



2020 RFP Resource Guide

Intent to Apply Form Due:	February 21, 2020 by 5 p.m. CST
Tier I Application Due:	May 1, 2020 by 5 p.m. CDT
Tier II Application Due:	July 31, 2020 by 5 p.m. CDT
Tier III Application Due:	September 30, 2020, by 5 p.m. CDT

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2020 RFP Resource Guide

The Resource Guide contains specific technical guidance, legal interpretation, and additional information regarding what should be included in high quality proposals. Applicants submitting a proposal in response to the 2020 Request for Proposals (RFP) should use this Resource Guide as support when developing their response.

CPS recommends that applicants read through this document in its entirety. Evaluators will consider all elements of the guidance when assessing the quality of proposals.

As questions arise, please feel free to reach out to the Office of Innovation and Incubation (I&I) staff at iandiauthorization@cps.edu or 773-553-1530.



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Overview of RFP

I. Opportunity for Every Student in Every Neighborhood

At Chicago Public Schools (CPS), our vision is that every student in every neighborhood will be engaged in a rigorous, well-rounded instructional program and will graduate prepared for success in college, career, and life. This Request for Proposals (RFP) seeks to identify high quality school options that accelerate academic outcomes for their targeted CPS student population.

Under the School Code, the Chicago Board of Education has authority to open a limited number of charter and contract schools to serve students of the District. CPS conducts an annual process to accept and review proposals for new charter schools (105 ILCS 5/27A-8) and contract schools. This RFP seeks proposals from development teams and existing operators who wish to open charter and contract schools to serve either a “traditional” K-12 student population or an “alternative” population of students who have dropped out or are at risk of dropping out.

II. Charter and Contract School Structure

Charter schools are public schools that are governed by a not-for-profit entity that is independent of, but accountable to, the local school district. They operate under a performance contract, or “charter,” with a school authorizer (in Illinois, either the local school board or the State), and have flexibility and autonomy over academic programming and other key operational areas. The charter outlines the rights and duties of the school and its authorizer, and provides the legal, academic, and financial benchmarks that the charter school is expected to meet during its charter term. Charters are typically set for five-year terms. Charter schools will receive funding based on a model that is equitable and aligned with student needs.

While many charter school operators provide their academic and student services directly, some operators elect to hire a management organization (MO) to provide broad educational or school management services to the school. Charter schools choosing to engage an MO enter into separate management agreements, but remain directly accountable to their authorizer for the school’s performance. An MO may be an Educational Management Organization (EMO), which is usually a for-profit entity, or a Charter Management Organization (CMO), which is usually a not-for-profit entity.

Contract schools are District schools managed by external operators who provide instructional and other student services. Contract schools must adhere to all student-related CPS policies. Contract schools are governed by school-selected boards of directors and operate under contractual agreements with the District, for up to five-year terms.

Table Overview of Charter and Contract School Differences

TOPIC	CHARTER	CONTRACT
Curriculum	Must meet district standards as specified in the Charter School Agreement ¹ and may have the option of participating in CPS initiatives.	Must meet district standards as specified in the Contract School Agreement and may have the option of participating in CPS initiatives.
School Calendar and Schedule	Must meet applicable Illinois State minimums: 300 instructional minutes (5 hours) per day and 185 days per year to ensure 176 days of actual pupil attendance.	Must meet applicable Illinois State minimums: 300 instructional minutes (5 hours) per day and 185 days per year to ensure 176 days of actual pupil attendance.
Illinois Teacher Licensure	75% of teachers must be licensed; all special education and English learner teachers must be licensed. ² All instructional staff must meet the qualifications set forth in 105 ILCS 5/27A-10.	100% of teachers must be licensed.
Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)	All teachers and administrators in Title I schools must comply with ESSA requirements.	All teachers and administrators must comply with ESSA requirements.
Principal Requirements	None.	Must have a Professional Educator License with an Administrative Endorsement.
Special Education	Must follow IDEA, Illinois Special Education Statutes and Regulations, and ISBE and CPS Special Education Policies and Procedures.	Must follow IDEA, Illinois Special Education Statutes and Regulations, and ISBE and CPS Special Education Policies and Procedures.

¹ A charter school contract template is available on the [RFP website, www.cps.edu/2019RFP](http://www.cps.edu/2019RFP).

² Please note that in accordance with the Illinois Charter Schools Law (105 ILCS 5/27A-10), at least 50% of the instructional staff at a charter school must be licensed when the school begins serving students, and at least 75% of the instructional staff at a charter school must be licensed by the beginning of the fourth year of the school's operation.

