Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary

November 18, 2026

Agenda Item: Charter School Renewal Application - 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):

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

Tom Bredfield, Education Program Consultant
Bureau of School Improvement

Cynthia Knight, Executive Director
Choice Charter School

Jessica Christensen, Administrator
Choice Charter School

Marcia Powell, Curriculum Director
Choice Charter School

Paul Carroll, Governing Board President
Choice Charter School

Julie Correa, Governing Board Member
Choice Charter School

Jenna Hatanpa, Legal Counsel
Choice Charter School

Attachment(s): Two

Recommendation: It is recommended that the State Board approve the renewal application for Choice Charter 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. 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 to 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: Choice Charter School

Location: Statewide Virtual Platform
Grades: 7-12
Education Service Provider: N/A

Current Term: Completed Improvements

- The school expanded the capacity of the Charterverse virtual platform, allowing 200 concurrent users (previously 100).
- The implementation of Enhanced Individual Learning Plan (ILP) frameworks has improved tracking of progress toward high school completion and post secondary readiness goals.
- Internal accounting procedures have been improved to include direct work with Certified Public Accountant auditors for accurate financial reporting.
- Governing Board membership has expanded to 10 members, with plans for finance and communication committees being discussed.

Planned Improvements for Next Charter Term

- Choice Charter School plans to expand access to industry-recognized credentialing and vocational training available for students.
- The school seeks to further lower chronic absenteeism and student attrition through personalized coaching, scheduling and student support systems.
- The school plans to maintain a balanced operational budget that supports instructional technology, avatar infrastructure support and student support services.
- Choice Charter School seeks to maintain no audit findings through quarterly internal reviews in preparation for the annual fiscal audit.

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	335	370	405	440	475
Total Revenue	$ 3,378,084.48	$ 3,771,561.18	$ 4,130,479.69	$ 4,496,406.64	$ 4,869,452.51
Total Expenditures	$ 3,002,715.17	$ 3,640,364.98	$ 4,015,537.38	$ 4,381,971.03	$ 4,794,930.12
Net Revenue/ Expenditures	$ 375,369.31	$ 131,196.20	$ 114,942.31	$ 114,435.61	$ 74,522.39
Prior Year Surplus/Deficit	$ 685,764.81	$ 1,061,134.12	$ 1,192,330.32	$ 1,307,272.63	$ 1,421,708.24
Remaining Balance	$ 1,061,134.12	$ 1,192,330.32	$ 1,307,272.63	$ 1,421,708.24	$ 1,496,230.63

Renewal Recommendation: Approve with Conditions

Renewal Recommendation

- It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the renewal application with the following conditions:
  - Establish charter contract term dating July 1, 2027 to June 30, 2028.
  - Performance benchmarks:
    - By the renewal date, achieve an overall performance score of 60% or better as measured by the Iowa Charter School Performance Framework.
    - Submit audits for FY23, FY24, and FY25 that meet Iowa's statutory requirements by June 30, 2027.
      - Ensure the auditor conducting such audits is licensed in Iowa.
      - Audits are required to be conducted based on Iowa school audit requirements.
      - Audits are required to be conducted against Governmental Accounting Standards Board standards.
    - Upon receipt of each audit, complete the activities below.
      - Submit the audit to the Iowa Auditor of State via SubmitReports@aos.iowa.gov.
      - Submit the audit to the Department of Education to ed.audit@iowa.gov.
      - Submit a list of the findings and the school's plan to correct each finding identified in the audit to charters@iowa.gov.
    - Complete the remaining Required Actions identified in the Renewal Performance Report.
      - Submit professional learning plan for the Governing Board regarding the separation of the school Chief Executive Officer / Director and the governing board regarding membership screening, recruitment, and appointment.

