Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary

October 15, 2026

Agenda Item: Charter Response to Report - Hamburg Charter High School

State Board Goal: Goal 5

State Board Role/Authority: Per Iowa Code section 256E.10, the State Board is responsible for monitoring each charter school's performance and compliance to determine whether the school's contract should be renewed up to and not to exceed five years.

Presenter(s): Tina Wahlert, Chief of Staff, Deputy Director

Barbara Ohlund, Program Manager 4
Division of PK-12 Learning

Alec Hendrickson, Superintendent
Hamburg Charter High School and Hamburg Community School District

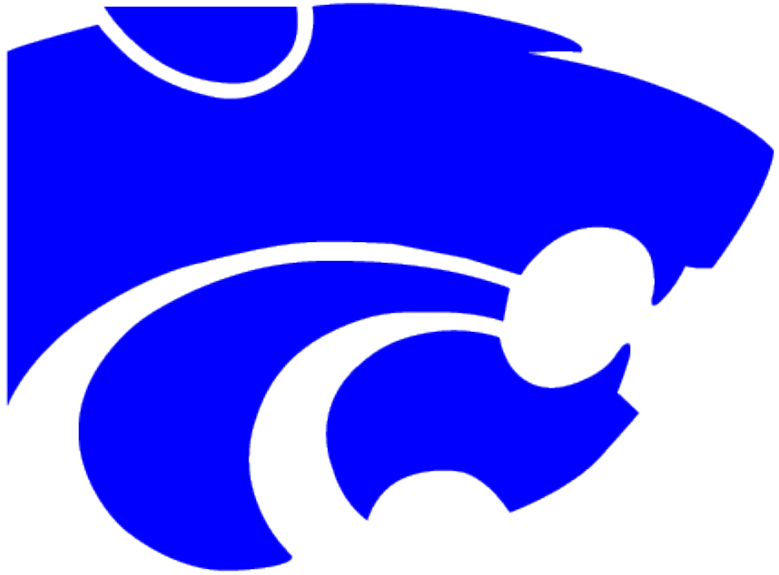
Attachment(s): One

Recommendation: It is recommended that the State Board hear and discuss this information.

Background: Pursuant to Iowa Code section 256E.10, the State Board is required to issue the renewal performance report and renewal application guidance annually by June 30 to charter schools whose contracts will expire during the following school budget year. The charter school is then provided 60 days to respond to the report and submit any corrections or clarifications.

The Response to the Renewal Performance Report addresses any identified concerns from the State Board. The response is organized into four main categories: (1) Academic Performance, (2) Operations and Governance Performance, (3) Finance Performance and (4) Supplemental Data.

Revisions identified by the State Board will be presented at the November meeting as part of the final charter school renewal presentation and decision.



Hamburg Charter High School

RENEWAL PERFORMANCE REPORT RESPONSE

School Overview

MISSION, VISION AND ACHIEVEMENTS

School Overview

1. When the Hamburg Charter High School was founded, the mission was to provide a nontraditional approach to school for high school students, who may struggle in a traditional environment. Through increased hands-on CTE routes students have the opportunity to earn Industry Recognized Credentials while in high school.
2. The original application from 2021-2022 highlighted three major pathways including Construction Trades, Culinary Arts, and Health Careers. Over the past five years we have expanded to offer Welding, Automotive, Business, and Technology as well. Students also have the opportunity to take a multitude of college courses through Iowa Western Community College.
3. Accomplishments:
    1. 40 Graduates with 15 On track to Graduate this Spring
    2. Active FFA and FCCLA chapters
    3. 1 Associates degree, 136 college courses passed, numerous IRC's including SERV safe, Iowa FFA Degree, AWS D1.1, etc.
    4. 2 State Individual Golf Titles, 1 Drake Relays participant
    5. Current enrollment of 60 students for 2026-2027

Academic Performance

RESPONSE TO RENEWAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

Report: Academic Performance

REQUIRED ACTIONS

1. State Board Request: Provide daily attendance data disaggregated by traditional academic coursework days and trade-based coursework days

PLAN TO ADDRESS REQUIRED ACTIONS

1. Data was organized based on the number of total days missed and the percentage of those days missed being either coursework or trade.

