

January 25, 2024

AUTHORIZE RENEWAL OF THE INSTITUTO JUSTICE AND LEADERSHIP ACADEMY CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL AGREEMENT WITH CONDITIONS**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:**

Authorize renewal of the Instituto Justice and Leadership Academy Charter High School Agreement (the "Charter School Agreement") for a one year period, commencing July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, with conditions. A new Charter School Agreement, which will constitute the Charter applicable to this renewal term will be negotiated. The authority granted herein shall automatically rescind in the event a written Charter School Agreement is not executed by the Board and the charter school's governing board within 120 days of the date of this Board Report. The agreement authorized herein will only take effect upon certification by the Illinois State Board of Education. The Renewal and any related contracts must be executed by the current contract's expiration date in order for First Quarter funding to be released for the new contract term. Information pertinent to this renewal is stated below.

SCHOOL OPERATOR: Institute for Latino Progress, Inc., an IL not-for-profit corporation
2520 S. Western Avenue
Chicago, IL 60608
Phone: 773-890-0055
Contact: Karina Ayala-Bermejo, Chief Executive Officer and President

CHARTER SCHOOL: Instituto Justice and Leadership Academy Charter High School
2570 S. Blue Island Avenue
Chicago, IL 60608
Phone: 773-890-8060
Contact: Maribel Arellano, Principal

OVERSIGHT: Options Network, Office of Network Support
4934 S. Wabash Ave.
Chicago, IL 60615
Phone: 773-553-3065
Contact Person: Felicia Sanders, Chief of Schools
Richard Smith, Chief of Options Network

ORIGINAL AGREEMENT: The original Charter School Agreement (authorized by Board Report 12-0425-EX6) was for a term commencing July 1, 2012 and ending June 30, 2017 and, pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/27A-4(b), authorized the operation of a multi-campus charter school that is devoted exclusively to re-enrolled high school dropouts and/or students 15 or 16 years old at risk of dropping out of school. The charter school served no more than 165 students in grades 9 through 12. The charter and Charter School Agreement were further renewed for a three (3) year term commencing July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2020 (authorized by Board Report 16-1207-EX7). The charter and Charter School Agreement were further renewed for a three (3) year term commencing July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2023 (authorized by Board Report 20-0122-EX5). The charter and Charter School Agreement were further renewed for a one (1) year term with performance benchmarks and conditions commencing July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024 (authorized by Board Report 23-0125-EX11).

CHARTER RENEWAL PROPOSAL: Institute for Latino Progress, Inc. submitted a renewal proposal on October 20, 2023 to continue the operation of Instituto Justice and Leadership Academy Charter High School (Instituto Justice) under a unified mission. The charter school shall continue to serve grades 9 through 12 with a maximum enrollment of 165 students.

The agreement will incorporate an accountability plan in which the charter school is evaluated by the Board each year based on numerous factors related to its academic, financial and operational performance.

CHARTER EVALUATION: After receiving the charter renewal proposal, the Options Network conducted a comprehensive evaluation of Instituto Justice's academic performance, financial viability, and legal and contract compliance. This evaluation included a review of the proposal, academic results, financial performance, governance documents, parental issues, facilities surveys, and special education documentation. A public hearing was held on January 9, 2024 for all contract and charter schools going through renewals to receive public comments, including Instituto Justice. The Options Network recommends that, based on the school's performance on these and other accountability criteria, as well as the school's demonstration of intent to satisfy the "Additional Terms and Conditions" referred to herein below, Instituto Justice be authorized to continue operating as a charter school.

RENEWAL TERM: The term of Instituto Justice's charter and agreement is being extended for a one (1) year term commencing July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025.

ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS: The following preconditions shall be required before the Board of Education of the City of Chicago enters into an agreement with Instituto Justice and Leadership Academy:

- On or before March 15, 2024, Instituto Justice and Leadership Academy must draft and issue Notices of Non-Implementation of Services to all parents of impacted students, as required by the Illinois regulation at 23 IAC §226.220(b). Notices must include the dates for which interruptions in service occurred and the procedures for requesting compensatory services (105 ILCS 5/14-8.02f(d-5)).
- On or before March 15, 2024, Instituto Justice and Leadership Academy must provide evidence of the measures taken to secure/hire the required and appropriately credentialed service providers necessary for the provision of services outlined in student IEPs/504 Plans.

The following conditions shall be incorporated into the Charter Agreement between the Board of Education of the City of Chicago and Instituto Justice and Leadership Academy. These conditions will be communicated to Instituto Justice and Leadership Academy in a separate letter.

Finance

- On an annual basis throughout the term, Instituto Justice and Leadership Academy Charter High School (" the school") , in conjunction with the Instituto Justice and Leadership Academy , must submit a financial plan to CPS addressing any areas that did not meet standards from the prior fiscal year's Financial and Compliance Scorecard including Key Performance Indicators (Change in Net Assets, Current Ratio, Net Asset Ratio, Cash on Hand Ratio), Loan Delinquency and Financial Controls (Material Weaknesses and Significant Deficiencies). The school must provide, at minimum, quarterly updates on the financial improvement plan throughout the term along with the submission of monthly cash flow statements to CPS.
- On an annual basis throughout the term, the school must submit a plan for increasing student enrollment and retention.