TOPIC	CHARTER	CONTRACT
Policies for Student Conduct	Policies must comply with Illinois Charter Schools Law and other applicable laws.	Must follow CPS Student Code of Conduct.
Chicago Teachers Union	School is not subject to CTU collective bargaining agreement.	School is not subject to CTU collective bargaining agreement.
Teacher Pension Fund	Licensed teachers in pension fund; others covered by Social Security.	All teachers covered by Social Security.
Principals, Teachers and Staff Employed by:	Charter school board or sub-contracted management organization.	Contract school board or sub-contracted management organization.
Employee Compensation	Determined by school operator.	Determined by school operator.
Governance	Governing board.	Governing board. ³
Admissions	Open admissions and will need to hold a lottery if over-subscribed; preference may be given to students who live within an attendance boundary, if assigned.	Open admissions like a Charter school, unless approved by the Chicago Board of Education to align its admission process with the educational model (e.g. an arts-focused school may require an audition or portfolio for admission).

³ Please note that contract schools are authorized through the Chicago Board of Education via Illinois School Code, 105 ILCS 5/34-18(30); the Chicago Board of Education has authority over school policies.



Proposal Evaluation Process Overview

For over 20 years, CPS has managed a rigorous process to evaluate new school proposals. The 2020 RFP process is designed to identify new, or replicate and expand existing, high-quality school options based on national best practices and standards for quality authorizing. CPS has the authority under the Illinois Charter Schools Law to approve quality charter applications that meet identified educational needs (105 ILCS 5/27A-7.10). The Office of Innovation and Incubation (I&I) within CPS oversees the RFP evaluation process.

I. Comprehensive Evaluation Teams Review

A Comprehensive Evaluation Team (CET) of internal and external experts will review all proposals received in response to the RFP. The CETs will use the evaluation criteria included in the 2020 RFP Evaluation Form to evaluate the application. The criteria included in the Evaluation Form target attributes that have been shown to be key indicators of success for new schools. The CET will also conduct due diligence on the operator, school leaders, board members, and affiliated organizations of the proposed new school.

Based on their comprehensive review, CETs will identify the strengths and weaknesses of each proposal. CETs will make recommendations to I&I to approve or deny proposals for new schools supported by concrete rationale. I&I will make its recommendations to the CEO based on the CET evaluation and due diligence done by I&I staff, and the CEO will then make a recommendation to the Chicago Board of Education, which renders a final determination on the application.

II. Facility Plan Review

Applicants proposing to open new schools must identify at least two viable independent non-CPS facility options, as required by law (105 ILCS 5/27A-7(a)(3)).

Before the Chicago Board of Education approves a proposal, the proposal will be reviewed by the CPS Facilities Department to ensure that proposed facilities plans are viable in the presented timeframe and adequately meet the stated needs of the proposed school, and they ensure that the building will be brought into compliance with applicable health, safety, and accessibility laws. Applicants with identified facilities that are not currently compliant with the ADA should include a plan and timeline for how they can achieve ADA compliance.

III. Submission Parts

All applicants are strongly encouraged to submit an **Intent to Apply** form by **February 21, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.** The form can be found on the RFP website (cps.edu/2020RFP). The completed form should be emailed to iauthorization@cps.edu.



The 2020 RFP requires applicants to submit proposal materials in three stages, to provide time for a thorough review and a timeframe that will allow any approved schools a full year of planning time.

- The Tier I Application must be submitted to Epicenter by May 1, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.
- The Tier II Application must be submitted to Epicenter by July 31, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.
- The Tier III Application must be submitted to Epicenter by September 30, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Proposals will not be considered final until the Tier III Application is submitted. Please note that I&I reserves the right to request additional information and documentation from applicants as it deems necessary for its review and to determine when an application is complete.

IV. Process Timeline

Each stage of the proposal submission and evaluation process is included in the timeline below, followed by descriptions of key RFP events. This is a projected timeline and is subject to change.

