Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary

November 18, 2026

Agenda Item: Charter School Renewal Application - 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): Barbara Ohlund, Program Manager 4
Division of PK-12 Learning

Tom Bredfield, Education Program Consultant
Bureau of School Improvement

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

Attachment(s): Two

Recommendation: It is recommended that the State Board approve the renewal application of Hamburg Charter High School without conditions as per the recommendation summary.

Background: Pursuant to Iowa Code section 256E.10, the governing board of a charter school seeking renewal shall submit a renewal application no later than October 1. A renewal or denial shall be approved by resolution of the State Board within sixty days following the filing of the renewal application. While considering the renewal application, the State Board will use evidence of the school's performance over the term of the charter school contract.

A decision to revoke or not renew a charter school contract shall be by resolution of the State Board and shall clearly state the reasons for the revocation or nonrenewal.

Renewal Recommendation Summary: Hamburg Charter High School

Location: Hamburg Community School District
Grades: 7-12
Education Service Provider: N/A

Current Term: Completed Improvements

- The school has increased the number of customized programs, activities and clubs for students.
- Charter school governing board meetings are now conducted separately from school board meetings.
- A new mathematics curriculum has been implemented with approved HQIM implementation professional development provided by Green Hills AEA.
- Average student attendance has increased to 95.3%.

Planned Improvements for Next Charter Term

- The facilities committee is developing a plan to complete improvements to the welding and automotive shops.
- The school is planning to expand the grades offered to add grades 7 and 8.
- The school plans to strengthen collaboration between the core instruction teachers and the trades teachers.
- The school plans to conduct curriculum reviews, teacher professional development and alignment reviews to increase student proficiency.

Five-Year Budget Projections

Projections	Year One 2026-27	Year Two 2027-28	Year Three 2028-29	Year Four 2029-30	Year Five 2030-31
Projected Enrollment	60	88 (Adding Grade 8)	95 (Adding Grade 7)	95	98
Total Revenue	878,372.00	1,104,634.01	1,219,713.49	1,238,150.62	1,283,851.25
Total Expenditures	600,000.00	620,000.00	630,000.00	540,000.00	540,000.00
Net Revenue/ Expenditures	278,372.00	484,634.01	589,713.49	698,150.62	743,851.25
Prior Year Surplus/Deficit		278,372.00	763,006.01	1,352,719.50	2,050,870.12
Remaining Balance	278,372.00	763,006.01	1,352,719.50	2,050,870.12	2,794,721.37

Renewal Recommendation: Full Term Approval

Renewal Recommendation

- The charter school has responded to the required actions in the Renewal Performance Report, including implementation of several identified recommendations for continuous improvement. Therefore, it is recommended that the Iowa State Board of Education approve the renewal application for a full five-year term.

Charter School Response to Renewal Performance Report

Renewal Report Section	Required Action	Current Status
Academic Performance	• Provide attendance data that compares academic coursework days and trades-based days.	• The school provided the data within the formal written response.
Operations and Governance Performance	• Provide missing documentation from the renewal school visit. • Update all facilities to be Americans with Disabilities Act compliant.	• The requested documentation was included within the formal written response. • Signage and parking spaces have been added since the completion of the addition to the facilities. Additional signage for the welding and automotive shops is being created.

Finance Performance	• Submit a narrative addressing each of the repeat audit findings:
	  ○ Segregation of duties
	  ○ Financial reporting
	  ○ Board minutes
	  ○ Categorical funding
	  ○ Interfund loans
	• Submit a narrative addressing the financial impacts of grade expansion and contingency plans if the Charter Schools Program grant is not awarded.
		• The segregation of duties is currently being executed as standard practice rather than formal, written policies.
		• The school has established internal protocols to ensure accurate tracking and recording of all receivables, payables and capital assets.
		• All official minutes are published in the local newspaper for public review.
		• The underexpenditure of Teacher Salary Supplemental funds was due to a fiscal year 2023 payroll issue. Actions have been taken to prevent recurrence.
		• There has been no unauthorized transfer of funds between accounts. All outstanding interfund balances were cleared in October 2025. Additional oversight of financial coding has been implemented.
		• The expansion would not continue with grade expansion plans if the CSP grant was not awarded. The school would pursue additional grant funding to offset operational and programming costs.

Supplemental Data	No corrective actions identified.	

October 2026

Charter Renewal Application

As part of the renewal process, all charter schools submit both a Response to the Renewal Performance Report issued by the Iowa State Board of Education and the Charter Renewal Application.

