

Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary

March 23, 2023



Agenda Item:

West Central Charter High School Renewal

State Board Priority:

All

State Board Role/Authority:

Charter schools established prior to July 1, 2021, shall continue to operate under and be subject to the requirements of Iowa Code chapter 256F and 281— Chapter 68.

Presenter(s):

Janet Boyd, Consultant
Bureau of School Improvement

Attachment(s):

Four

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the West Central Charter High School be granted a renewal of their charter through the end of the 2026-2027 school year.

Background:

The West Central Community School District has operated a charter school under Iowa Administrative Code 256F since 2005.

School Information (provided by the charter)

Name of Charter:
West Central Charter High School

District Name and Address:
West Central Community Schools
305 Pember St.
Maynard, IA 50662

Superintendent's Name:
Gary Benda, Superintendent

Person Completing Report:
Matthew Molumby, PK-12 Principal

Mission Statement:
Engage each and every student through collaborative relationships, exceptional teaching, and personalized learning experiences that will result in confident graduates who will be successful in their chosen path.

What year was this school chartered?
2005-2006

Number of students enrolled in the charter school:
82 9TH-12TH students enrolled at West Central

Student demographics 2022-2023:

Grade levels and number of students

Seniors- 22

Juniors- 18

Sophomores- 19

Freshmen- 21

Subgroups and number of each students in each category

Race: 6% Hispanic-Latino

94% White

Socio-economic status: 53% Free/Reduced

IEP: 6%

TAG: 5%

Gender: Male- 48% Female- 52%

ELL: 1%

Goal Progress

GOAL 1: Increase the percent of graduates who complete post-secondary training from West Central Community School District.

Progress: See chart below for detailed information regarding the number of students and postsecondary credits earned by graduation.

Postsecondary Credits Earned by Graduating Seniors

Year	Graduates	# of students & total credits	15+ credits earned	30+ credits earned	40+ credits earned	AA degree earned
2019	21	21 for 811	20	11	10	6
2020	22	22 for 660	12	9	3	3
2021	20	20 for 678	16	9	8	6
2022	19	19 for 522	8	6	6	6

GOAL 2: Continue to raise Iowa Assessment proficiencies for 11th grade students in reading, mathematics, and science.

Progress: Iowa Assessment scores for 11th grade charter students increased in science, mathematics, and reading.

11th grade Proficiencies on Iowa Assessments

Year	Reading	Mathematics	Science
2018-2019	84%	63%	*
2019-2020	NA	NA	NA
2020-2021	61%	50%	*
2021-2022	65%	76%	*

* The science test was not administered to 11th grade during the 2018-2022 school year.

GOAL 3: Provide special needs and at-risk students with the opportunity to develop individualized courses of study working toward a high school diploma and developing employability skills.

Graduation rate for charter school students is 100% since inception in 2005.

Total senior students earning college credits compared to low SES and IEP senior students

Year	All Seniors	Low SES	IEP
2018-2019	21 of 21	3 of 3	0 of 0
2019-2020	22 of 22	11 of 11	2 of 2
2020-2021	19 of 20	5 of 6	1 of 2
2021-2022	17 of 19 (5 new students, 2 students < 1 yr)	3 of 3	3 of 3

GOAL 4: Increase the percentage of students that graduate with a dual concentration of vocational and academic credits.

Progress: The data provided by the chart above continues to provide evidence that students of low SES and students with an IEP continue to have the same success and opportunities afforded to the general population of students.

Students Graduation with Dual Concentration

Year	All Seniors	Low SES	IEP
2018-2019	21 of 21 (100%)	<10 (100%)	<10 (100%)
2019-2020	22 of 22 (100%)	11 (100%)	<10 (100%)
2020-2021	19 of 20 (95%)	<10 (83%)	<10 (50%)
2021-2022	17 of 19 (89%)	<10 (100%)	<10 (100%)

Average Credits Earned Per Graduating Senior

Year (all seniors)	Credits	Students	Credits/student
2018-2019	811	21	38.62
2019-2020	660	22	30.7
2020-2021	678	20	33.9
2021-2022	522	19	36

ACT Participation and Average Composite

Year	ACT Participation	ACT average composite
2018-2019	9 of 21 42.9%	23.5
2019-2020 (Covid Year)	9 of 22 44%	22.5
2020-2021 (Covid Year)	2 of 20 10%	32
2021-2022 (Covid Year)	NA	NA

Dropout rate: Graduation rate for charter school students is 100%.

