Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary

October 15, 2026

Agenda Item: Charter Response to Report - Choice Charter 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

Cynthia Knight, Executive Director
Choice Charter School

Corey Lunn, Coordinator of Operations
Choice Charter School

Marcia Powell, Curriculum Director
Choice Charter School

Paul Carroll, Governing Board Member
Choice Charter School

Jessica Christensen, Faculty Member
Choice Charter School

Attachment(s): One

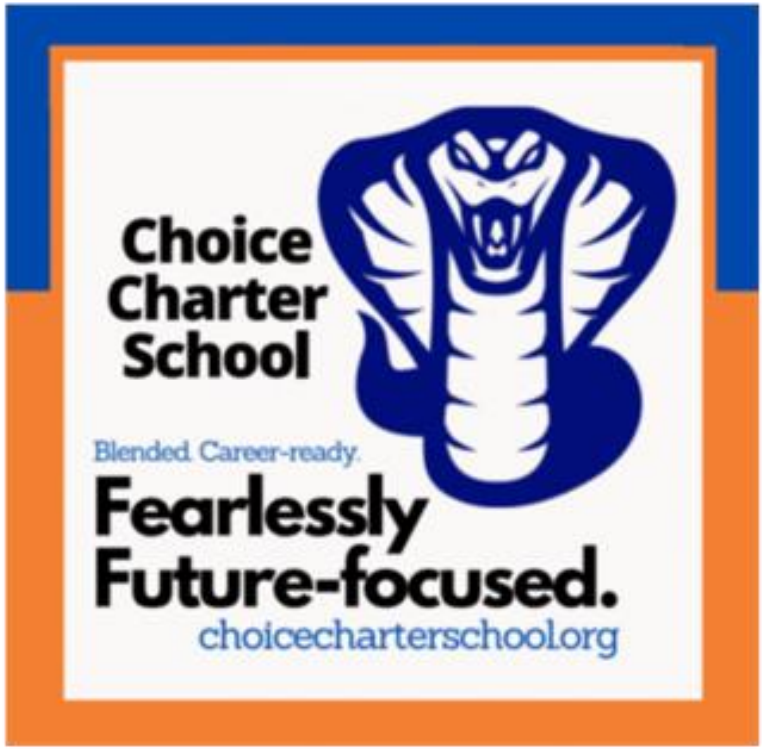
Recommendation: It is recommended that the State Board hear and discuss this information.

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.



Choice Charter School

RENEWAL PERFORMANCE REPORT RESPONSE

October 15, 2026

School Overview

MISSION, VISION AND ACHIEVEMENTS

School Overview

Mission	Vision
Choice Charter School Iowa (7-12): On a virtual secondary school campus, we provide Iowa with a student-centered alternative public education – steeped in mentoring, equity, compassion, and the skills needed to shape the future.	Choice Charter School will be a non-traditional, nonprofit school meeting the needs of unique students who want a brighter future. We will provide a research evidence-based program for students who want a nontraditional high school option, have dropped out of high school, and who are motivated to earn a diploma. Through individual learning paths that honor students' college/career dreams, we will prepare people to become engaged members of society by: ● Integrating learning strengths, student choice, interests, and needs to create personalized learning. ● Recognizing the value of each student and the unique circumstances brought to the learning environment. ● Creating a cross-curricular curriculum. ● Focusing on competency and project-based education.