In Section *1. Response to Renewal Performance Report issued by the Iowa State Board*, charter schools **must address all identified required actions** from the report (Compliance Corrective Actions & Iowa State Board of Education Requests) in their response. Charter schools **may** address Continuous Improvement Recommendations or any additional sections within the report. Any additional data (graphs, tables, etc.) the charter school includes as part of its response should be included within a singular appendix item, sent as an attachment during submission.

- **Section 1. Response to Renewal Performance Report issued by the Iowa State Board of Education and related information appendix item** (if applicable) needs to be submitted to charters@iowa.gov by 11:59 p.m., Aug. 30, 2026.

By 11:59 p.m., Oct. 1, 2026, all remaining Charter Renewal Application sections (2-7) and the Annual Report must be submitted to charters@iowa.gov.

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1. Response to Renewal Performance Report issued by the Iowa State Board of Education

Please see **Section 8. Attachments** for the Response to Renewal Performance Report issued by the Iowa State Board of Education.

2. Request for Renewal

Deadline for remaining Renewal Application Sections: Oct. 1, 2026, 11:59 p.m.

Please select:

☒ The charter school seeks to renew its charter contract for a new term[1].

1. *Please complete the remainder of this section*

☐ The charter school does not seek to renew its charter contract and therefore cease its charter operations at the end of the current contract term.

2. *If the charter does not seek to renew its contract, do not complete the remainder of this section.* ***Please include a signed formal letter from the Governing Board outlining the voluntary closure at the end of the current term.***

[1]The Iowa State Board of Education has final authority to approve, approve with conditions or deny charter renewal for terms up to five years based on performance and compliance.

3. Progress towards Charter-Identified Goals during Current Charter Term

Insert Response Here (Table 14, additional data and attachments can be referenced can be cited in the response here).

Table 14: Progress towards Charter-Identified Goals during Current Charter Term

Charter Goal	Progress over Current Charter Term
Increase students enrolled in the program.	Enrollment has increased steadily over the last 4 years and has met expectations.
Provide a more rigorous learning experience than a traditional school by additionally focusing on career and college curriculum.	Data previously shared in the report shows 90-100 percent of students in trade programs earn a certification or industry recognized credential in their trade field.
Students have an Individualized Learning Plan that directs their career path.	This is a matter of practice for all students. Seniors presented their career portfolios to the school board.
Provide year round opportunities for apprenticeship programs that enhance skills and provide income opportunities.	All seniors had the opportunity to participate in a paid apprenticeship program.
Provide opportunities for a trade career path to students throughout Southwest Iowa.	Students are enrolled from Hamburg, Tabor, Sidney, Shenandoah, Red Oak, and College Springs.
Provide career mentors.	Each student has a qualified mentor assigned in their career path.
Hire fully licensed career teaching staff and provide relevant professional growth opportunities.	All staff are licensed and trained in developing personal learning plans.

Charter goal data are from JMC, Charter Renewal Report, Student portfolios

Additional Data

Please provide any additional data relevant to the performance of the charter school that has not been previously included in the annual report. **All additional data files, graphs or tables should be compiled into a single attachment at the end of this report with clear labels.**

4. Completed Improvements for the Charter School

Since the inception of the Hamburg Charter High School, we have continued to improve in several ways. These include offering more customized programming for students, identifying higher areas of interest with students, increasing the number of activities/clubs that are offered to students, etc.

The Hamburg Charter High School has also started correcting areas for improvement that were identified in the June 2026 performance report. There are now separate board meetings between the Hamburg Community School Board and the Hamburg Charter High School Governing Board. A new math curriculum series has been implemented with guidance and support from the Green Hills AEA. This new curriculum will better align with state standards. Between the new curriculum and increased intervention/seminar time we are expecting math proficiency to increase this year. Student average daily attendance is 95.3% up from 94.7% over the same time period as last year. This is an area we will continue to focus on making improvements over the course of the 2026-2027 school year.

Our facilities committee is developing a plan to address facility improvements at the welding and auto shops.

5. Next Charter Term Plans, Planned Improvements, and Modifications

Next Charter Term Plans

For the upcoming charter term, we plan to incorporate the Hamburg Community School District middle school students into the district-run charter high school programming. If awarded the CSP grant to support expansion, the Charter High School and School District would begin developing an implementation plan that could take effect starting with the 2027-2028 school year.

The Hamburg Charter High School is also identifying new potential trade pathways to expand into. This would allow us to offer our students additional choices and IRC's. The goal of the Hamburg Charter High School is to be able to serve the widest range of students and be able to customize an educational plan for each student's individual interest.

Planned Improvements for Next Charter Term

With the addition of middle school students, we would like to develop pathways for grades 7-9. With the hope that it assists students in identifying a trade route that interests them earlier in their academic career. This earlier recognition will assist them in earning additional IRC's and certifications.