Diverse Learners

- On a monthly basis throughout the term, the school must demonstrate compliance with ODLSS timely completion of evaluations/IEPs and RSP service documentation.
- On an annual or more frequent basis throughout the term, the school must demonstrate compliance with all federal, state, and local regulations and laws by staffing appropriately licensed special education teachers, case manager(s) and related service providers.
- On an annual or more frequent basis throughout the term, the school must draft and issue Notices of Non-Implementation of Services to all parents/guardians of impacted students, as required by the Illinois regulation at 23 IAC §226.220(b) and include in notices; the dates interruptions in service

occurred & procedures for requesting compensatory services (105 ILCS 5/14-8.02f(d-5)).

- On an annual or more frequent basis throughout the term, the school must provide parents/guardians with copies of all written material that will be considered by the special education team at the meeting no later than 3 school days prior to the IEP or 504 meeting.
- On an annual or more frequent basis throughout the term, the school must be in compliance with the regulations outlined in the Illinois School Code 23 IAC 226.530(a)
- On a quarterly basis throughout the term, the school must complete IEP Report Cards and provide them to parents/guardians.
- On an annual basis throughout the term, the school must submit a plan outlining IEP goal progress monitoring strategies. On a quarterly basis throughout the term, the school must submit updates including data, evidence of progress monitoring and must communicate the information to any current service providers and teachers.

English Learners

- During the contract term, the school must meet state and federal rules governing English Learners as demonstrated by a rating of Partial or higher on formal compliance reports from the Office of Language and Cultural Education (OLCE). Chicago Public Schools has designated OLCE to conduct school visits and determine school compliance with state and federal rules regarding English Learner programs.
- On a quarterly basis throughout the term, the school must meet federal, state, and local rules pertaining to English Language Learner ACCESS screening and WIDA testing participation, as reported by OLCE.
- On an annual or more frequent basis throughout the term, the school must demonstrate compliance with all federal, state, and local regulations and laws by staffing appropriately licensed bilingual specialists and ESL endorsed teachers.

Teacher Licensure

- On a bi-annual or more frequent basis throughout the term, the school must ensure the accuracy of teachers reported as licensed in the Employee Roster by validating it with the ISBE Educator Licensure Information System (ELIS). Bi-annually, the school will notify staff in writing of deficiencies and pending licensure renewal deadlines, as needed. On an annual basis throughout the term, the school must demonstrate compliance with the requirement of 75% teacher licensure including all positions required to meet the educational needs of diverse learners and English learners.
- On an annual basis throughout the term, the school must provide a list of any vacancies and a plan for filling the vacancies. On a bi-annual basis throughout the term, the school must provide an update on the plan for filling vacancies along with any online job postings or advertisements.

Student Discipline

- On a quarterly basis through the term, the school must provide a summary of discipline practices and social-emotional learning (SEL) interventions, including staff training, multi-tiered interventions, restorative strategies implemented. The summary must include updates on the progress and results of its discipline practices and SEL interventions including an analysis of all available data.

Facilities & ADA

- On an annual basis throughout the term, the school must submit a facility deficiency repair plan to be approved by the CPS Office of Facility Operations and Maintenance to communicate the status of the facility and ADA issues identified in the Facilities Assessment Report dated July 14, 2021 or any reports completed thereafter.

Continuous Improvement

- On an annual basis throughout the term, the school must submit a Continuous Improvement Work Plan (CIWP) and will provide quarterly updates including action steps and data showing evidence of implementation and progress monitoring at a quarterly meeting with the Options Network.

AUTHORIZATION: Authorize the General Counsel to include relevant terms and conditions, including any indemnities to be provided to the charter school, in the written Charter School Agreement. Authorize the President and Secretary to execute the written Charter School Agreement. Authorize the Chief of the Options Network to issue a letter notifying the Illinois State Board of Education of the action(s) approved hereunder and to submit the approved proposal and signed Charter School Agreement to the Illinois State Board of Education for certification. Authorize the General Counsel to further negotiate and execute any amendments to the Charter School Agreement as required by the Illinois State Board of Education.

LSC REVIEW: Approval of Local School Council is not applicable to this report.

FINANCIAL: The financial implications will be addressed during the development of the 2024-2025 fiscal year budget. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond FY24 are deemed to be contingent liabilities only, subject to appropriation in subsequent fiscal year budgets.

GENERAL CONDITIONS:


Inspector General - Each party to the agreement shall acknowledge that, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-13.1, the Inspector General of the Board of Education has the authority to conduct certain investigations and that the Inspector General shall have access to all information and personnel necessary to conduct those investigations.

Conflicts - The agreement shall not be legally binding on the Board if entered into in violation of the Provisions of 105 ILCS 5/34-21.3, which restricts the employment of, or the letting of contracts to, former Board members during the one-year period following expiration or other termination of their terms of office.

Indebtedness - The Board's Indebtedness Policy adopted June 26, 1996 (96-0626-PO3), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

Ethics - The Board's Ethics Code adopted May 25, 2011 (11-0525-PO2), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

Approved for Consideration:

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Bogdana Chkoumbova
Chief Education Officer

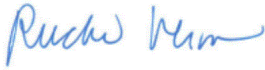
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Pedro Martinez
Chief Executive Officer

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Ruchi Verma
General Counsel