Increase In Students Taking ISASPs

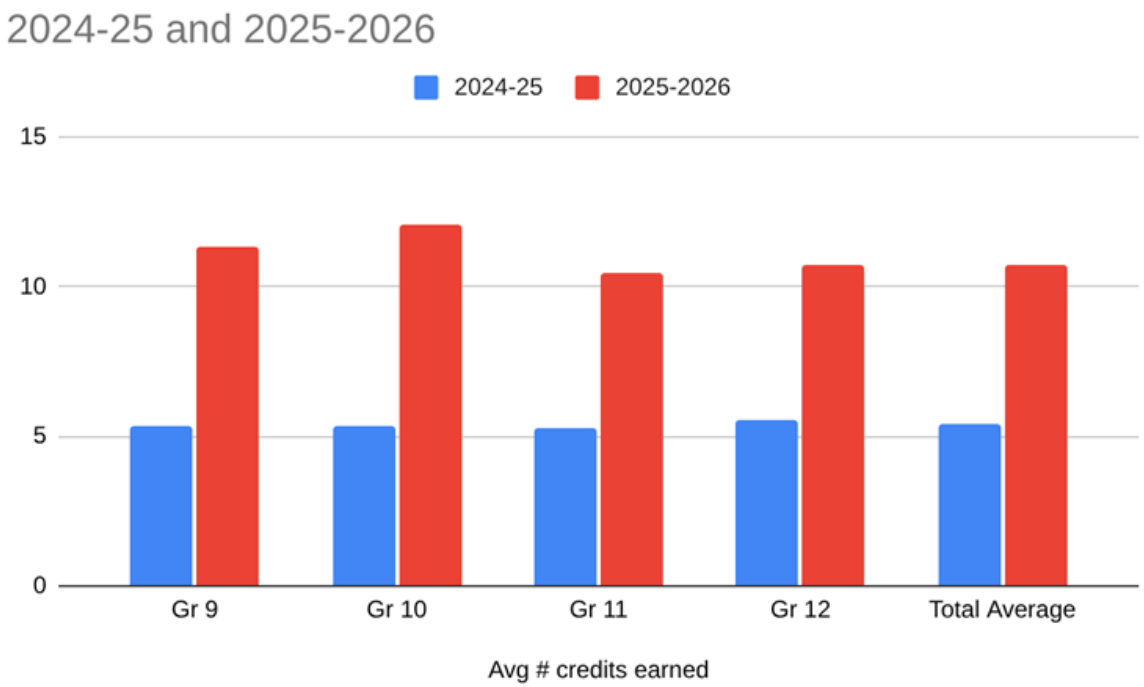
- **26% overall increase in 2025–2026**
- **75%** in participation from 49%. Specific cohorts, such as Grade 7, achieved **100%** participation due to newly implemented and demonstrably effective intervention strategies. The addition of allowing remote testing for this assessment was significant in this increase.
- Proficiency Gains:
  - **ELA: Proficiency across grades 7–11 increased from 51% to 58%.**
  - **Math: Proficiency across grades 7–11 increased significantly from 32% to 43%.**
  - Cohort Growth: The school set a goal for 5% scale score growth for student cohorts. The Class of 2030 (Grade 8 in 2026) exceeded this goal significantly with 9.66% growth in ELA and 9.05% growth in Math.

Improvement In Student Attendance

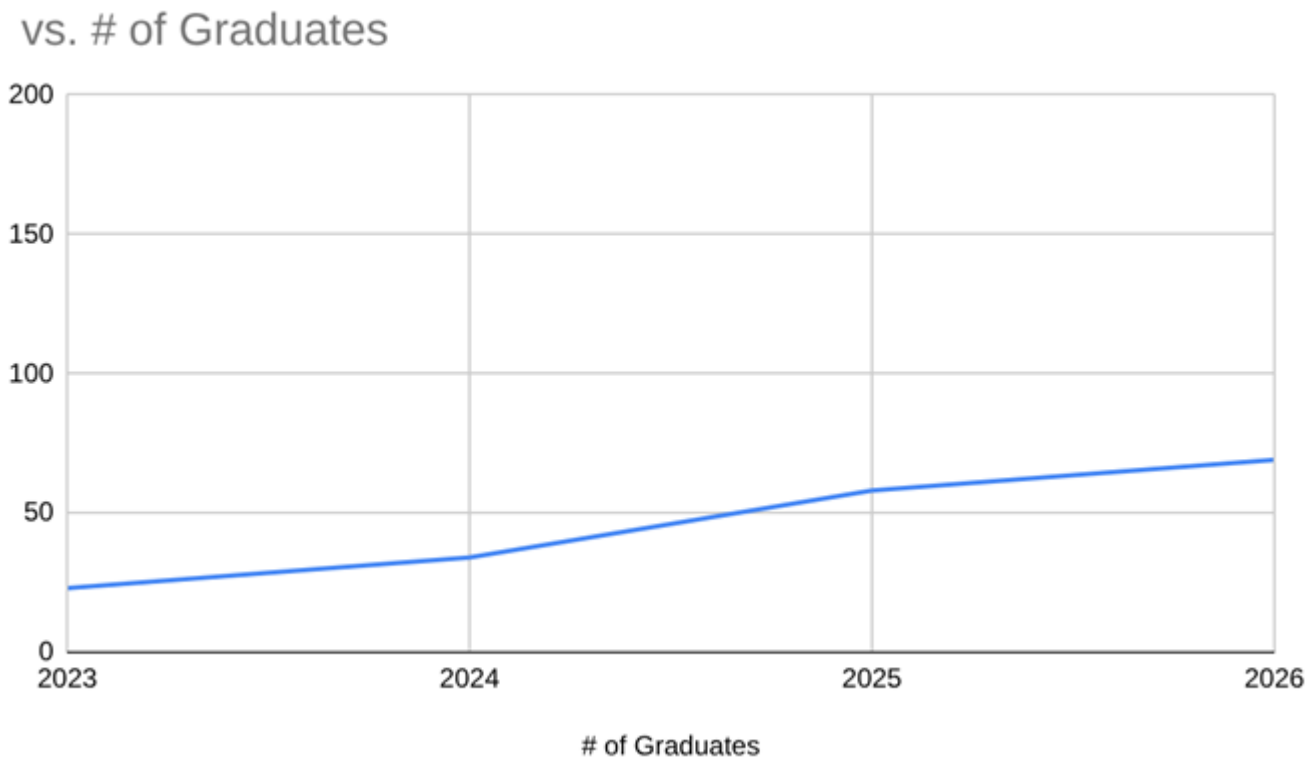
- **9%** Chronic Absenteeism - Panorama 2025-2026 a reduction from 82.73% due to MTSS interventions
- **95.7%** ADA (Spring 25-26) - as compared to 71.8% (Spring 24-25)