Increase collaboration between traditional core classroom teachers and our trade/CTE teachers. With the end goal of creating more cross curricular learning opportunities.

Increase student proficiency. While there is room for growth in all areas we will focus primarily on Math and Science to start. This will include professional development for teachers, curriculum review to ensure alignment, etc.

Table 15: Contract Modifications

There are no contract modifications at this time.

Contract Section	Current Contract Language	Proposed Modification
Parties & Recitals		
Establishment		
Purpose & Mission		
Term & Renewal		
Governance		
Education Program		
School Performance Standards		
Enrollment & Admissions	Eligibility of enrollment for any students 9-12	Eligibility of enrollment for students 8-12 for 2027-2028 school year, and 7-12 for 2028-2029 and subsequent years.
Facilities		
Insurance & Legal Liabilities		

Modification Rationale

If the Hamburg Charter High School receives the expansion grant, the district would like to include middle school in charter programming.

6. Assurances

Please mark the following assurances with **Y** for yes and **N** for no. If the applicant is unable to assure compliance with any of the assurances, the application will not be approved. Later discovery of a provider's failure to adhere to any of the assurances may be the basis for the State Board to revoke the charter contract.

Y/N	Assurance
Y	A. It will meet all applicable federal, state, and local health and safety requirements and laws prohibiting discrimination based on race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, ancestry, or disability. If approved, the charter school will be subject to any court-ordered desegregation in effect for the school district at the time the charter school application is approved, unless otherwise specifically provided for in the desegregation order.
Y	B. It will operate as a nonsectarian, nonreligious school.
Y	C. It will be free of tuition and application fees to Iowa resident students between the ages of five and 21 years.
Y	D. It will comply with the requirements of section 29E.1 relating to the sharing of records of information, and the communication, collaboration and coordination of efforts to best serve students, in the same manner as a school district.
Y	E. It will comply with Iowa Code chapter 216 and Iowa Code chapter 216A relating to civil and human rights.
Y	F. It will provide special education services in accordance with Iowa Code chapter 256B
Y	G. It understands that it is subject to the same financial audits, audit procedures, and audit requirements as a school district. The audit must be consistent with the requirements of Iowa Code section 11.6, Iowa Code section 11.14, Iowa Code section 11.19, and Iowa Code section 279.29, and Iowa Code section 256.9, subsection 256.9(20), except to the extent deviations are necessary because of the program at the school. The Department, the auditor of state, or the Legislative Services Agency may conduct financial, program, or compliance audits.
Y	H. It will comply with the requirements of Iowa Code section 256.7, subsection 256.7(21), and the educational standards of Iowa Code 256.11, unless specifically waived by the State Board during the application process.
Y	I. It will provide instruction for at least the number of days or hours required by Iowa Code 279.10, subsection 279.10(1), unless specifically waived by the State Board as part of the application process.
Y	J. It will comply with Iowa Code sections 279.13 and 279.69 relating to state criminal history checks for teachers and registry checks for school employees in the same manner as a school district.
Y	K. It will comply with the requirements of Iowa Code section 279.14B relating to prohibiting retaliation against employees or contractors for disclosing certain specified information in the same manner as a school district.
Y	L. It will comply with the requirements of Iowa Code section 279.65 relating to student handbooks in the same manner as a school district.
Y	M. It will comply with the requirements of Iowa Code section 279.65A relating to the adoption of policies related to the discipline of a student for making a threat of violence or causing an incident of violence that results in injury or property damage or assault in the same manner as a school district.
Y	N. It will comply with Iowa Code section 279.76 relating to physical examinations, health screenings and formal examinations or surveys designed to assess a student's mental, emotional or physical health in the same manner as a school district.
Y	O. It will comply with the requirements of Iowa Code section 279.78 relating to prohibitions and requirements related to the gender identity of students in the same manner as a school district.

