

# Iowa State Board of Education

## Executive Summary

June 18, 2026

**Agenda Item:** CIVICA Career and Collegiate Academy (CIVICA Iowa, Inc.)  
Contract Termination

**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):** Tina Wahlert, Division Administrator  
Division of PK-12 Learning

Barbara Ohlund, Executive Officer  
Division of PK-12 Learning

Cristina Camus, Board Chair  
CIVICA Iowa, Inc.

Frankie Mestre, Service and Support Coordinator/Board  
Liaison, ACADEMICA

**Attachment(s):** One

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the State Board approve the contract termination request for CIVICA Iowa, Inc.

**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 termination request and provides a recommendation.

CIVICA Iowa, Inc. has submitted a request that outlines the desired outcome and rationale for the termination request of the current charter school contract, executed in February 2024.

# Iowa Charter School Termination Request

## CIVICA Career and Collegiate Academy

The *Iowa Charter School Termination Request* is completed by an authorized Charter School that requests consideration of a proposed contract termination to the State Board of Education.

**1. Requested Termination**

A. Cite existing contract language	B. Provide specific proposed language.
Multiple sections of the CIVICA Career and Collegiate Academy (CIVICA Iowa, Inc.) Charter Contract reference the opening year as 2026–2027.	Under Section 12.4 (Termination by the School) of the Charter School Contract, CIVICA Iowa, Inc. is requesting to exercise its right to withdraw from the contract.

**2. Rationale**

CIVICA Iowa, Inc. is requesting to withdraw its charter application at this time, with the intent to reapply for the 2027–2028 school year. After careful consideration, the organization believes that an additional planning year will allow for a stronger and more strategic foundation to ensure a successful school launch in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. This decision is primarily driven by the need for additional time to secure a suitable and compliant facility that aligns with the school's long-term vision and operational needs. In addition, CIVICA Iowa, Inc. would like to expand its community outreach and engagement efforts in order to build greater awareness, strengthen partnerships and increase student and family recruitment within the Cedar Rapids community.

The additional planning period will also support enhanced operational readiness, including leadership and staffing development, refinement of academic programming, budgeting and financial planning and the establishment of systems and processes necessary for a high-performing school environment. CIVICA Iowa, Inc. remains fully committed to its mission and looks forward to reapplying for the 2027–2028 school year with a stronger, more comprehensive plan that is aligned with authorizer expectations and positioned for long-term success and sustainability.

**3. Desired Outcome**

The desired outcome of the withdrawal request is to formally discontinue the current charter application process and allow CIVICA Iowa, Inc. additional time to further develop and strengthen its plans for a successful school launch in the 2027–2028 school year. This additional planning period will support continued efforts related to facility acquisition in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, expanded community outreach and enrollment initiatives and overall operational preparedness. By reapplying for the 2027–2028 school year, CIVICA Iowa, Inc. will be better positioned to meet enrollment goals, academic performance expectations and all state and charter authorizer requirements while establishing a strong foundation for long-term success and sustainability.

#### 4. **Best Practices**

The original application timeline was developed based on the expectation that key components such as facility acquisition would be achieved. As a result, CIVICA Iowa, Inc. has decided to withdraw the current application and pursue reapplication for the 2027–2028 school year.

This revised approach will allow the organization to implement a more strategic and comprehensive planning process focused on securing an appropriate facility in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Moving forward, CIVICA Iowa, Inc. will continue refining its academic and operational plans while continuing project management practices, milestone tracking and ongoing communication with the Iowa Department of Education to ensure transparency and accountability throughout the planning process. This additional preparation time will position the school to successfully meet authorizer expectations, contractual performance benchmarks and its mission of delivering a high-quality educational option for students and families.

#### 5. **Documentation**

A board meeting was held on May 27, 2026, and included an opportunity for public comment.

During the meeting, the board considered and approved the withdrawal of the school opening application and the decision to reapply for the 2027–2028 school year. Please see the linked governing board resolution and governing board minutes as evidence of a charter school governing board meeting and public meeting.

- [GBTermination Approval and PMTermination 1](#)
- [GBTermination Approval and PMTermination 2](#)