

January 25, 2024

**AUTHORIZE THE RENEWAL OF THE CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL  
AGREEMENT WITH CONDITIONS**

**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:**

Authorize renewal of the Chicago International Charter School (CICS) (the “Charter School Agreement”) with conditions for an additional three-year period. A new Charter School Agreement 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:** Chicago Charter School Foundation  
11 E. Adams Street, Suite 600  
Chicago, Illinois 60603  
Phone: 312-651-5000  
Contact Person: Evan Sharp, Board President

**CHARTER SCHOOL:** Chicago International Charter School (CICS)  
11 E. Adams Street, Suite 600  
Chicago, Illinois 60603  
Phone: 312-651-5000  
Contact Person: Kris Cheung, CEO

**OVERSIGHT:** Office of Innovation and Incubation  
42 West Madison Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60602  
Phone: 773-553-1530  
Contact Person: Zabrina M. Evans, Executive Director

**ORIGINAL AGREEMENT:** The original Charter School Agreement (authorized by Board Report 97-0122-EX4) was for a term commencing July 1, 1997, and ending June 30, 2002, and authorized the operation of a charter school serving no more than 5,000 students in grades K through 12. The charter and Charter School Agreement were subsequently renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2002, and ending June 30, 2007 (authorized by Board Report 01-1219-EX2). The charter and Charter School Agreement were further renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2007, ending June 30, 2012, serving no more than 7,647 students (authorized by Board Report 07-0523-EX5). The charter and Charter School Agreement were then renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2012, ending June 30, 2017, serving no more than 10,111 students (authorized by Board Report 12-0328-EX11). The charter and Charter School Agreement were then renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2017, and ending June 30, 2022 (authorized by Board Report 16-1207-EX6). The Charter and Charter School agreement were subsequently amended as follows:

- Board Report 17-0828-EX10 was approved to authorize an extension of the term of the Charter School Agreement from its current end date of June 30, 2022, to June 30, 2024.
- Board Report 18-0425-EX7 was approved to authorize a change in the education management organization for the following campuses of Chicago International Charter School, effective July 1, 2018: (a) Lloyd Bond Campus from Charter Schools USA to Chicago Rise LLC and (b) Longwood and Loomis Primary Campuses from Charter Schools USA to Ignite Learning Collaborative LLC.
- Board Report 19-0724-EX3 was approved to authorize Chicago Charter School Foundation's termination of the education management organization agreements for the following campuses of Chicago International Charter School, effective July 1, 2019: (a) Lloyd Bond Campus from Chicago Rise LLC, and (b) Longwood and Loomis Primary Campuses from Empowered Community Schools (f/k/a Ignite Learning Collaborative LLC).
- Board Report 20-1118-EX2 was approved to authorize (a) the voluntary closure of the Chicago International Charter School — ChicagoQuest North Campus at the end of the 2020- 2021 school year by mutual consent of the parties for the reasons set forth below. (b) an amendment to the Charter School Agreement with respect to that campus closure. and (c) a campus wind-down agreement for the ChicagoQuest North Campus. The Chicago Charter School Foundation provided notice to the Office of Portfolio Management in September 2020 of its intent to close the ChicagoQuest North campus at the end of the 2020-2021 school year. The Chicago Charter School Foundation shall voluntarily wind down and cease operations of that campus effective July 1, 2021. After the closure of that campus. the overall network-level at capacity enrollment for the charter school shall decrease to 8,661 students by the fall of 2021.
- Board Report 23-0628-EX2 was approved to authorize the addition of the education management organization for the Lloyd Bond, Longwood, and Loomis Primary Campuses to be Distinctive Schools.

**CHARTER RENEWAL PROPOSAL:** CICS submitted a renewal proposal on July 18, 2023, to continue the operation of CICS. The charter schools shall continue to be located according to the chart below and shall continue to serve grades K through 12 with a maximum enrollment of 8,661 students:

Campus Name	Year Opened	Address	At Capacity Grades	At Capacity Enrollment
Northtown	2002	3900 W Peterson	9-12	930
Ralph Ellison	2006	1817 W. 80th	9-12	619
Wrightwood	2005	8130 S. California	K-8	800
Bucktown	1997	2235 N. Hamilton	K-8	694
Irving Park	2007	3820 N. Spaulding	K-8	555
Prairie	1997	11530 S. Prairie Avenue	K-8	420
West Belden	2002	2245 N. McVicker	K-8	535

Lloyd Bond	2009	13300 S. Langley	K-6	355
Longwood	1997	1309 W. 95th Street	3-12	1,435
Loomis Primary	2008	9535 S. Loomis	K-2	578
Avalon/South Shore	2005	1501 E. 83rd Place	K-8	500
Basil	2002	1816 W. Garfield Blvd	K-8	750
Washington Park	2001	6105 S. Michigan	K-8	490

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 Office of Innovation and Incubation conducted a comprehensive evaluation of CICS' 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 CICS. The Office of Innovation and Incubation recommends that, based on the school's performance on these and other accountability criteria, CICS be authorized to continue operating as a charter school.

**RENEWAL TERM:** The term of CICS's charter and agreement is being extended for a three (3) year term commencing July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2027.

**ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS:** The following precondition shall be required before the Board of Education of the City of Chicago enters into an agreement with the Chicago Charter School Foundation:

- On or before April 3, 2024, the charter school must revise its 2024-25 student code of conduct to explicitly state that the principal may not assign K-2 students out-of-school suspensions.

The following conditions shall be incorporated into the Charter Agreement between the Board of Education of the City of Chicago and the Chicago Charter School Foundation:

- Due to their Summative Designations, CICS-West Belden and CICS-Wrightwood must participate in the Innovation & Incubation Academic Support process. This process requires schools to complete a Self-Reflection template, the District-managed Continuous Improvement Work Plan (CIWP), and participate in joint progress monitoring and Continuous Improvement activities. The Academic Support process runs annually, offering campuses the opportunity to exit based on criteria defined by Innovation and Incubation. Campuses not meeting the annual exit criteria will remain in Academic Support until they meet them.

- On an annual basis throughout the term, the organization must receive a rating of “Meets Standards” or higher on the Legal Compliance indicator on the Financial and Compliance Scorecard generated by CPS.
- All campuses must demonstrate progress toward implementing the Recommendations codified in the Special Education Renewal Site Visit Report by the Office of Diverse Learner Supports and Services (ODLSS).
- On an annual basis throughout the term, all applicable campuses 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 an annual basis throughout the term, the network must provide a summary of discipline practices, including staff training and multi-tiered interventions and restorative strategies implemented, and an end-of-year update on the progress and results of its discipline practices, with a demonstrated reduction in in-school and out-of-school suspensions.
- On a bi-annual basis throughout the term, each applicable campus must submit a facility deficiency repair plan to communicate the status of the facility and ADA issues identified in the Facilities Assessment Reports for the campuses.
- By July 1st, 2024, and on an annual basis throughout the term, no one person shall hold a directorship and an executive position or other position with substantial financial decision-making authority.

**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 and amendment. Authorize the President and Secretary to execute the written Charter School Agreement and amendment. Authorize the Executive Director of the Office of Innovation and Incubation 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 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 2024-25 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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**Alfonso Carmona**  
**Chief Portfolio Officer**

**Approved:**

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*Pedro Martinez*  
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**Pedro Martinez**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

**Approved as to Legal Form:** <sup>DS</sup>  


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**Ruchi Verma**  
**General Counsel**