Increase In Credits Earned:

UPWARD TREND (Doubled)



UPWARD TRENDS - Graduation (n = 185)



Exceptional Success:

- **90%** student academic success rate - Panorama 2025-2026
- **9%** chronic absenteeism rate - Panorama 2025-2026
- **Zero** major behavior problems - Panorama 2025-2026
- **Credits earned** doubled from previous year - JMC 2025-2026

Academic Integrity:

- Successfully met **all Chapter 12's "offer and teach"** requirements without relying on state waivers, accommodating students who wished to pursue advanced coursework like physics, college classes and precalculus and CTE courses that lead to job experience.

Post-Secondary Success:

- **87%** of surveyed graduates are employed

- **40%** are attending or planning to attend post-secondary schooling or trade programs.

The "Charterverse" Community:

- Students actively connect, socialize, and build relationships online through the "charterverse."
- Elite gaming for middle and high schoolers
- Monthly movie nights
- FFA program that recently sent three students to the state convention and one member showing and WINNING Grand Champion in livestock at the Iowa State Fair



Community Satisfaction:

- Maintained a 90% satisfaction rating among staff, students, and parents, continuing a four-year trend of top-tier Conditions of Learning Survey scores.

Economic Impact:

- Graduated 68 students in the 25-26 school year (184 to date). By operating below the state average cost per pupil of $14,369, CCS saved Iowa taxpayers an estimated **$2.18 million** this year while adding an estimated **$34 million** in lifelong economic impact to the state's economy.

Positive Climate & Parent Engagement:

- Parents now have a dedicated hub in the charterverse’s "Success Center" to access FAQs, attend monthly meetings, and connect directly with teachers, counselors, staff and the CEO.

Flexible Scheduling for Life Demands:

CCS provides crucial flexibility to keep non-traditional students engaged, specifically catering to young parents and students working full-time to support themselves/families.

Connections and relationships

- IJAG, Alliant Energy Apprenticeships, State and Community Colleges, Juvenile Court Officers, YSS and other mental health groups and facilities in Iowa, and Iowa Workforce Development, our continued effort to reach out to local and state resources, along with school districts in Iowa who see the value in our school, Choice Charter School continues to provide a safe learning environment where all are welcomed, cared for and the educational experience can't be beat.
  - Added interventions (MTSS, RISE I and RISE II, SCALE, More Mentors)
  - Positive impact made by adding positions (Dean of Students, Student Advocate)

School Overview: 2025-2026 HIGHLIGHTS

Choice Charter School is changing lives one student at a time while preparing them to be participating citizens. We have helped increase the graduation rate, increase Iowa's tax base, and save the taxpayers of Iowa money by educating these students on a lower budget (see above comments) than any other district of our size in Iowa and provided a brighter future for the students we serve.