Event	Date	Notes
RFP Released	December 30, 2019	
Intent to Apply Form Due	February 21, 2020	Due by 5 p.m. by email to iandiauthorization@cps.edu
Applicant Office Hours	March 2020	We encourage applicants to reach out to schedule meetings with I&I at iandiauthorization@cps.edu
Tier I Application Due	May 1, 2020	Due by 5 p.m. to Epicenter
Tier II Application Due	July 31, 2020	Due by 5 p.m. to Epicenter
Tier III Application Due	September 30, 2020	Due by 5 p.m. to Epicenter
Applicant Capacity Interviews	October 2020	



Public Hearing at CPS Central Office	November 2020	42 W. Madison, Chicago, IL
CPS Board Meeting	December 2020	

V. Description of Key Timeline Events

Applicant Intent to Apply Form Submission

February 21, 2020

All applicants are strongly encouraged to submit an Intent to Apply form by February 21, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. The form can be found on the [RFP website](#). The completed form should be emailed to iandiauthorization@cps.edu.

Office Hours

March 2020

If applicants have specific questions about the 2020 New Schools RFP process and their proposal, they may sign up to attend office hours with CPS staff. Applicants must send an email to iandiauthorization@cps.edu expressing their interest or sign up for office hours using the provided link.

The email should include an agenda with specific questions to help I&I ensure that staff members with relevant expertise can attend the meeting.

Application Submission

Tier I: May 1, 2020; Tier II: July 31, 2020; Tier III: September 30, 2020

For details about submitting the Application (for all Tiers), please see *Section VI. Completion and Submission of Proposal* below.

Applicant Interviews

October 2020

Applicants that submit complete applications will be invited to participate in an in-person capacity interview with the CET. These interviews are an essential part of the application process and provide evaluators with a chance to gather clarifying information to support final recommendations for approval or denial; they are not, however, a guarantee of authorization.

Design teams attending applicant interviews must bring a representative group of fewer than eight people to participate. Design teams should select their attendees to ensure that those present are able to collectively speak to every aspect of the school design and proposal. Interviews will generally be two hours.



- At minimum, all identified board members who will serve in officer positions should attend the capacity interview.
- If an applicant is proposing to open a new school (*i.e.* does not currently operate other schools with the same educational model), the proposed academic school leader must be present at the capacity interview.

CPS Public Hearing

November 2020

I&I will hold a public hearing as mandated by the Illinois Charter Schools Law to receive public comment on all submitted proposals in advance of the Chicago Board of Education's vote to approve or deny proposals. The purpose of the hearing is for the public to enter comments into the official record prior to the Board's decision. Applicants will have the opportunity to make a brief five-minute statement to enter into the public record, followed by a public comment period for attendees.

Board Decision

December 2020

The Chicago Board of Education makes all final decisions regarding the proposal submitted in response to this RFP. The Board will take all presented information into account when reviewing a recommendation for approval or denial, including the recommendations from the CET. If a design team would like to speak at the Board meeting on behalf of their proposal, they may sign up to do so in advance of the meeting at the following link: <http://www.cpsboe.org/meetings>. Specific details on speaker registration is available on the CPS website.

Beyond Approval; Readiness to Open

January 2021

If a school proposal is approved by the Chicago Board of Education, the Board may still require the design team/incubating school to meet additional benchmarks related to viable facility plans and timelines, and execution of the school agreement (or charter) with the school. In addition, CPS works with the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to certify new charter schools at the state level. (Contract Schools do not require ISBE certification.)

VI. Completion and Submission of Proposal

Structuring Section Responses

When responding to a specific section of the proposal, applicants should copy and paste the evaluation criteria from the 2020 Evaluation Form that the response is intended to meet. Applicants should ensure that their response to each section addresses all evaluation criteria included in the Evaluation Form.

If a specific question does not apply to the proposed school, please respond "Not Applicable."

Please note that generally, complete and thorough applications have been approximately 120 pages long. If your application is significantly longer or shorter, please consider whether your application contains the appropriate amount of material.



Format for Proposals

Proposals should include:

- Page numbers;
- A table of contents noting the page number for each section and appendix;
- 1-inch margins and at least 11-point font;
- Definitions or complete names for any acronyms or other abbreviations in the proposal;
- Brief descriptions, either in the text or in a footnote, of all referenced organizations, programs, service providers, curricula, etc.; and
- Full citations, either in a footnote or a separate references section, for any research, studies, or articles cited.

Submission Instructions – Epicenter

Following an applicant's submission of the Intent to Apply form, the applicant will receive login credentials to Epicenter, the online document management, compliance, and performance platform used by I&I. Applicants who have not received Epicenter logins by April 1, 2020 should call the Office of Innovation & Incubation at (773) 553-1530. Applicants must submit electronic versions of all proposal materials through Epicenter.

- Tier I Application: May 1, 2020 by 5:00 p.m.
- Tier II Application: July 31, 2020 by 5:00 p.m.
- Tier III Application: September 30, 2020 by 5:00 p.m.