Y/N	Assurance
Y	P. It will comply with the requirements of Iowa Code section 279.79 relating to student, employee and contractor participation in surveys, analyses, activities or evaluations in the same manner as a school district.
Y	Q. It will comply with the requirements of Iowa Code section 279.80 relating to sexual orientation and gender identity instruction in kindergarten through grade six in the same manner as a school district.
Y	R. It will comply with the requirements of Iowa Code section 279.81 relating to prohibiting students from serving on any committees that determine, or provide recommendations related to, whether a material in a school library should be removed.
Y	S. It will comply with the requirements of Iowa Code section 280.9A, subsection 2, related to the administration of the civics test in the same manner as a school district.
Y	T. It will comply with the requirements of Iowa Code section 280.34 relating to the reporting and investigation of an incident involving the possible commission of a felony by any person who has been issued a license, endorsement, certification, authorization, or statement of recognition by the board of educational examiners in the same manner as a school district.
Y	U. It will comply with the requirements of Iowa Code section 280.35 relating to the requirement to view the board of educational examiners' public license information prior to hiring an individual who has been issued a license, endorsement, certification, authorization or statement of recognition by the board of educational examiners in the same manner as a school district.
Y	V. It will comply with the requirements of section 280.36 relating to the establishment of a multidisciplinary school safety assessment team in the same manner as a school district.
Y	W. It will comply with the requirements of Iowa Code Ch. 256E.
Y	X. Its governing board meetings will be conducted in a manner that is open to the public. The governing board will be a governmental body for purposes of Iowa Code chapter 21 relating to open meetings.
Y	Y. It understands that all records, documents, and electronic data of the charter school and of the governing board, its governing body for purposes of Iowa Code chapter 22, will be public records and are subject to the provisions of Iowa Code Ch. 22 relating to the examination of public records.
Y	Z. It will employ or contract with teachers as defined in Iowa Code section 256.145, who hold valid licenses with an endorsement for the type of instruction or service for which the teachers are employed or under contract.
Y	AA. It will have a chief administrator that is one of the following: ● An administrator who holds a valid license under Iowa Code chapter 256, subchapter VII, part 3 ● A teacher who holds a valid license under Iowa Code chapter 256, subchapter VII, part 3 or ● An individual who holds an authorization to be a charter school administrator issued by the Board of Educational Examiners under Iowa Code chapter 256, subchapter VII, part 3.
Y	BB. It will not 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. However, a 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 district.
Y	CC. It will give enrollment priority to the siblings of students enrolled in a charter school.
Y	DD. It will enroll an eligible student who submits a timely application unless the number of applications exceeds the capacity of a program, class, grade level or building. In this case, students must be accepted by lot.
Y	EE. It will, upon enrollment of an eligible student, notify the public school district of residence not later than March 1 of the school year preceding the year of enrollment.
Y	FF. It will adopt a conflict-of-interest policy and a code of ethics for all board members and employees.

Y/N	Assurance	
Y	GG.	It will adopt a policy regarding the hiring of family members to avoid nepotism in hiring and supervision. The policy must include but is not limited to a disclosure to the governing board of potential nepotism in hiring and supervision. Any person subject to the policy with a conflict must not be involved in the hiring decision or supervision of a potential employee.
Y	HH.	It will prohibit individuals compensated by an education service provider from serving as a voting member on the governing board unless the State Board waives such prohibition.
Y	II.	If operated by an education service provider, the governing board of the charter shall assure it has access to all records of the education service provider necessary to evaluate any provision of the contract or evaluate the education service provider's performance under the contract.
Y	JJ.	It will have a majority of the membership of the governing board be residents of the geographic area served by the charter school. Each governing board member must be a citizen of the United States. Not more than one member of the governing board may be a resident of another state.
Y	KK.	It will post the charter school's annual budget on the charter school's website for public viewing within 10 days of approval of the budget. Each posted budget must continue to be accessible to the public on the website for all subsequent budget years.

Conditions. Each condition must be met and followed for the duration of the charter school contract. Failure to maintain any of these conditions could result in the revocation of the charter by the State Board [Iowa Code Section 256E.10, subsection 256E.10(3)].

Reporting. To meet the data reporting requirements, including student enrollment and performance information needed for the performance framework, charter schools must use a student information system that will transmit information to the Department that is compliant with the School Interoperability Framework (SIF) education data standard [Iowa Administrative Code rule 281—19.11, subrule 281—19.11(3)].

Non-Discrimination. Iowa Code section 256E.7, subsection 256E.7(5), states that a charter school cannot 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. However, a charter school may limit admission to students who are within a particular range of age or grade level or on any other basis that would be legal if initiated by a school district. Enrollment priority must be given to the siblings of students enrolled in a charter school. Refer to **Nondiscrimination Notices: PK-12 Schools** document on the Civil Rights Compliance webpage for more information about this required policy.

7. Certification

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, do hereby submit an Iowa public charter school program renewal application and agree to the conditions and assurances contained therein.

Charter School Administrator Signature:



Governing Board President Signature:



Education Service Provider Authorized Representative Signature (if identified):

_____ Date _____

8. Attachments

- Five-Year Budget
- School Organization Chart
- Charter Management Organization Contract (if applicable)
- Response to Renewal Performance Report issued by the Iowa State Board of Education
- Charter School Annual Report