Academic Performance

RESPONSE TO RENEWAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

Report: Academic Performance

REQUIRED ACTIONS

Required Action: Provide an updated ESSA Action Plan to the Department Charter School Team that outlines steps targeting improvement in student growth and achievement.

PLAN TO ADDRESS REQUIRED ACTIONS

Response: The ESSA and CCS Teams most recently met on August 13. During this time an updated plan, with goals, was completed focused on 1) increasing Math and ELA ISASPs proficiency, 2) participation in taking the ISASPs assessments, and 3) the chronic absenteeism rate.

Due to the make-up of students at Choice Charter School, meeting one-size-fits targets for measuring State Performance Goals will continue to be a challenge. Most students come to the school with prior attendance issues and are significantly behind credits needed to graduate, while many others have not taken the ISASPs consistently before they attended CCS. There are also a high number of students that enter and exit the school (654 in 2025-2026).

Report: Academic Performance

REQUIRED ACTIONS

Required Action: Implement Iowa Code section 299.12 with fidelity regarding chronic absenteeism. Provide a plan to the Department Charter School Team detailing the strategies that will be implemented to reduce the chronic absenteeism rate on par with the state average of 15.81%.

PLAN TO ADDRESS REQUIRED ACTIONS

Response: This required action is obsolete when taking into account that the calculated chronic absenteeism rate for the 2025-2026 school year was 9%. During the 2025-2026 school year, a new position for CCS, Dean of Students, was hired. One of the responsibilities of this new position is to monitor attendance, communicate with, and intervene as necessary with staff, students, and parents/guardians. Attendance systems and practices have been revisited, updated, and strengthened where needed. The Dean of Students also worked with the MTSS Team, ensuring that tiered services were in place and provided. Student Advocates were put into place midway through the school year with a focus of ensuring that targeted students were in classes, making phone calls to students and/or parents when they were not present. A separate attendance team, in addition to the MTSS Team, was also put into place to consider additional tiered interventions when necessary. These changes resulted in a 95.7% ADA (Spring 25-26) - as compared to 71.8% (Spring 24-25), and a reduction in the chronic absenteeism rate from 82.73% in FY25 to 9% reported at the end of the 2025-2026 school year.

A request was made to Barbara Ohlund at a meeting on August 13th with the DE ESSA and CCS Teams to define "fidelity". Per an email response on August 21", the following was provided: "Fidelity in this context means consistently and accurately applying the attendance coding categories required under Iowa Code § 299.12. This includes ensuring that attendance staff correctly code students as attending or absent, using the appropriate absence categories when applicable, and applying those codes consistently across all students. This will help ensure that attendance and chronic absenteeism data accurately reflect student attendance and can be used to identify and address patterns of chronic absenteeism." As part of the new Dean of Students' responsibilities, an audit of the State attendance codes was conducted with updates on its uses. Dr. Knight also met with Heidi Anthony to discuss the new metrics the DE was working on and Heidi assured Dr. Knight that the way CCS was counting attendance made sense and met the intent of the guidance provided by the DE concerning "fidelity".

A goal to "Maintain below 15% chronic absenteeism (below state average)" has been included in the updated ESSA Plan with the ESSA Team.

Report: Academic Performance

REQUIRED ACTIONS

Required Action: Provide a plan to the Department Charter School Team detailing the strategies that will be implemented to meet the mandatory 95% participation threshold.

PLAN TO ADDRESS REQUIRED ACTIONS

Response: Internal 2025–2026 data shows a 26% overall increase- from 49% to 75% in participation. Specific cohorts, such as Grade 7, achieved 100% participation due to newly implemented and demonstrably effective intervention strategies. The addition of allowing remote testing for this assessment was significant in this increase.