Due to the large number of proposals that the District receives, I&I will not accept Applications that are submitted after the stated deadline for each Tier of the Application. We recommend that teams begin uploading materials in the week prior to the submission deadline to provide time to troubleshoot potential technical issues.

PLEASE NOTE: All documents submitted to CPS are a matter of public record and are subject to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (5 ILCS 140/1-11). CPS intends to post all applicant proposal materials in due course after each Tier of the application is due. Applicants should be mindful of the public nature of these applications and should avoid listing design team and proposed board member home addresses and home telephone numbers. In order to protect the identity of proposed school leaders or teacher candidates whose current job may be jeopardized if released publicly, applicants may provide a supplemental submission redacting those individuals' names and identifying information. Applicants cannot redact the names or contact information of design team members or proposed board members. Redacted submissions must be provided by the relevant Tier application deadlines.

Redacted and Unredacted Personal Information of Children and Members of the Public. As described in the RFP, a successful application must demonstrate significant community



support. As part of that support, interaction with members of the public is essential. Evidence of that support at times requires listing the names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses of members of the public, and sometimes the ages or current grade level of school-age children. In order to protect the members of the public, and especially information of school-age children, **all applicants must separately submit to Epicenter both a redacted and unredacted version of all materials containing personal information of members of the public.** Redacted versions will be posted publicly on our website with the rest of applicants' proposals.

VII. Ethics Policy for Applicants

Pursuant to the Board's Code of Ethics, school operators that hold charter or contract agreements with the Board are in a unique relationship with the Board. Membership on a charter or contract school operator's governing board creates an inherent conflict of interest for CPS Officials and Employees. Officials and Employees and their Spouses, Domestic Partners, Partners to a Civil Union, or other Members of their Household are therefore prohibited from sitting on the governing board of either: (1) A Charter School operator that holds a charter issued by the Board; or (2) A Contract School operator that holds a contract school agreement issued by the Board.

In addition, several other provisions in the Board's Code of Ethics impact Board employees' involvement with charter and contract school development depending on certain circumstances. These circumstances include conflicts from secondary employment and representing other persons or entities in proceedings before the Board. If you are a current Board employee and wish to serve on a proposed charter or contract school's design team or governing board, please contact I&I at 773-553-1530, and we will put you in contact with the CPS Ethics Advisor.



RFP and Addendum Questions

I. Domain 1: Community Engagement and Support

Illinois Charter Schools Law (105 ILCS 5/27A-8) states that the local school board must give preference to proposals that demonstrate a high level of local pupil, parental, community, business, and school personnel support when evaluating any charter school proposal.

Design teams should have established connections with prospective parents and community members by the time of the Application submission and should conduct outreach throughout the process.

Section 1.1: Community Overview

The applicant must identify the possible locations of the proposed school and the recruitment area and targeted communit(ies) within it. "Recruitment area" refers to the geographic area(s) from which the applicant intends to recruit students, or the neighborhoods from which the school expects to draw the majority of its students. Parent and community engagement should be conducted in the entire recruitment area, not just the community in which the facility will be located.

Please note that charter schools must accept applications from students who reside in any part of the city unless the District decides to authorize an attendance overlay boundary to prioritize student admissions (105 ILCS 5/27A-4(d)). As a result, applicants should not cite the city boundaries or create recruitment boundaries.

The interactive [CPS School Locator map](#) outlines the 77 Chicago community areas. CPS encourages applicants to refer to these community area names and/or zip codes when listing the targeted communit(ies) to help facilitate a common understanding of boundaries.

In this section, the applicant is expected to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the communit(ies) they propose to serve.

Section 1.2: Facilities

Applicants must identify at least two viable independent facility options, per Illinois Charter Schools Law (105 ILCS 5/27A-7(a)(3)), unless the applicant has fully secured an independent facility. The law requires that applicants provide "a description of and address for the physical plant in which the charter school will be located (provided that...the facility need not be rented or acquired at the time of proposal approval...) so long as the proposal or submission identifies and names at least 2 sites that are potentially available as a charter school facility by the time the charter school is to open." Any independent facility to be approved must be in compliance with applicable zoning, building codes, health and safety laws, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 requirements. Guidelines for federal ADA and Rehabilitation Act facility requirements are available on the RFP website.



