

January 25, 2024

**AUTHORIZE THE RENEWAL OF THE LEARN CHARTER SCHOOL AGREEMENT WITH  
CONDITIONS****THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:**

Authorize renewal of the LEARN Charter School Agreement (the "Charter School Agreement") with conditions for an additional four-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:** Lawndale Educational and Regional Network Charter School  
3021 West Carroll Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60612  
Phone: 773-584-4300  
Contact Person: Vineeta Raketich, Board Chair

**CHARTER SCHOOL:** LEARN Charter School  
3021 West Carroll Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60612  
Phone: 773-584-4300  
Contact Person: Greg White, President & 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 01-0627-EX7) was for a term commencing July 15, 2001, and ending July 15, 2006, and authorized the operation of a charter school serving no more than 400 students in grades K through 8. The charter and Charter School Agreement were subsequently renewed for a term commencing July 16, 2006, and ending July 15, 2011, serving no more than 1,125 students ( authorized by Board Report 06-0222-EX 14 ). The charter and Charter School Agreement were further renewed for a term commencing July 16, 2011, and ending June 15, 2016, serving no more than 2,917 students (authorized by Board Report 11-0323-EX9). The charter and Charter School Agreement was amended and restated, which extended the charter and Charter School Agreement to June 30, 2016 (authorized by Board Report 14-0528-EX7). The charter and Charter School Agreement were then renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2016, and ending June 30, 2021, serving no more than 4,186 students (authorized by Board Report 16-0427-EX6). The charter and Charter School Agreement were then renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2024, serving no more than 4,136 students (authorized by Board Report 21-0224-EX2).

**CHARTER RENEWAL PROPOSAL:** LEARN Charter School submitted a renewal proposal on July 26, 2023, to continue the operation of LEARN Charter School under a unified mission. The charter school shall continue to serve grades K through 8 with a maximum enrollment of 4,136 students at the following locations:

<b>Campus Name</b>	<b>Year Opened</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>At Capacity Grades</b>	<b>At Capacity Enrollment</b>
Romano Butler	2001	1132 S. Homan	K-8	660
Excel	2008	3021 W. Carroll	K-6	525
Charles and Dorothy Campbell	2009	212 S. Francisco	K-6	600
South Chicago	2010	8914 S. Buffalo	K-8	596
Hunter Perkins	2011	1700 W. 83rd Street	K-8	655
Middle School	2013	3021 W. Carroll	K-8	575
7th	2013	3021 W. Carroll	K-5	525

The agreement will incorporate an accountability plan in which the Board evaluates the charter school 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 LEARN Charter School'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 LEARN Charter School.

The Office of Innovation and Incubation recommends that LEARN Charter School be authorized to continue operating as a charter school based on the school's performance on these and other accountability criteria.

**RENEWAL TERM:** The term of LEARN Charter School's charter and agreement is being extended for a four (4) year term commencing July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2028.

**ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS:** The following conditions shall be incorporated into the Charter Agreement between the Board of Education of the City of Chicago and the Lawndale Educational and Regional Network Charter School:

- Due to their Summative Designations, LEARN - Hunter Perkins, LEARN - Middle, and LEARN - South Chicago 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.
- 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, 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 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.

**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 the 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:**

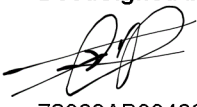
Inspector General - Each party to the agreement shall acknowledge that, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-13.1, the Inspector General of the Board of Education has the authority to conduct certain investigations and that the Inspector General shall have access to all information and personnel necessary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

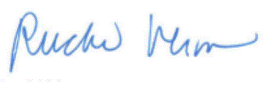
**Approved for Consideration:**

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**Alfonso Carmona**  
Chief Portfolio Officer

**Approved:**

DocuSigned by:  
  
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**Pedro Martinez**  
Chief Executive Officer

Approved as to Legal Form: 

DocuSigned by:  
  
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**Ruchi Verma**  
General Counsel