Choice Charter School (CCS) addresses its ISASP assessment participation challenges and state evaluation standards through the following key points:

- **Student Demographics & Testing Constraints**: Lower scores and participation reflect a student population prone to absenteeism and lower baseline academic performance. While new online testing options improved participation rates, CCS was restricted to a 3-week testing window instead of the 2 month window granted to other schools.
- **Lack of Contractual Standards**: The school contract contained no explicit ISASP participation goals, leaving CCS without clear expectations or standards tailored to its unique model.
- **Action & Collaboration**: CCS is partnering with the Department of Education team to lead attendance and testing initiatives in its updated ESSA plan. Extending the testing window to the full 2 months and leveraging online testing remain central to meeting compliance targets.

A goal to “Increase ISASP participation rate to 95%” has been included in the updated ESSA Plan with the ESSA Team, along with potential action steps. We are relying heavily on the expertise of the ESSA DE members to help develop ways to increase participation of the student population served by CCS.

Report: Academic Performance

REQUIRED ACTIONS

Required Action: Provide the requested local AY 25-26 data to the State Board:
1. The percent of students on track for graduation (credit accrual).
2. The percent of students who earn enough credits from Choice Charter School and subsequently
return to their resident school.
3. The percent of Choice Charter School students who received their GED.

PLAN TO ADDRESS REQUIRED ACTIONS

Response: This data collection was not part of the renewal process data collection process. It is also not included in Chapter 256E, the applicable administrative rules, nor the rubric adopted in February 2025 by the Board for the renewal process. While this data point was discussed during the November 2025 State Board meeting, the school was not provided with formalized guidance, a clear timeline, or an established protocol for reporting this specific metric. Consequently, classifying the absence of this data as a deficiency in our renewal evaluation is unwarranted and does not accurately reflect our compliance with state reporting standards.

That being said:

- 90% of students are on track for graduation (per Panorama data).
- While Choice Charter School does not retain data regarding students who return to their resident school, we discovered that 98 students returned to their home district or left the state.
- Zero students received their GED from Choice Charter School because we do not offer the GED (nor does any other public school in Iowa).

Report: Academic Performance

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation: Choice Charter School is encouraged to continue support of the remaining goals through implementing data-based interventions targeting attendance, academic performance and progress towards graduation. Additional monitoring and data analysis protocols centered around student growth rates in standards mastery is also recommended in order to identify and track all growth achieved while enrolled at Choice Charter School.

PLAN TO ADDRESS RECOMMENDATIONS

Response: Due to the make-up of students at Choice Charter School, meeting one-size-fits targets for measuring State Performance Goals will continue to be a challenge. Most students come to the school with prior attendance issues and are significantly behind credits needed to graduate. While many others have not taken the ISASPs consistently before they attended CCS. There are also a high number of students that enter and exit the school (654 in 2025-2026). In spite of this, Choice Charter School (CCS) met and exceeded its academic growth and performance targets during the current charter term:

- **Overall Proficiency**: Maintained term averages of 58% in ELA and 49% in Math, exceeding the contract goal of 60% proficiency when accounting for Spring 2026 Grade 7 performance (80% ELA, 90% Math).
- **Student Growth**: Achieved a Student Growth Percentile (SGP) of 60, successfully meeting growth framework targets and transitioning students toward college readiness.
- **Longitudinal Progress**: The Class of 2030 demonstrated a 13.64% increase in ELA scale scores and a 14.45% increase in Math scale scores from 2025 to 2026.

Goals related to targeting attendance, academic performance and progress towards graduation have been included in the updated ESSA Plan with the ESSA Team, along with annual SIAC Goals.

Report: Academic Performance

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation: Continue current collaboration with the Department's ESSA consultants. It is recommended that progress be evaluated quarterly and the school action plan is updated in the areas of student growth, credit accrual, attendance, chronic absenteeism and intervention effectiveness.

PLAN TO ADDRESS RECOMMENDATIONS

Response: Goals related to targeting attendance, academic performance and progress towards graduation have been included in the updated ESSA Plan with the ESSA Team, along with annual SIAC Goals.

Operations and Governance Performance

RESPONSE TO RENEWAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

Report: Operations and Governance Performance

REQUIRED ACTIONS

Required Action: Change current governing board practices:

• Discontinue current recruitment practice requiring interview with—and approval from—current administrative staff.

• Develop and conduct independent governing board recruitment procedures.