Things to consider:

- A list of CPS-approved architects can be found on the RFP website: www.cps.edu/2020RFP.
- In some circumstances, CPS may require additional information or an ADA inspection conducted by CPS experts during the proposal review process.
- Proposed, back-up, and temporary facilities must also be in compliance with applicable building codes, health and safety laws, and requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- When researching facilities, please ensure that proposed facilities will be in compliance with Fire Prevention Bureau requirements listed in [Chicago Building Code Section 3\(13-84-030\) - Frontage Requirements](#).

CPS acknowledges that operators may find it necessary to locate a new school in a temporary facility for a defined period of time. However, in this scenario, applicants are required to identify a viable “permanent” facility option in addition to a viable temporary option if the planned move falls within the five-year contract. The CET will consider a lack of a viable permanent and temporary facility options when forming recommendations for approval or denial of the proposed new school.

Section 1.3: Community Outreach

This section should chronicle all community engagement and outreach efforts up through May 1, 2020. The response should detail the work that the applicant has done to share information about the proposed school with the community and describe how community feedback was incorporated into the proposed model. Existing institutions, organizations, and community members may help develop an educational vision for a proposed school that builds on the assets in and responds to the needs of the community. Community members should be invited to help shape the proposed school, which if approved will become a key institution in their community.

It is also your opportunity to discuss what you’ve learned from the community and how your proposal intends to address the issues facing students in the community you propose to serve. In connection with your community outreach, the RFP seeks an understanding of how data supports your proposal to fill an unmet need in the community you propose to serve. We recommend that you review the Annual Regional Analysis (ARA) and other publicly available information, to provide an answer that supports your proposal. The ARA is a comprehensive set of data released by CPS that ensures that the district and its stakeholders are all working from the same set of information. You can find it with a lot of other district-aggregated data here: www.cps.edu/schooldata.



Section 1.4: Updated Community Outreach

This section should further chronicle all community engagement and outreach efforts since your submission in Tier I.

This is the place to demonstrate authentic community engagement and organizing.

All materials and methods of notifying parents and community members of the proposed school should include the following information:

- Notification that the school is proposed and has not yet been approved;
- Information regarding how individuals can submit questions or feedback for consideration (e.g. by listing a phone number, email, fax, or mailing address; citing a method for submitting comments or questions on the proposed school’s website; or inviting individuals to a community meeting with a period for comment, etc.); and
- The following language regarding the opportunity to view new school proposals: “If you would like to view the application for our proposed new school, it will be publicly posted on www.cps.edu/2020RFP.”

While applicants are not limited to the following, design teams may choose to use the following methods of notifying parents/guardians and community residents of the proposed school:

- On the ground outreach (e.g. canvassing, stop and chats, attending Block Club meetings or events, etc.);
- Hosting community meetings (alone or in partnership with local community- or faith-based organizations or leaders);
- Meeting with groups of local parents;
- Distributing flyers, brochures, or other marketing materials to residents, community organizations, and/or businesses;
- Placing advertisements in neighborhood newsletters or other media outlets; and
- Collecting petitions and/or Intent to Enroll forms.

Applicants must include **evidence** of having notified residents of the proposed school. In Tier II, the applicant must provide an approximate estimate of the number of individuals notified via each method of outreach.

For example, an applicant may include but is not limited to the following types of evidence:

Method of Notification	Number of Individuals Notified	Evidence
Dated emails to existing listservs	“xyz” organization’s listserv includes 500 email addresses	Dated emails

	Alderman emailed his/her listserv with 2,000 email addresses	
Flyers or door hangers	Left 500 door hangers on homes between “x” avenue, “y” street, “z” boulevard, and “a” street	Copy of door hangers
Community meetings	Held community meeting on “x” date attended by 60 individuals	Sign-in sheets
Advertisement in local newsletter or other media outlets	Ad placed in “xyz” newspaper with 1,500 readership	Copy of ad placed
Appeared on local radio show	The segment had 1,000 listeners	Time and date of broadcast
Social media	Information tweeted by “x” individual with 500 followers who live in “y” area	Twitter feed
Petitions	Collected 1,500 signatures from individuals in the communit(ies)	Petitions
Block club event	Presented at a block club event with 60 residents	Copy of sign-in sheets (if available)

The interactive [CPS School Locator map](#) has overlays for Aldermanic wards, Illinois House District boundaries, and Illinois Senate District boundaries. Applicants should notify all elected officials whose ward or district touches a part of the proposed recruitment boundary, regardless of how small the area may be.