Charter School Response to Renewal Performance Report[1]

Renewal Report Section	Required Action	Current Status

Academic Performance	• Submit updated Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Action Plan targeting student growth and achievement.
	• Submit updated ESSA Action Plan targeting student growth and achievement.
	• Identify and submit quantifiable student growth data beyond ISASP scores (State Board Request).
	• Identify and submit quantifiable student growth data beyond ISASP scores (State Board Request).
	• Provide 2025–26 data on credit accrual, General Educational Development (GED) attainment and student mobility (State Board Request).
		• An updated plan was submitted after an August 13 collaboration with the Department ESSA Team.
		• A Dean of Students was hired, an attendance support team was created, and a goal was written to maintain a chronic absenteeism rate below 15%.
		• A goal has been included in the school's action plan to increase ISASP test participation to 95%.
		• Choice Charter School provided the requested data as part of their renewal application:
		  ○ 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, they discovered that 98 students returned to their home district or left the state.
		  ○ Zero students received their GED from Choice Charter School because they do not offer the GED (nor does any other public school in Iowa).

Operations and Governance Performance	• Discontinue administration-directed board selection practices; develop independent selection protocols and provide a timeline of anticipated board independence (State Board Request). • Submit updated school admissions policy documentation. • Update Lau Plan to include required Home Language Survey (HLS) questions and Language Instruction Educational Program (LIEP) details.	• The school refutes the findings of the board selection process and asserts full compliance with state laws, contract terms, and governing board bylaws. • The admissions policy was approved August 11, 2026, and submitted per the request. • The school uses the current HLS survey template from the Department and will work with Department staff for additional guidance. • The school uses the current LIEP template provided by the Department.
Finance Performance	• Submit a narrative addressing each of the concerns noted by the auditor in the FY25 audit's Management Letter.	• The school asserts there were no repeated findings and no multiple findings from 2023, 2024 and 2025.
Supplemental Data	No corrective actions identified.	

[1] In the formal response to the Renewal Performance Report, Choice Charter School refuted findings from the State Board report across multiple domains. The information provided in the table was in addition to the challenges presented by the school on the basis of the performance framework, charter school contract and Iowa Code Chapter 256E.

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
2. Request for Renewal 3
3. Progress towards Charter-Identified Goals during Current Charter Term 4
4. Completed Improvements for the Charter School 6
5. Next Charter Term Plans, Planned Improvements, and Modifications 7
6. Assurances 11
7. Certification 14
8. Attachments 15

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

- As demonstrated in our performance metrics, Choice Charter School has successfully fulfilled all charter-established goals across Enrollment, Career Pathways, Postsecondary Opportunities, and Readiness. Furthermore, Choice Charter School outperforms state averages in key operational and culture indicators, including Chronic Absenteeism, Conditions for Learning, Financial Sustainability, and Governance Performance.
- While state-standardized testing (ISASP) metrics indicate identified areas for academic growth, these measure continuous progress within our unique scholar population rather than direct parity with traditional school models. Overall, our comprehensive framework yields measurable success—empowering scholars to thrive academically, socioemotionally, and in their postsecondary pursuits.
- Furthermore, regarding the state-imposed performance measures, baseline goals were originally intended to be established once Choice Charter School had accumulated sufficient historical data—targeted for Year 4 of operation. When Choice Charter School proactively approached the Department of Education to formally amend and propose these goals, the DE's explicit guidance was to defer contract amendments until the formal renewal cycle. • With the Department's recent adoption of a new statewide assessment, baseline trends for our specific scholar population must now be re-established, a process requiring a minimum of three years of longitudinal data. Consequently, Choice Charter School proposes utilizing our School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC) goals as the benchmark for state-aligned measures during this transition period, ensuring rigorous internal oversight while reliable new assessment trends are established.
- The Charter - Identified Goals are below. Those goals highlighted in Yellow are state-imposed goals.

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

Charter Goal	Measure	Annual Target	Annual Progress
CCS will provide an opportunity for scholars who have dropped out or are at risk of dropping out of high school. By meeting scholars who need an education that is done differently. We will lower the dropout rate and raise the graduation rate in Iowa.	300 scholars in the program in the first year.	300 scholars enrolled	Met
CCS will honor the career dreams of the scholars it serves by creating individual learning pathways	16 career clusters combined to create 5 bigger subgroups using Advance CTE	Postsecondary readiness information will be used here	Met
CCS will provide scholars support as they use their creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and problem-solving skills to become productive members of society and the workforce.	Opportunities for postsecondary training, education, certifications, apprenticeships, and jobs will be determined by scholar choice and skill set.	Postsecondary readiness information will be used here	Met