PLAN TO ADDRESS REQUIRED ACTIONS

Response: Choice Charter School refutes the finding regarding its board selection process, asserting full compliance with state laws, contract terms, and internal bylaws:

- **Board Selection & Governance**: Candidates are vetted via references and elected strictly by a majority vote of the governing board per Article IV of the bylaws, Iowa Code 256E.7, and HF 785. The CEO has no voting rights in board elections.
- **Ethics & Conflict Policies**: CCS has formally adopted a conflict-of-interest policy, a code of ethics, and a nepotism policy.
- **Legal & Contractual Alignment**: Under Iowa Code Section 256EW.2, board elections are governed by the charter contract and school bylaws, which CCS has fully adhered to without violation

Report: Operations and Governance Performance

REQUIRED ACTIONS

Required Action: Update, adopt and submit school admissions policy to the Department Charter School Team.

PLAN TO ADDRESS REQUIRED ACTIONS

Response: This policy (Policy 101 - Admissions Policy) has been completed and approved by the CCS School Board on August 11, 2026. After an online search, this policy was not found in other public-school districts. There is also no model policy to follow.

"Policy 101 - Admissions Policy Status:
APPROVED 8/11/2026

It is the policy of Choice Charter School not to discriminate in its student admissions policies or practices based on intellectual or athletic ability, measures of achievement or aptitude, or status as a person with a disability.

Choice Charter School may limit admission to students who are within a particular range of ages or grade levels or on any other basis that would be legal if initiated by a school. Enrollment priority may be given to the siblings of students enrolled in the school**.**

If you have a question or complaint related to this policy, or for information about the school's admission procedures, please contact Dr. Cynthia Knight, dr.knight@choicecharterschool.org, or 515-850-2545."

Report: Operations and Governance Performance

REQUIRED ACTIONS

Required Action: Use the required HLS and parent notification forms available on the TransACT website at the time of student enrollment and when communicating with families to ensure compliance with Department requirements. The HLS and the Lau Plan's description of the HLS must include the following three questions:

1) What is the primary language used in the home, regardless of the language spoken by the student?
2) What is the language most often spoken by the student?
3) What is the language that the student first acquired?

PLAN TO ADDRESS REQUIRED ACTIONS

Response: CCS utilizes the exact Lau Plan template provided by the DE. The HLS was included in the initially approved state application and had never been cited for non-compliance prior to this evaluation. During the renewal review process, the DE Team did not ask the school's registrar for applicable documentation. Specifically, Choice Charter School uses the Ed portal and EdInsight to determine who needs to fill out the HLS. Most of our students come from other districts that have already had the family fill out the form. We only send out the form if, in EdInsight, the ELL status is empty. CCS uses ParentSquare which translates all communications to the home language. CCS has added TransACT to its repertoire to meet the language needs of our families.

CCS will work with the DE to determine if all students must fill out the HLS even if it has been filled out in their home district and implement HLS guidance.

Report: Operations and Governance Performance

REQUIRED ACTIONS

Required Action: The LIEP in the Lau Plan must specifically detail the following:

- How students enrolled in a program for English learners receive systematic English language instruction designed to allow meaningful access to the district's educational programs (Iowa Administrative Code chapter 281.60) within a virtual instructional model.
- Alignment with the Department's approved LIEP Instructional Program types outlined in the Student Reporting in Iowa Data Dictionary.

PLAN TO ADDRESS REQUIRED ACTIONS

Response: CCS utilizes the exact Lau Plan template provided by the DE. CCS has reviewed and the board has approved the updated Lau Plan that includes the required actions listed above.

Report: Operations and Governance Performance

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation: Choice Charter School's governing board is encouraged to conduct an independent assessment of its current training needs and engage in ongoing professional development specific to charter school governance.

PLAN TO ADDRESS RECOMMENDATIONS

Response: Choice Charter School (CCS) addresses board training and governance requirements through the following points:

- **Mandated Compliance**: 100% of board members completed state-mandated Open Meetings and Open Records training (Iowa Code Chapters 21 & 22)
- **Proactive Onboarding**: Select leadership (Ryan Haacke and Dr. Knight) attended formal board onboarding training ("Onboard: The Basics of Being an Effective Board Member") and presented key insights to the full board.
- **Legal Requirements**: A review of governing documents shows no explicit statutory or contractual requirements for board training under Iowa Code Chapter 256E or the Department of Education contract.