Attendance rate: 96%

How is the charter school program evaluated?

The charter school continues to impact the students who attend the West Central School District. The charter has an active board that is committed to providing educational opportunities to those that wish to participate. The Advisory Board meets regularly to review data on the charter school and make further recommendations to increase its effectiveness.

Is the charter school successful?

Based off the data communicated in this report the charter has been effective at producing opportunities for students to earn college credits experiencing rigor in coursework which results in higher scores on standardized tests. We have also seen an increase in the amount of opportunities in career and technical supports that allow students to earn not only an AA degree, but also certificates required for on the job employment directly after high school. Students, parents, and school personnel communicate positive perceptions of the charter.

Some qualitative data:

- As a result of the Charter School, more students are transferring to higher education with more college credits than ever before.
- Students are taking a more rigorous course load earlier in their high school career than prior to entering the Charter for flexibility in their schedules for their junior and senior year. Most take seven or more classes per semester
- Students with IEP's and who are Low SES have had an increased opportunity for participation in college. Both are finding success at the college level as a result of the charter participation.
- All interviewees, including Charter and Non-Charter students, high school and college faculty, and advisory members feel the Charter is good for students, families, and the West Central School District. Numerous individuals referenced the support of the school board and administration for their commitment to maintaining the Charter.
- The Charter Advisory Committee has a good understanding of the requirements of the Charter, the responsibilities of the Advisory Committee to the Charter, and a high degree of confidence in the leadership and administration at both NICC and West Central. The group operates independently from the school BOD; the Superintendent is responsible for communicating between the advisory committee and BOD.

Assurance of Compliance

The charter school or innovation zone school completing this report is able to assure compliance with its contract, with Iowa Code chapter 256F, and with Iowa Administrative Code chapter 281—68.

Charter Success stories the past 5 years

- A (2017) Graduate completed her BA degree at UNI in Health Promotions in 2 years. Hired as a Marketing Specialist for a Health Care Company. She paid her college debt off in a year and a half and currently earns over 6 figures. Her graduate school is paid by employer.
- A (2017) graduate completed his BA degree in Agriculture from Iowa State in two years. Returning to the family farm opened his own LLC and expanded the family Farm. (College Debt was eliminated within 3 years of graduating)
- A (2017) graduate completed her AA in high school and was accepted into the Nursing Program at Mount Mercy University. She graduated with her RN degree in December of 2019. Hired as a nurse in a local hospital and became the Director of Nursing at age 23
- A (2018) graduate completed her AA and was accepted into the Animal Science Program at Iowa State. In 2020 She began her Veterinarian Program.
- A (2019) graduate completed his AA, attended the Law Enforcement Academy and currently is employed as a Deputy Sheriff.
- A (2020) graduate opted to complete the Construction Pathway on the NICC campus and forgo her AA. As class valedictorian she graduated with over sixty college credits and was accepted into the construction Management Program at UNI.
- A (2021) graduate completed 10 courses in the animal science program on campus at NICC in their senior year. Following graduation from high school began two business as he completed his Ag Business program.
- A (2022) graduate living with her Grandmother, started college class work in her final semester in high school. No one in her family had ever taken a college class. She is attending NICC and will complete her early childhood program this spring.

Statistics:

In the past 8 years (2015-2022,) 145 out of 147 students have graduated with at least 1 college class and 45 have earned AA degrees.

98.6 percent earning college credit and 30.6 percent earning and AA degree

The Class of 2023 - 20 of 21 will earn college credit and 12 of 21 will graduate from NICC before graduating from West Central. (The one with no college credit completed the NICC welding pathway in the evening but was not awarded college credit) This spring, he works 4 hours a day and attends class half days.