The process of notifying the community should start well before Tier I and Tier II Applications are submitted and should focus on informing the greatest number of community residents on the proposal, soliciting feedback and meaningfully incorporating members of the community into the proposal development process, and laying groundwork to build a group of individuals to support the proposal and ultimately the school, if approved to open.

Document all community and one-on-one meetings by including agendas, relevant emails and/or notes in Appendix 1.4.

Section 1.5: Community and Family Support

In Section 1.5, the applicant should detail the support that the new school proposal has secured from each core community constituency:

- Families (Student Demand);



- Community members and leaders;
- Elected officials; and
- Community-based organizations.

This section does not require an applicant to discuss whether the elected officials support the proposed school, but the applicant must provide evidence of having notified elected officials by all three methods of outreach. The applicant should submit evidence of notification in Appendix 1.5 of Tier II.

The response to this section of the proposal should provide insight into how specific community members acted as champions for the proposed new school, perhaps by connecting the design team with organizations, institutions, and individuals in the neighborhood. In addition to letters of intent-to-enroll, applicants may consider asking parents to write a personal letter explaining why they support the proposed school and are potentially interested in sending their student(s) to the proposed school.

If an applicant faces opposition, the applicant should understand the source of the opposition and seek to determine the degree to which the opposition reflects the sentiments of community members and parents.

Best practices of successful charter schools suggest that boards are most effective when they have close ties to the community and are knowledgeable about local priorities and politics. There are many ways that a school can allow parents and community members to play a role in the governance and operation of the charter school. It is critical that the design team talk with community leaders and prospective parents about methods for involving these constituencies in the governance of the school with community leaders and prospective parents.

Please note that signatures provided as part of a petition only constitute evidence of notifying community members, not of having obtained individual support from petition signatories. Only personalized letters constitute evidence of support for the proposed school.

Finally, if services or resources provided through a partnership are integral to the implementation of the school model (e.g. providing services or support as part of the school day or after-school hours), please provide evidence of the partner organization's commitment in a memorandum of understanding, letter of intent or commitment, or draft contract.

This document should:

- Describe the purpose of the organization independent of the school;
- Outline the nature of the relationship with the school;
- Define expectations for roles and responsibilities in the partnership;
- Clearly identify if services or resources will be provided for a fee or free of charge; and



- Be signed by a representative of the partner organization with his or her contact information provided.

The proposal should also explain how the design team conducted necessary due diligence when selecting the partner.

II. Domain 2: Academic Plan

Section 2.1: The School Model

2.1.1: School Mission

A mission statement should:

- Describe who the school will serve, what the school will accomplish in measurable terms, and what methods it will use;
- Be attainable and consistent with high academic standards;
- Reflect the key values that teachers, administrators, and students know and support;
- Be concise and clearly describe in just a few sentences the school's purpose for the entire school community, external stakeholders, and individuals who may not be familiar with the school; and
- Be able to be operationalized and guide the work and culture of staff and students on a day-to-day basis.

Please note that 105 ILCS 5/27A-7(a)(4) states that the charter school applicant need not "demonstrate unequivocally that the charter school will be able to meet each of those declared purposes," but must "aspire to attain" them. In other words, a mission statement should be aspirational.

2.1.2: Key Design Elements

Key Design Elements are the defining features of your proposed school – the most critical aspects of the school model. Rather than including a comprehensive list of everything the school offers, this section should be a succinct overview of the most critical elements of the model that will be detailed in other parts of the proposal.

Key Design Elements will vary but may include some combination of the following:

- Specific subject focus or theme (e.g., STEM, the arts, health sciences, etc.);
- Partnerships (e.g., wrap-around services, relationships with other non-profits);
- Any targeted student populations (e.g., students with autism, gifted and talented, bilingual, or over-age and under-credited students, etc.), consistent with the requirement that charter and contract schools must maintain nonexclusive, nondiscriminatory admissions policies;
- Specific programs (e.g., college prep, vocational, International Baccalaureate, etc.);



- Unique calendar or schedule (e.g., extended day or year, extended literacy/numeracy blocks, etc.);
- Particular pedagogical approaches (e.g., direct instruction, team teaching, collaborative or project-based learning, etc.);
- Program features (e.g., skill grouping, inter-disciplinary classes, integrated curriculum, online or blended learning programs, etc.);
- School culture (e.g., behavioral expectations, core values, discipline system, character education program, etc.);
- Staffing (e.g., teachers with specific skills or experience, co-teaching models, mentoring or professional development models, and for charter school proposals how teacher licensure flexibilities will be used, etc.);
- Assessment systems (e.g., interim or benchmark assessments, data analysis programs, portfolios, data-driven action planning, progress monitoring, program evaluation, etc.);
- Student supports or interventions (e.g., targeted assistance program, academic intervention services, extracurricular activities or after school programs, tutoring, counseling or mentoring programs, Saturday or summer school, etc.); and
- Special education settings (e.g., collaborative team teaching, resource room, self-contained programs, etc.) and services.