Charter Goal	Measure	Annual Target	Annual Progress
Benchmark status on early approved screening measure(s) in grades K-3	Not Applicable		
Attendance	Percent of scholars chronically absent	Less than 1% to be revisited by SIAC when we have actual data	9% chronic absenteeism which is below the state 15%
Conditions for Learning data	Conditions for Learning composite score	This data will be given after count day when we have the scholars who can take the survey	Met from our first annual report
Enrollment attrition and mobility		Less than 1%	Not Met
Postsecondary readiness for scholars in grades 912	Postsecondary readiness index score	This data will be given after count day when we have scholars who graduate	20%
Financial performance and sustainability	Revenue less expenditures Projections vs actuals	This was given the 5-year plan and will be updated once finances are finalized.	$685,764.81 in retained earnings for the fiscal year 25-26
Governing board performance and stewardship, including compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, and terms of the charter contract.	Charter school citations (if any) logged into Consolidated Accountability and Support Application (CASA)	This data will be given after the first year of operation.	No CASA compliance issues
Scholar Academic Proficiency – English Language Arts	Percent of scholar proficient/advanced proficient on ISASP and/or DLM Assessment	60% proficient to be revisited by SIAC when we have actual data. (20% for 7 and 8th graders)	58% overall: MET per amended contract for 7th graders 80%, and 8th graders 67%
Scholar Academic Proficiency – Math	Percent of scholar proficient/advanced proficient on ISASP and/or DLM Assessment	60% proficient to be revisited by SIAC when we have actual data. (20% for 8th and 8th graders).	43% overall; MET per amended contract for 7th graders 90% and 8th graders 52%
Achievement gaps in scholar Academic Proficiency – English Language Arts	Percent of scholars proficient/advanced proficient on the ISASP and/or DSM assessment by: • Gender • Race/ethnicity • Poverty • Special education status • Limited English • Gifted	60% proficient to be revisited by SIAC when we have actual data.	See Appendix A
Achievement gaps in Scholar Academic Proficiency – Math	Percent of scholars proficient/advanced proficient on the ISASP and/or DSM assessment by: • Gender • Race/ethnicity • Poverty • Special education status • Limited English • Gifted	60% proficient to be revisited by SIAC when we have actual data.	See Appendix A

Charter Goal	Measure	Annual Target	Annual Progress
Scholar Academic Growth – English Language Arts		One grade level pre-post to be revised by SIAC when we have actual data	Because of the individual nature of our scholars, we had many who moved from developing to college-ready on the Accuplacer.
Scholar Academic Growth – Math		One grade level pre-post to be revised by SIAC when we have actual data	Because of the individual nature of our scholars, we had many who moved from developing to college-ready on the Accuplacer.
Achievement gaps in scholar Academic Growth – English Language Arts		One grade level pre-post to be revised by SIAC when we have actual data	Because of the individual nature of our scholars, we had many who moved from developing to college-ready on the Accuplacer.
Achievement gaps in scholar Academic Growth – Math		One grade level pre-post to be revised by SIAC when we have actual data	Because of the individual nature of our scholars, we had many who moved from developing to college-ready on the Accuplacer.

Charter goal data are from ***ISASP, Accuplacer, Panorama, CofL, JMC***. These data reflect everything we've built across our scholar Information Systems and two standardized assessments: ISASP, our state assessment, and ACCUPLACER, a college-placement test. Individually, each told a partial story. Together, they show a school that is growing scholars meaningfully while they're enrolled, even though point-in-time snapshots make that growth hard to see***.***

Additional Data: We have no additional data outside of this report and the annual report.

