

# Iowa State Board of Education

## Executive Summary

June 18, 2026

**Agenda Item:** Opportunity Education Network (OEN) – Cedar Rapids Prep Amendment

**State Board Goal:** Goal 5

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

**Presenter(s):** None (Consent Agenda)

**Attachment(s):** One

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the State Board approve the amendment request for OEN – Cedar Rapids Prep.

**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 Iowa Code sections 256E.9 and 256E.10 and the other rights and duties of the parties of Iowa Code subsection 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.

OEN – Cedar Rapids Prep has submitted contract amendment language, rationale, a desired outcome, facility renderings for a new school site and evidence of a public meeting.

# Iowa Charter School Amendment Request Opportunity Education Network–Cedar Rapids Prep

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.

**1. Requested Amendment**

A. Cite existing contract language to be amended.	B. Provide specific proposed amended language.
<p>Section 2.4 – Target Location: “The School shall be established within the Cedar Rapids metropolitan area. Upon securing an exact location, the applicant will inform the Authorizer. This location shall not be changed or amended unless specifically approved by the Authorizer.”</p>	<p>No substantive change to contract language is proposed. This amendment serves to formally notify the authorizer of the school’s additional facility within the Cedar Rapids metropolitan area.</p> <p>The school has secured an additional site in Hiawatha, Iowa, currently identified as 1 N Parsons Dr, Hiawatha, IA, which will be used to support enrollment growth and program expansion. Final addressing and site configuration may be updated based on municipal processes and potential acquisition of adjacent property. The school will notify the authorizer of any such updates.</p>

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

This request is not intended to change the geographic scope or intent of the contract, but rather to formally provide the specific location of a facility within the already approved Cedar Rapids metropolitan area.

Opportunity Education Network (OEN) – Cedar Rapids Prep secured and began renovation of an additional facility located in Hiawatha, IA, consistent with the geographic intent outlined in the charter contract and a five-minute drive from our current location at 4515 N River Blvd NE, Cedar Rapids, IA.

At the time of contract execution, OEN – Cedar Rapids Prep understood that operating within the Cedar Rapids metropolitan area satisfied the location requirement and that a specific address would be provided once finalized. This amendment formalizes that location.

OEN – Cedar Rapids Prep pursued expansion due to space constraints at its current location. Over the better part of two years, OEN – Cedar Rapids Prep engaged in extensive negotiations with its current landlord, including offers significantly above appraised value, but was unable to reach a viable agreement to remain or expand.

The newly acquired facility, the former headquarters of GoDaddy, provides approximately 89,000 square feet and allows OEN – Cedar Rapids Prep to meet current and future student demand. The facility has a maximum capacity of approximately 1,400 students, with an expected near-term enrollment of approximately 700 students.

OEN – Cedar Rapids Prep is constructing a gymnasium and band/orchestra room addition to meeting storm shelter requirements and support student programming. The site may ultimately include

additional adjacent property as part of a broader campus configuration, and OEN – Cedar Rapids Prep is exploring additional land for future expansion and athletic fields.

Stakeholder feedback, including from a recent Parent Teacher Organization meeting, reflects strong support and excitement for the expanded facility and the stability it provides.

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

Acknowledgment of OEN – Cedar Rapids Prep’s additional facility in Hiawatha, IA, as an attendance center operating within the approved Cedar Rapids metropolitan area under the existing charter contract.

This will allow OEN – Cedar Rapids Prep to:

- Serve additional students due to capacity limitations at the current site
- Provide a long-term, stable facility solution within the Cedar Rapids metropolitan area
- Expand academic, extracurricular and athletic programming
- Meet safety requirements, including storm shelter capacity

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?

OEN – Cedar Rapids Prep will ensure effective implementation of the additional facility by:

- Maintaining full compliance with all applicable health, safety and facility requirements
- Phasing student use of the facility in alignment with construction completion and staffing
- Completing planned additions, including a gymnasium and band room, to meet storm shelter and programmatic needs
- Continuing regular communication with families and stakeholders throughout the transition
- Exploring transportation options, including centralized bus stops within the city, to support equitable access (final plans in development)

OEN – Cedar Rapids Prep has taken a deliberate and responsible approach to facilities planning, including extended efforts to remain at its original site before securing a long-term solution that better meets student needs.

5. **Documentation**

- a. The amendment is approved by the charter school governing board (meeting agenda and minutes reflecting approval of the amendment request,
- b. A public meeting with stakeholders addressing the proposed change/s to the charter contract 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.

OEN – Cedar Rapids Prep has engaged stakeholders, local leaders and governing board leadership regarding this expansion. Feedback from families, including at a recent Parent Teacher Organization meeting, indicates strong support for the additional facility and its ability to serve more students.

The governing board has discussed the facility acquisition and development in the business section of board meetings.

Supporting materials included with this submission:

- [GBAmendment Approval and PMAmendment](#)