

Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary

July 16, 2025

Agenda Item:	Charter School Contract Withdrawal Request, CIVICA – Des Moines
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 withdrawal request for CIVICA-Des Moines.
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 request and provides a recommendation.</p> <p>CIVICA-Des Moines has submitted rationale for their request to withdraw from the Des Moines contract in order to apply for an Ankeny charter location.</p>



July 2, 2025

Iowa Department of Education,

Since January 2024, CIVICA has been dedicated to finding a suitable facility for our proposed school in the Des Moines area, underscoring our commitment to serving students and families in Iowa. Despite our extensive efforts, we were unable to secure an appropriate location in Des Moines. However, we are pleased to announce that we have identified a promising facility in Ankeny. As we were not previously approved to open in Ankeny and still need to complete the necessary due diligence on the property, we respectfully request to withdraw our current application for Des Moines. We are excited to submit a new application for the Ankeny location this fall.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. Alvarez", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Carlos O. Alvarez
President of the CIVICA Network