The Iowa Department of Education Renewal Evaluation

March 23, 2023

West Central Charter High School Goals	Department of Education Evaluation Based on Data Submitted	Meets/Does not meet
Goal 1: Increase the percent of graduates who complete post-secondary training from West Central Community School District.	The number of students and the number of college credits have shown a decrease from school year 2021 to school year 2022. Growth for this goal is limited by student enrollment.	Does not meet
Goal 2: Continue to raise Iowa Assessment proficiencies for 11th grade students in reading, mathematics, and science.	The charter saw an increase in the 11 th grade proficiencies for reading and mathematics from the 2020-2021 school year. Reading increased by four percent and mathematics increased by 26 percent.	Meets
Goal 3: Provide special needs and at-risk students with the opportunity to develop individualized courses of study working toward a high school diploma and developing employability skills.	The charter has a 100 percent graduation rate and all students have an opportunity to earn college credits.	Meets
Goal 4: Increase the percentage of students that graduate with a dual concentration of vocational and academic credits.	The charter has seen a drop in the percent of students graduating with dual concentration and the number of credits earned for graduating seniors. Growth for this goal is limited by student enrollment.	Does not meet

256F.1 3. The purpose of a charter school or an innovation zone school established pursuant to this chapter shall be to accomplish the following:	Department of Education Evaluation Based on Data Submitted	Meets/Does not meet
a. Improve student learning §256F.1(3)"a"	Not all goals are met.	Does not meet
b. Increase learning opportunities for students §256F.1(3)"b"	Exposure and encouragement to take college courses through relationships with local community college.	Meets
c. Encourage the use of different and innovative methods of teaching §256F.1(3)"c"	Students are allowed and encouraged to take as many college/career and technical education courses as meet their career goals.	Meets
d. Require the measurement of learning outcomes and create different and innovative forms of measuring outcomes §256F.1(3)"d"	Students are often exposed to more career specific measurements at the community college level.	Meets

256F.1 3. The purpose of a charter school or an innovation zone school established pursuant to this chapter shall be to accomplish the following:	Department of Education Evaluation Based on Data Submitted	Meets/Does not meet
e. Establish new forms of accountability for schools §256F.1(3)"e"	The charter is exempt from the traditional restraints of Chapter 12.	Meets
f. Create new professional opportunities for teachers and other educators, including the opportunity to be responsible for the learning program at the school site §256F.1(3)"f"	The charter provides incentive for teachers to pursue the ability to teach concurrent credit courses.	Meets
g. Create different organizational structures for continuous learner progress. §256F.1(3)"g"	The community college provides a different organizational structure from the traditional high school.	Meets
h. Allow greater flexibility to meet the education needs of a diverse and constantly changing student population. §256F.1(3)"h"	The charter was created to allow students to take unlimited community college courses and potentially earn an Associate of Arts degree from the community college. Due to a change in the Senior Year Plus law this is allowable for any student in the state. The charter does have relief from the restriction of Chapter 12 which may allow for students to participate in a greater number of community college credits.	Meets
i. Allow for the allocation of resources in innovative ways through implementation of specialized school budgets for the benefit of the schools served. §256F.1(3)"i"	Allows the school and district to offer diverse courses without the cost of instructional staff. Gives the district relief from the restrictions of Chapter 12.	Meets

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the West Central Charter High School at West Central Community School District be granted a renewal of charter status through the end of the 2027 school year.

**IOWA PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL PROGRAM
Renewal Application Cover Sheet**

Name of Charter School	<u>West Central / CSD / HS</u>
Public School District	<u>West Central / CSD</u>
Name and Contact Information of Superintendent	
Name and Contact Information for Charter School Manager	<u>Matthew Molunby</u> <u>mmolunby@wc.k12.ia.us</u> <u>563-637-2283</u>

The West Central Charter School seeks to **RENEW** its public charter school status. The Charter School Advisory Council and the West Central (school district) Board of Education have approved the Renewal process and application on the meeting dates listed below:

Public Hearing: 02-20-13
 Advisory Council: _____
 Board of Education: _____

Brief description of charter school (3-4 sentences) (Text box, will expand if needed.)

If the renewal of charter school status is approved, the district agrees to the following assurances:

End of the Year Charter School report will be submitted

Renewal of the charter is sought for 4 years. (Maximum = 4 years)

Signatures needed for **RENEWAL** of Charter School Status:

Superintendent of Schools: _____

Charter School Manager: Matthew Molunby

Board of Education President: Nichole C Recker

Iowa State Board of Education has voted to *approve / deny* the renewal of charter status.

