Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary

November 18, 2026

Agenda Item: Charter School Renewal Application - Storm Lake/Iowa Central/Buena Vista Early College 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

Stacey Cole, Superintendent
Storm Lake Community School District

Brittany Brown, Charter School Counselor
Storm Lake/Iowa Central/Buena Vista Early College High School

Matt Doebel, Principal
Storm Lake/Iowa Central/Buena Vista Early College High School

Attachment(s): Two

Recommendation: It is recommended that the State Board approve the renewal application of Storm Lake/Iowa Central/Buena Vista Early College High School with 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. In 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: Storm Lake/Iowa Central/Buena Vista Early College High School

Location: Storm Lake Community School District
Grades: 12
Education Service Provider: N/A
Programming Overview: Career pathways including trades programs, associate and bachelor's degree opportunities.

Current Term: Completed Improvements

- The school has eliminated fees for repeated coursework.
- Attendance data tracking has expanded.
- Existing student support systems have been strengthened for incoming student cohorts.

Planned Improvements for Next Charter Term

- The school will collect and analyze comparative data on first-year postsecondary outcomes between charter school and non-charter school graduates.
- The school will implement a Dual Enrollment and Financial Aid Impact Advising Protocol and bilingual parent workshops to educate families about postsecondary expectations, requirements and resources.
- The comparison findings of workforce readiness, employment, and four-year institution enrollment will be used to develop information materials and family outreach supports.

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	63	66	69	55	55
Total Revenue	$525,645.45	$530,440.33	$535,283.15	$540,174.41	$545,114.58
Total Expenditures	$510,883.16	$526,209.65	$541,995.94	$558,255.82	$575,003.50
Net Revenue/ Expenditures	$14,762.29	4,230.68	($6,712.79)	($18,081.41)	($29,888.92)
Prior Year Surplus/Deficit		$14,762.29	$18,992.97	$12,280.18	($5,801.23)
Remaining Balance	$14,762.29	$18,992.97	$12,280.18	($5,801.23)	($35,690.15)

Renewal Recommendation: Approve with Conditions

Renewal Recommendation

- The charter school has responded to the required actions identified in the Renewal Performance Report, including implementation of several recommendations for continuous improvement. However, the school's five-year budget shows a significant deficit trend. Therefore, it is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the renewal application with the following conditions:
    - Charter contract term dating July 1, 2027 to June 30, 2032.
    - A detailed budget and financial plan to address the growing deficit projected beginning in the 2029-30 school year, submitted with the required October 1, 2027 Annual Progress Report.
        - The detailed budget and financial plan must differentiate the funding received for students attending the charter school and funding used for charter school costs that are from other district resources.
        - If the detailed budget and financial plan reflects a deficit balance, the plan must identify other sources to pay for the costs.
        - Accompany the charter school financial plan and budget with a five-year projection of the district.

Charter School Response to Renewal Performance Report

Renewal Report Section	Required Action	Current Status
Academic Performance	No corrective actions identified.	
Operations and Governance Performance	Discontinue charging student tuition costs, remove all related language from school handbooks and prepare for potential financial reimbursement.	● Discontinued charging tuition for courses previously failed or withdrawn from during high school or charter school enrollment. ● Removed all related language from school handbooks. ● Completed financial reimbursement.
Finance Performance	Submit a narrative addressing each of the repeat audit findings.	● The district is restructuring the business office and will use the Iowa Association of School Board segregation of duties handbook and auditor consultation to develop new procedures and controls. ● The district does not anticipate being able to implement a cost-effective resolution to the audit finding, "Auditor Preparation of Financial Statements."
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.

Charter Renewal Application 1
1. Response to Renewal Performance Report issued by the Iowa State Board of Education 2
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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

Based on feedback from the Performance Review and the team's identified strategies for improvement, Storm Lake Community School District established three goals for the past year. All three goals were successfully implemented and achieved. The table below outlines each goal and the progress made.

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

Charter Goal	Progress over Current Charter Term
1. Maintain comprehensive data and documentation to support future coordinators, including the roles and contributions of district positions that support and collaborate with the Charter Program.	1. Over the past two years, collaboration between the Charter Program and public high school has increased significantly. Partnerships among the Charter Coordinator and high school/college counselors have supported collaborative event planning and family outreach. Regular meetings between the high school principal and Charter Coordinator have strengthened program awareness and understanding of state reporting requirements. As Charter Schools in Iowa have expanded, the Charter Coordinator and high school principal have also participated in workshops and conferences together to strengthen collaboration and program implementation.
2. Develop and implement a parent grade-release form for the next fiscal year of Charter Program enrollees, ensuring signed authorization is obtained to allow the coordinator to communicate with parents regarding student academic progress.	2. In collaboration with Iowa Central, Storm Lake High School developed a parent release form that allows the Charter Coordinator to communicate directly with parents of Charter students. The form will be included with enrollment materials beginning in January 2027, supporting increased parent involvement in students' college coursework and providing an additional layer of academic support and communication.
3. Develop and implement a Parent/Student Graduation Pathway Guide for students transitioning from middle school to high school.	3. This Parent/Student Pathway Guide will be implemented this spring 2027 when enrollment begins at Storm Lake Middle School providing students and their parents with comprehensive information to support informed planning and a successful transition to high school.

Charter goal data are from ***collaborative efforts with administration and the counseling department.*** These data reflect ***areas of improvement acknowledged this year and implemented to help improve student and parent engagement.***

4. Completed Improvements for the Charter School

The Storm Lake Community School District's Performance Review identified and completed several areas for continued improvement. In response, the district eliminated fees for students repeating courses, updated enrollment requirements, expanded attendance data tracking, and strengthened support systems for the next cycle of Charter Program students.

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

Next Charter Term Plans

Collect comparative data on first-year postsecondary outcomes for Charter and non-Charter graduates, focusing on workforce readiness, employment, and enrollment at four-year institutions. Use the findings to evaluate the effectiveness of the Charter Pathway and develop informational materials to support family outreach and program enrollment.

Planned Improvements for Next Charter Term

Implement a Dual Enrollment Transcript and Financial Aid Impact Advising Protocol, along with bilingual parent workshop nights to educate families about postsecondary expectations, financial aid requirements, and available ARC tutoring resources.

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		
Facilities		
Insurance & Legal Liabilities		

Modification Rationale

There are no contract modifications at this time.

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/N	Assurance
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	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/N	Assurance	
Y	FF.	It will adopt a conflict-of-interest policy and a code of ethics for all board members and employees.
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)].

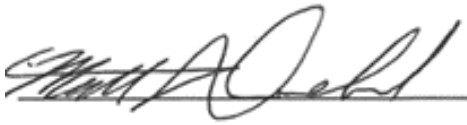
Reporting. To meet the data reporting requirements, including student enrollment and performance information needed for the performance framework, charter schools must use a student information system that will transmit information to the Department that is compliant with the School Interoperability 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

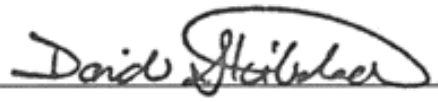
WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, do hereby submit an Iowa public charter school program renewal application and agree to the conditions and assurances contained therein.

Charter School Administrator Signature:



Date 9/29/26

Governing Board President Signature:



Date 9/30/26

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