Report: Operations and Governance Performance

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation: Choice Charter School is encouraged to regularly review and monitor clear conduct and conflict of interest policies while multi-role members actively serve on the governing board.

PLAN TO ADDRESS RECOMMENDATIONS

Response:

- **Approved in Initial Application:** Having a staff member on the board was approved in the initial application. This ensures that there is a place for staff voice and input at the board level. The staff member abstains when there is any voting issue related to pay, contracts, benefits, etc.
- **Ethics & Conflict Policies**: CCS has formally adopted a conflict-of-interest policy, a code of ethics, and a nepotism policy.

Report: Operations and Governance Performance

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation: Choice Charter School is encouraged to monitor staff understanding and implementation regarding improvement initiatives to ensure staff are clear on expectations, timelines and individual roles. These data could be used for individual staff coaching and support during the different phases of the improvement process.

PLAN TO ADDRESS RECOMMENDATIONS

Response: CCS is working on taking the pulse of our teachers more often to get feedback on confusions and expectations so that we can better meet their needs. We will continue to monitor this with our check out feedback loop. Using the information to add support and coaching as needed.

Report: Operations and Governance Performance

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation: Choice Charter School is encouraged to continue to participate in IDEA-DA Level 2 supports and activities to continue to improve educational results and functional outcomes for all students with disabilities.

PLAN TO ADDRESS RECOMMENDATIONS

Response: Choice Charter School has a current IDEA-DA designation of Level 2 and is currently collaborating with the Department. We have created a plan and will be implementing that plan this year.

Finance Performance

RESPONSE TO RENEWAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

Report: Finance Performance

REQUIRED ACTIONS

Required Action: Submit a narrative addressing each of the repeat audit findings, including the district's understanding of why the audit findings were experienced and the work being done to address systemic issues and district processes to address each finding.

PLAN TO ADDRESS REQUIRED ACTIONS

Response: The correction below was shared in an email sent by Kassandra Cline on August 14, 2026, to Dr. Knight and others.

"*The report directed Choice Charter to submit a corrective narrative addressing "repeat audit findings." Choice Charter has zero repeat findings in any of its audits. This directive was in reference to the multiple items identified in the management letter from the auditor. The reference to "repeat audit findings" was intended to refer to the multiple findings identified in the management letter and will be clarified as "multiple management letter findings" in the final report."*

This is the narrative addressing the "repeat audit findings" and the current concern of Kassandra Cline on August 14, 2026 of the "Multiple findings" as reported by our Auditor, Meena Bishnoi

Year ending 6/30/2023 – No findings were noted on the audited financial statements or board communications

Year ending 6/30/2024 - No findings were noted on the audited financial statements or board communications

Year ending 6/30/2025 – A material weakness was noted on the Board letter for an adjustment to correct the receivable and revenue for $61,384.

As you can see there were NO repeated findings and NO multiple findings.

Report: Finance Performance

RECOMMENDATIONS

The school has no compliance corrective actions in this area.

PLAN TO ADDRESS RECOMMENDATIONS

Response: Audit reports for FY23 and FY24 were timely filed, as documented by DE email communications. Emails show audits were sent to the DE and the State Auditor on FY23 and FY24. CCS has a consistent record of unmodified (clean) audit opinions with **zero repeat findings**.

The correction below was shared in an email sent by Kassandra Cline on August 14, 2026, to Dr. Knight and others.

> "FY23 and FY24 audits were not filed timely with the Iowa Auditor of State's office. After reviewing the Department's internal process, Choice Charter did submit the Audit reports to the Department in a timely manner; however, the audit reports were incomplete. Our current internal process does not differentiate between timely *complete* and timely *incomplete* submission, and the Department is implementing internal process improvements to ensure clarity moving forward."

Notably, this recommendation (among others) is substantially verbatim to that in the Storm Lake Report, implying that it was merely copied and pasted between documents, rather than a substantive, individualized critique of CCS.

Choice Charter School (CCS) met its contractual financial goals and demonstrated strong fiscal health for the FY 25–26 term:

- **Financial Outcome**: CCS achieved a "strong" financial standing with $681,512.01 in retained earnings as of June 30, 2026.
- **Contract Goal Alignment**: Net revenues exceeded expenditures, meeting the 5-year plan projections and matching the reporting practices of all participating schools.