The applicant should support the elements with citations from research or other evidence of effectiveness, if available, that suggests that the school's program is likely to lead to increased student learning and achievement with the school's anticipated student population.

CPS invites innovative school models; in such cases, the applicant should seek out and provide information on similar models where schools or programs have been successful.

Section 2.2: Program of Instruction

2.2.2: Curriculum

The curriculum should support the identified mission of the proposed school. Applicants adopting an existing curriculum may include a link to the full curriculum instead of the minimum requirements listed in Appendix 2.2.2 of the RFP.

Section 2.5: Special Student Populations

2.5.1: Students with Disabilities

All school proposals must comply with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Article 14 of the Illinois School Code, and 23 Illinois Administrative Code 226, and must explain how compliance will take place and be monitored.

In your response, explain how the school will ensure that all students with disabilities:

- Have access to the general education curriculum;
- Integrate with their non-disabled peers;



- Receive related services in settings that include non-disabled peers to the maximum extent appropriate;
- Participate in standardized testing with accommodations and modifications, as required; and
- Are included in educational and culture-building activities, including extracurricular activities.

In addition, strong responses will include descriptions of:

- How the school will engage the family as meaningful members of the IEP team;
- How often parents will be notified of their child's progress toward IEP goals;
- Who at the school will be responsible for coordinating special education evaluations and services; and
- How the school will monitor the implementation of the IEPs to ensure that all students are receiving all special education service minutes (including related services), accommodations, and modifications.

Things to consider:

- Charter and contract schools cannot discriminate against students with disabilities in the lottery, enrollment and admissions policies, and must serve students with disabilities to the same extent as any traditional District school. Schools should expect and plan to have a proportion of students with disabilities that is comparable to the District average.
- All schools must use the CPS Individualized Education Program (IEP) form and comply with all CPS policies, procedures, and guidelines relating to special education.

2.5.2: English Learners (ELs)

All school proposals must comply with federal law governing the education of English learners (105 ILCS 5/14C-1 et. seq., 23 Ill. Admin. Code 228), and must explain how compliance will take place and be monitored. Any school with an enrollment of 20 or more ELs of the same language background from Kindergarten to 12th grade must establish a Transitional Bilingual Education (TBE) program.

Include the following information in the discussion of the service model for EL students:

- Curriculum program for EL students who may not be ready for the general education curriculum;
- Process for providing EL students access to the general education curriculum;
- Instructional strategies for EL students;
- Intervention programs for EL students; and

- Measures the school has taken to ensure that EL students are included in educational and/or culture-building activities.

When discussing services and supports for EL students, it is also important to consider how the school will ensure compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which ensures equal access to education for EL students. Discuss how the school will avoid violations of Title VI, such as excluding students from active participation in school due to their inability to speak and understand the language of instruction; inappropriately placing EL students in special education because of their lack of fluency in English; and implementing EL programs that do not teach English as soon as possible or delay students from entering into an English classroom.

2.5.3: Multi-Tiered Systems of Support

Many new schools receive a high number of students who are several grades behind grade level and require significant remedial assistance. In this section, the applicant should detail the tiered **academic** support or intervention the school will provide for all students and for students who are struggling in the general education program but whose needs do not warrant an evaluation.

Address how your school will identify student needs and account for remediation in your course scope and sequence, instructional strategies, daily schedule, staffing plan, professional development plans, extracurricular programming, and student supports offered.

2.5.4: Advanced Learners

Things to consider when developing your response to this question:

- How will the school integrate accelerated learning opportunities into instructional methods?
- Does the school intend to provide additional curricular and instructional resources to support accelerated learning activities?
- How will teachers approach the challenge of having both accelerated students and students in need of remediation in the same classroom?
- Has your team discussed AP offerings, dual enrollment and early college credentials, and other relevant curricular options to support student needs?

Section 2.6: School Calendar and Schedules

2.6.1: Annual Calendar

Things to consider:

- State law requires a minimum of 300 instructional minutes (5 hours) per day and 185 days per year to ensure 176 days of actual pupil attendance. (For additional guidance, your design team may find it helpful to consult [ISBE's Guidelines for School Calendar Preparation](#).)
- If planning for additional school hours and days, design teams should make sure that programming and staffing for before- and after-school programs and summer school sessions are reflected in the proposed school's budget.



