

Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary

July 16, 2025

Agenda Item:	Charter School Contract Amendment Request, CIVICA – Cedar Rapids
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 CIVICA-Cedar Rapids.
Background:	<p>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.</p> <p>CIVICA-Cedar Rapids has submitted contract amendment language, rationale, desired outcome, governing board approval and evidence of a public meeting.</p>

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 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.
Multiple sections of the CIVICA Iowa, Inc. Charter Contract reference the opening year as 2025–2026.	CIVICA Iowa, Inc. is requesting an amendment to update all such references to reflect a new opening year of 2026–2027.

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

CIVICA Iowa, Inc. is requesting to amend all references in the charter contract from a 2025–2026 opening year to a 2026–2027 opening year to allow for additional time to ensure a successful school launch. This revision is necessary due to ongoing efforts to secure a suitable and compliant facility in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, as well as the need for expanded community engagement to build awareness. The additional planning year will support stronger operational readiness, including staffing, academic program development, and student recruitment, all of which are essential for ensuring strong alignment with CIVICA's mission and performance expectations. Adjusting the opening year also ensures alignment with authorizer requirements and provides a more strategic foundation for long-term success.

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

The desired outcome of the amendment is to formally update the charter contract to reflect a revised school opening year of 2026–2027, allowing for adequate time to complete facility acquisition, strengthen community outreach, and ensure full operational readiness. This adjustment will position the school for a successful launch, meeting enrollment targets, academic performance expectations, and compliance with all state and charter authorizer requirements.

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?

The original contract language reflected a timeline based on the assumption that facilities, community engagement, and operational infrastructure would be finalized within the initial planning year. While significant progress has been made, CIVICA Iowa recognizes that adhering to this timeline would risk compromising the quality and sustainability of the school's launch. Moving forward, CIVICA will adopt a more strategic and phased approach, incorporating extended timelines for facility development, targeted enrollment campaigns, and comprehensive staff recruitment. CIVICA Iowa will continue to strengthen project management protocols, implement milestone tracking, and engage regularly with the Iowa Department of Education to ensure transparency and accountability. These practices will ensure that the school is fully prepared to deliver high-quality education, meet contractual performance benchmarks, and fulfill its mission by the 2026–2027 opening.

5. **Documentation**

- a. 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.

A Board meeting was held on July 1st, 2025 with public comment available.
At that meeting, the Board approved the deferral of the school opening.
Please see the attached Board resolution for reference.



The undersigned hereby certifies that he/she is a Director of CIVICA Iowa, INC. and that the following is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Directors of said corporation and sponsored charter schools at a meeting held on July 1st, 2025:

RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of CIVICA Iowa, Inc. to approve the following Resolution by the Board of Directors:

1. Approval of the submittal of the deferral amendment for CIVICA Cedar Rapids Elementary
 - a. Deferral to open CIVICA Cedar Rapids Elementary in the 2026-2027 School Year

That the Adoption of said resolution is in all respects legal and that said resolution is in full force and effect and has not been modified or rescinded.

DATED: 7/1/2025

CIVICA Iowa, Inc.

By: *Cristina Camus*
Dr. Cristina Camus, Chair