that led to the established contract language (1A) will change to support the current amended language (1B). How will the charter ensure effective implementation of the proposed amendment?


RBS is seeking a permanent school site to provide stability and sustainability. Three sites are identified as potential Crescent City limits sites and other county sites will be examined in order to select the appropriate site to complement our nature-art and community concepts. The time extension will allow us to work with AEA consultants to recruit top principal and educators early in the year. The school is continuing to pursue donations and grant funding to address gap in operating funds.

### 5. Documentation

- The amendment is approved by the charter school governing board (meeting agenda and minutes reflecting approval of the amendment request - attachment labeled **GBAmendment Approval**)

- b. A public meeting with stakeholders addressing the proposed change/s to the charter contract (attachment labeled ***PMAmendment***). Note that a designated public comment specific to the amendment on the governing board agenda may fulfill the public meeting requirement. Include names and roles of each individual that participated in public comment and a summary of their input.

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