Grade	Course Days Absence Percentage	Trade Days Absence Percentage
9th	60.5%	39.5%
10th	66.3%	33.7%
11th	47.7%	52.3%
12th	53.2%	46.8%
Total	57.1%	42.9%

Report: Academic Performance

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Hamburg Charter High School is encouraged to develop goal/action steps to address chronic absenteeism.

2. Hamburg Charter High School is encouraged to prioritize implementation of transitional support regarding college coursework.

3. Hamburg Charter High School is encouraged to develop or revise charter-specific goals for the upcoming charter-term

4. Hamburg Charter High School is encouraged to develop a process that strengthens the relationship between mathematics/trades coursework and the Iowa Academic Standards

PLAN TO ADDRESS RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Hamburg Charter High School will emphasize and expand to more of a formal team approach to combat chronic absenteeism by reviewing attendance data weekly. Team members will include: Principal, Secretary, Counselor, and Nurse.

2. Additional supports have been implemented to support students with college level coursework. Including pre-enrollment meetings with IWCC, daily check-ins with college coursework facilitator, and will utilize surveys after course completion.

3. A committee of board members, staff, students, and parents will be created to identify new goals for the upcoming charter term. Work will begin with Charter Governing Board at the September 2026 meeting.

4. New math curriculum that better meets Iowa Academic Standards was purchased for the 2026-2027 school year. The Charter High School utilized assistance from the GHAEA math consultant in identifying an effective curriculum. Increase the amount of collaborative time between trade teachers and core teachers.

Operations and Governance Performance

RESPONSE TO RENEWAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

Report: Operations and Governance Performance

REQUIRED ACTIONS

1. Submit the identified missing documentation to the Department Charter School Team.

2. Update school facilities to comply with ADA

PLAN TO ADDRESS REQUIRED ACTIONS

1. The Charter School team has been sent over additional documents.
   - The DDSDP has been recently updated with the assistance of Green Hills AEA
   - Certificate of Occupancy has been included

2. The charter team visited while the school's main parking lot was under construction.
   - Appropriate van space and directional signage has been installed.
   - A plan for updating welding and automotive shops is in progress. To include paved parking at welding shop.

Report: Operations and Governance Performance

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Hamburg Charter High School is encouraged to schedule separate meeting times for the Charter Governing Board and Hamburg School Board.

PLAN TO ADDRESS RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Separate meeting times have been implemented starting with the August meetings.

Finance Performance

RESPONSE TO RENEWAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

Report: Finance Performance

REQUIRED ACTIONS

1. Submit a narrative addressing each of the repeat audit findings.

2. Submit a narrative addressing the school's financial contingency plan of adding grades 7 and 8 if Iowa CSP Grant is not awarded.

PLAN TO ADDRESS REQUIRED ACTIONS

1. A detailed response from our SBO is included in the packet.

2. If Iowa CSP Grant is not awarded the Hamburg Charter High School would delay expanding to grades 7 and 8.

Report: Finance Performance

RECOMMENDATIONS

No Financial Performance recommendations were noted.

PLAN TO ADDRESS RECOMMENDATIONS

Supplemental Data

RESPONSE TO RENEWAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

Report: Supplemental Data

REQUIRED ACTIONS

No Supplemental Data required actions were noted.

PLAN TO ADDRESS REQUIRED ACTIONS

Report: Supplemental Data

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Hamburg Charter High School administrations continue its effective policies and procedures for verifying staff licensure and certification.

PLAN TO ADDRESS RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The administration will continue its effective policies and procedures for verifying staff licensure and certification.

Long-Term Student Outcomes

Sustaining or Improving Student Outcomes

Over the last five years the Hamburg Charter High School has become a school where students feel welcome, feel a sense of community, and have the opportunity to pursue individual interests. Looking ahead, Hamburg Charter High School remains committed to creating an environment where every student feels welcome and knows that their individualized needs will be met. We want to continue building upon the number of IRCs that students can earn through hard work and dedication. The Charter High School has also given many of our current students and graduates a meaningful head start on college-level coursework. These learning experiences will help with long-term student success during and after high school.

It was brought to our attention that some students did not feel as fully supported as they could while taking college classes. We have addressed this for the 2026-2027 school year increasing one on one meetings with students, hosting pre-enrollment meetings, and will have surveys on the students' experience at the end of the course. Another important area of focus that the district needs to improve upon is the absenteeism rate. By initiating earlier conversations with students' families and utilizing a collaborative team approach to identify root causes, we will strengthen our efforts in this area.