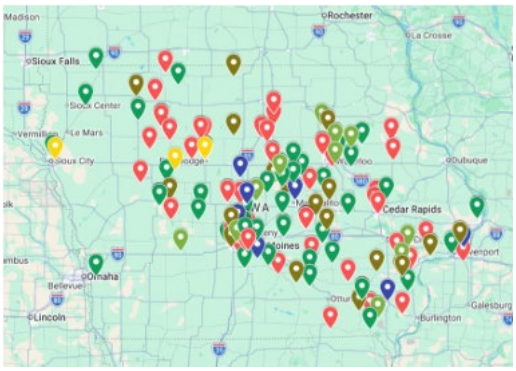
4. Completed Improvements for the Charter School

During the current charter term, Choice Charter School implemented significant continuous improvements across academic programs, infrastructure, operations, and financial governance to optimize scholar outcomes and maintain compliance:

Academic Support & Infrastructure Expansion:

- To support virtual learning engagement and career development pathways, Choice Charter School expanded its digital capacity on the Charterverse virtual platform, upgrading capacity from 100 original to 200 concurrent user slots to prevent access bottlenecks during peak instruction hours.
- The presence across the state for scholars who need help has expanded across the state.
- Enhanced Individual Learning Plan (ILP) frameworks to track progress toward high school completion and postsecondary readiness goals.
- Development of a comprehensive MTSS and mentoring process in response to the individual needs of our scholars. That can pivot quickly to meet immediate and long-range needs.
    - CCS is working with the ESSA DE team to increase participation rates for the ISASP. We will continue seeking best practices for online schools and helping our staff incorporate those into our educational delivery. Since the new assessment will not have growth measures over years, and the DE is working on this; we will need to revisit goals in these areas once we are renewed.

Figure 1: October 2026 Heat Map



Governance & Compliance Alignment:

- We maintain a Governance Board to represent our school; parents, scholar, staff, and other stakeholders (business, community, colleges, and other civic-minded groups) interested in providing quality education for the scholars we serve. All prospective members are brought to the board for a vote. The CEO is not a voting member of the board. We have increased the number in our board to 10 voting members.
- Open meeting laws and training for board members will continue.
- We have created an enrollment policy to comply with the DE's request for understanding who is eligible for our school.
- CCS has always used the HLS and will continue this practice in compliance with the DE's request.
- CCS has a LAU Plan that was provided as guidance from the DE and will continue that practice to remain in compliance.
- CCS has always had members of its governance board sign a conflict-of-interest document and will continue this process to stay in compliance with the DE's request.
- The CCS board recognizes that as the school grows, more governance committees will be needed. We will be working on creating Finance and Communications Committees and will evaluate the needs for future committees.

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

Next Charter Term Plans

- In the upcoming charter term, Choice Charter School plans to expand its specialized educational model serving at-risk scholars and scholars seeking nontraditional pathways to graduation. Key strategic priorities include:
    - Growing in size and helping Iowa scholars find a place they belong and can thrive and a place where they can start dreaming again about a brighter future.
    - Remaining fiscally responsible and maintaining academic excellence through live teachers, rather than asynchronous curriculum that does not provide educational expertise from licensed practitioners.
    - Creating experiences that will help our scholars learn the skills they will need to be productive citizens: innovation, creativity, problem solving, solution oriented, civic mindedness. These are the career ready practices suggested by Advance CTE and their model for career-ready scholars.

Postsecondary & Career Readiness Pathways:

- Expanded access industry-recognized credentialing, and targeted vocational training across all career subgroups in addition to what we have now. Our scholars are now working on a 3-course career sequence, including a job shadow and capstone project. We will continue to grow our school in the areas of job readiness, certifications and college readiness and postsecondary classes.

Scholar Retention & Engagement:

- Further lower chronic absenteeism and reduce scholar attrition through targeted academic coaching, personalized credit-recovery scheduling, and multi-tiered support systems.

Long-Term Financial Sustainability:

- Maintain balanced operational budgets while directing resources to direct instructional tech, avatar infrastructure support, and scholar support services.

Planned Improvements for Next Charter Term

Data Systems & Tracking:

- Implement standardized, real-time benchmark assessment tracking for postsecondary readiness and graduation metrics to provide early interventions prior to annual reporting cycles.

Well-Being & Attendance Policies:

- Refine Wellness, Mental Health and Family-School outreach interventions to maintain chronic absenteeism rates below state benchmarks.