Supplemental Data

RESPONSE TO RENEWAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

Report: Supplemental Data

REQUIRED ACTIONS

The school has no compliance corrective actions in this area.

PLAN TO ADDRESS REQUIRED ACTIONS

Response: Choice Charter School questions the accuracy of a 49% grade in this area. Storm Lake received three recommendations for improvement, one more than CCS, but received a grade of 100% in this area, a discrepancy of 51% with CCS, with neither report (nor the Framework) explaining how this grade was generated. Further, this section does not mandate that CCS make any changes but provides a failing grade. Considering that the Report is statutorily required to "summarize the charter school's performance record to date based on the data required by the charter school contract and by this chapter and *shall identify concerns that may jeopardize renewal of the charter school contract if not remedied*," it is perplexing that either factor would bear on CCS's grade considering that the Report had no mandatory guidance. Iowa Code § 256E.10(6). With no corrective actions noted in this section, we would like to see the metrics of how it equates to a performance assessment score of 49%.

Report: Supplemental Data

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation: Choice Charter School's governing board is encouraged to conduct governing board recruitment to gain membership with balanced background expertise across academics, education policy, operations and school finance.

PLAN TO ADDRESS RECOMMENDATIONS

Response: The CCS board consists of professionals holding advanced degrees, including a banking veteran with over 21 years of experience, a university faculty member, community leaders in trauma-informed care and at-risk youth advocacy, as well as parents, teachers, and students.

Report: Supplemental Data

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation: Choice Charter School is encouraged to conduct an internal audit of barriers to staff retention and use the findings to inform continuous improvement planning. School leadership is also encouraged to provide ongoing monitoring and targeted strategies to improve staff retention rates.

PLAN TO ADDRESS RECOMMENDATIONS

Response: Current enrollment meets or exceeds 95% of projected enrollment, a metric that "Meets Standard" in Iowa. Furthermore, 100% of teachers are Iowa-licensed, and 100% hold proper endorsements in their respective fields. Additionally, It was brought to our attention on 8/26/2026 that Robert Hanna had a Class B license for Math. He did teach math for us, but he also taught science for which he has a Standard Teaching License starting 1/2022. This qualifies him as a certified teacher teaching in the areas in which he licensed. I am not sure why the DE has the understanding that he was not properly licensed.

The nature of our student population is that many of them have dropped out at least once, so retaining 62% of students who dropped out elsewhere is both a win for Choice Charter School and Iowa by improving outcomes for students with difficulty in traditional learning environments.

The staff retention rate is based on decisions by CCS as opposed to staff members. CCS, in an effort to continually provide the highest quality education to students, has made staffing changes to best serve CCS and the students. Teaching online is a different experience than many educators have had. Some find that they need the in-room experience. We recognize that this is a highly experimental setting, and that it may take time to find the right fit for the benefit of staff members and the students they teach.

Long-Term Student Outcomes

Sustaining or Improving Student Outcomes

Choice Charter School will continue its mission and vision of providing a quality education for Iowa's youth who can't or won't return to traditional school. We pride ourselves in being compassionate and listening to our students and families to improve their educational experience. We are great stewards of our funds received by the state as seen in our continued ending positive balance for the past four years. We have done exceptional with the students in Iowa who have been turned away, massively under credited and told they will not succeed. Our individualized approach that does not rely on set rules and standardized formulas for learning is providing our youth with hope for a brighter future. We will continue to meet the unique needs of our students so that they can become positive productive and contributing members of our great state of Iowa.

Iowa Code 256E.10 Annually, by June 30, the State Board of Education shall issue a Renewal Performance Report and charter renewal application guidance to each charter school whose charter school contract will expire during the following school budget year. Schools have sixty days to respond to the Renewal Performance Report and submit any corrections or clarifications for the reports.

The State Board of Education did not submit an annual Performance Report; therefore, the State Board of Education is in breach of contract. By waiting until year 4 of our contract to finally provide a RENEWAL, not an annual, Performance Report, it is noted by CCS that addressing many of Required Actions and the State Boards requests call into suspect the spirit of the Renewal Performance Report as a “guide” as reported by Dr. Ohlund, to ensure CCS addresses all concerns for renewal.