West Central Community School
February 20th, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting was held in the Library as well as Zoom.

Board members present: Nichole Recker, Josh VanSkyhawk, Caleb Baker, Stephanie Penney, and Mary Ann Munger. Others present: Gary Benda, Superintendent; Principal Matthew Molumby; Board Treasurer, Beth Weepie

Several visitors were present in person and on zoom.

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

Motion was made by Munger, seconded by VanSkyhawk to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion was made by VanSkyhawk, seconded by Baker to move into Closed Session at 5:39 pm for Negotiations. All present. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion was made by Munger, seconded by Baker to come out of Closed Session at 6:27 pm. Motion carried 5-0. All present. Recker presented opening response to WCEA.

Motion was made by Munger, seconded by Penney to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried 5-0. Items on the Consent Agenda: Previous Minutes, Monthly Bills, Monthly Financial Reports, 2 Open Enrollments

Public Forum: Chris Child reported how great things were going this year for his student in 4th grade and wanted to thank the teachers and administration for all they do for students.

Board and Administration Communication and Reports:

Munger spoke about the funding for preschool, TLC and her experience about the Day on the Hill last week. Mrs. Kuennen and Mrs. Wells presented what they are currently using for math curriculum. Randy from Farmer Union Coop spoke to the board regarding fuel tanks for the district. Milder presented the Activities report. Molumby and Benda presented their reports.

Personnel Actions: Motion was made by Baker, seconded by VanSkyhawk to approve all the presented resignations. April Estling as kitchen staff, Chris Sniffin as custodian, Denise Menne as MS ELA teacher, Seth Reinking as Assistant Track, and Deana Schlitter as Assistant Softball. Motion carried 5-0.

Contracts: Motion was made by Munger, seconded by VanSkyhawk to approve the contracts as presented but to table the Assistant Golf coach due to not being on the Salary B schedule. Robin Fliehler as mentor to Micah Ruroden, Mike Sass as Head Golf Coach, Jamie Vargason as JH Head Coach, Sarah Michels as JH Assistant Coach, Tom Wilwert as Assistant Track Coach, Brad Wild as Head Softball Coach, Brenda Helmuth as Assistant Softball Coach, and Lyle Buehler as Assistant Softball Coach(pending coaching authorization). Motion carried 5-0.

Old Business: Motion was made by VanSkyhawk, seconded by Baker to approve allowing MHNP to extend social-emotional support services. Motion carried 5-0.

New Business: Motion was made by Munger, seconded by Penney to approve a two-year Superintendent sharing agreement between Starmont and WC. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion was made by Baker, seconded by Penney to approve the hiring of Rob Busch as the Shared Superintendent of Starmont and WC beginning July 1, 2023. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Munger, VanSkyhawk, Recker, Penney, and Baker. Naves: none Motion carried 5-0.

Motion was made by VanSkyhawk, seconded by Munger to approve the Budget Guarantee Resolution. RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of West Central community school district, will levy property taxes for fiscal year 2023-2024 for the regular program budget adjustment as allowed under section 257.14, Code of Iowa. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion was made by Baker, seconded by Munger to approve the table of Assistant Golf Coach to Schedule B for next month. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion was made by Munger, seconded by Penney to approve Chad Alley of Estes Construction to review our HVAC and Industrial Tech Shop needs. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion was made by VanSkyhawk, seconded by Baker to approve the quote from Central IA Distribution for both gym floor resurfacing in the amount of \$9,470. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion was made by VanSkyhawk, seconded by Munger to approve the price increase of Driver's Education by \$50/student for 2023. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion was made by Munger, seconded by VanSkyhawk to approve the renewal application of WC as an Iowa Public Charter School. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion was made by Munger, seconded by Baker to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 pm. Motion carried 5-0.

Next board meeting is scheduled for March 20th, at 6:00 pm in the West Central Library.

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Tyler, Board Secretary

*These minutes are unofficial until approved at the next board meeting. Board minutes are public record and are located in the district's business office.