Audit & Governance Audits:

- Maintain zero audit findings through quarterly internal reviews by the business office prior to standard year-end financial audits.

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	5-year term	10-year term
Governance		
Education Program		
School Performance Standards	All ISASP goals were to be created once there was enough data to make a good goal. The DE's guidance was to wait until the renewal. Choice Charter School goals	• ISASP participation to 85%. • ISASP growth for cohort scholars to be determined once the DE releases the measures they will use. • ISASP percent proficient to be determined once the DE releases the measures they will use. • Chronic Absenteeism will remain below the state average. • Attrition and Mobility: Excluded as a formal goal. Choice Charter School intentionally enrolls and supports highly mobile and at-risk students; evaluating performance based on traditional stability metrics counteracts our mission of providing accessible intervention. • Choice Charter School goals based on SIAC goals reviewed and reported annually.

Contract Section	Current Contract Language	Proposed Modification
Enrollment & Admissions	Accept all who enroll	Pre-enrollment process for students with IEP to be able to provide FAPE, automatic admission for all other students who enroll who are in 7-12 grades and less than 21 when school starts.
Facilities		
Insurance & Legal Liabilities		

Modification Rationale

Given the population that Choice Charter School serves—students with severe chronic absenteeism, school avoidance concerns, complex mental and physical health challenges, and those previously at risk of dropping out—traditional standardized testing measures fail to accurately represent their capabilities, growth, or academic progress. Choice Charter School intentionally enrolls and supports highly mobile and at-risk students; evaluating performance based on traditional stability metrics counteracts our mission of providing accessible intervention. We are proposing that in a volatile and uncertain world, our students need to be prepared by focusing on development of career-ready skills as a primary focus, supported by our priority standards.

When evaluating our scholars, the following systemic factors must be considered:

Historical Assessment Gaps & Baseline Proficiency:

- The vast majority of scholars who enroll at Choice Charter School arrive with a history of academic disruption, prolonged school avoidance, or dropping out of traditional public environments entirely. Historically, this student population either avoids taking standardized tests altogether or scores within the lowest performance percentiles (the bottom 20% of a traditional district's population). Holding a specialized charter school solely to standardized proficiency targets designed for a general student population creates a flawed baseline that measures prior systemic failure rather than current learning.

Impact of Non-Academic Barriers on Standardized Testing:

- Standardized point-in-time assessments (such as ISASP) require consistent, multi-hour focus in controlled environments. For students struggling with acute anxiety, trauma, school phobia, or physical health conditions, these high-stakes testing days often trigger severe school avoidance behavior, artificially depressing participation rates and failing to measure true learning. Furthermore, while state legislation explicitly permits online virtual charter students to complete state assessments at home via remote administration, these home environments cannot be completely controlled or standardized in the same manner as a traditional physical classroom. Environmental distractions, technical issues, and nonacademic barriers in the home present additional variables that impact testing fidelity, further underscoring why single-day standardized scores are an incomplete measure of student knowledge and growth.

The Legal & Mission-Driven Need for Alternative Measures:

- Choice Charter School was established under Iowa Code Chapter 256E as an innovative incubator designed to offer personalized learning and flexibility for diverse, non-traditional learners. Iowa Department of Education frameworks and charter contracts emphasize charting individual growth, postsecondary readiness, and credit attainment rather than relying exclusively on single-day state assessments.

Multi-Faceted Demonstrations of Mastery:

- To accurately show what our scholars know and can do, evaluation goals must incorporate growth-focused, externally validated screeners alongside functional competency metrics. Choice Charter School utilizes targeted diagnostic tools (such as Next-Gen Accuplacer screeners, the Bloomy reading and math assessment, and credit completion tracking) to capture incremental academic growth, college/career readiness, and skill mastery in real time. These ongoing, low-barrier measures provide an authentic reflection of student achievement and progress toward high school completion.

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.
N*	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.
NA	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.
NA	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:

Dr Cynthia J. Knight _____ Date 10/1/2026__

Governing Board President Signature:

Paul Carroll _____ Date 10/1/2026_

Education Service Provider Authorized Representative Signature (if identified):

_____ Date _____

8. Attachments

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