- Proposed school calendars and daily schedules should reflect an appropriate level of rigor with sufficient time allocated for core subjects and nonacademic programs.

2.6.2: Student Schedules

The student schedule should include:

- The proposed daily start and end times for students;
- The start and end times for all periods during the school day; and
- The division of instructional versus extracurricular minutes for students.

2.6.3: Teacher Schedules

The teacher schedule should include:

- The proposed daily start and end times for teachers;
- The start and end times for all periods during the school day;
- The division of instructional versus planning time for teachers; and
- Any designated teacher professional development times during the school day.

Section 2.7: Culture, Social Emotional Learning, and Behavioral Management

2.7.1: School Culture and Social Emotional Learning

In this section, applicants should provide a description of how the school will look and feel to students and teachers. Any responsibilities assigned to staff members in regard to promoting and monitoring school culture should be cited in the attached organizational chart and job descriptions.

When developing a response to this question, consider the following questions:

- How does the school plan to align staff, students, and families around high expectations for student learning and behavior?
- What is the role of administrators, teachers, students, and families in establishing and maintaining school culture?
- What are the systems, traditions, policies, and symbols that give the school its identity?
- Does the proposed school culture reinforce positive student behavior and promote student learning?
- Does the proposed school culture align with and reinforce the mission, vision, and education plan for the proposed school?

One important aspect of this section is how applicants use a multi-tiered system of support. Both within the written proposal and at a capacity interview, applicants should be well-versed with the specifics of the MTSS that they intend to implement in their proposed school.



2.7.2: Discipline, Behavioral Intervention, and Classroom Management

Charter schools can adopt the CPS Student Code of Conduct (SCC) in full or submit an alternative discipline policy. Contract schools must adopt the CPS SCC. The [CPS SCC is linked here](#). If the applicant is not using the CPS Code of Conduct, it must provide a draft version of the proposed school's discipline policy, along with any supporting documents in Appendix 2.7.2.

The [United States Department of Education provides guidance](#) on how schools can meet their obligations under federal law to administer student discipline without discriminating on the basis of race, color, or national origin.

All schools, including charter schools, must comply with amendments to the School Code set forth in Public Act 0456 (also referred to as Senate Bill (SB) 100). This law provides limitations on how and when schools may use punitive school discipline practices, and requires that schools exhaust "appropriate and available behavioral and disciplinary interventions" before resorting to suspensions and expulsions. Information regarding this law is prevalent, and the law itself can be found here: <http://ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/99/PDF/099-0456.pdf>.

Charter schools must also comply with CPS disciplinary policies and procedures for students with disabilities and impairments. When a school's charter is issued by a local board of education pursuant to Section 27A-8 of the Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/27A-8) (as is the case with charters issued by the Chicago Board of Education), that charter school is considered a school within the district's jurisdiction, and is thus part of the CPS Local Education Agency (23 Ill. Admin. Code 226.60). This means that the charter schools must comply with CPS policies and procedures implemented for students with disabilities and impairments, which can be found here: <https://cps.edu/diverselearners/Pages/home.aspx>.

Things to consider regarding student discipline:

- Are systems in place to ensure that the school will protect the rights of students with disabilities in disciplinary actions and proceeding?
- Does the school's discipline plan present a clear and fair system that complies with students' due process rights?
- Does the discipline policy have a schedule for communication to parents/students that is timely and allows for due process by providing sufficient notice?
- Are there systems in place to ensure that behavior policies are equitable and that no student subgroups are disproportionately impacted by behavior policies?
- Are the expectations and roles for school leaders and staff in implementing the behavior policies clearly articulated?
- How will expectations for behavior be clearly communicated to and modeled by teachers to help norm the implementation of consequences, positive behavioral interventions, and supports?
- Is the school's system of incremental consequences strength-based?



- Are discipline policies and practices designed to teach appropriate behaviors, restore relationships, and repair harm?
- Do disciplinary procedures address the cause of misbehavior?

Section 2.8: Post-Secondary and Graduation Support and Engagement

2.8.1: Graduation and College Readiness Support

When developing your plan for post-secondary and graduation support for your students, you should be familiar with what Chicago and CPS offers to students. The [Learn.Plan.Succeed](#) initiative is CPS's system to provide pathways for students after graduating from high school. It may be helpful to think about how your own school's post-secondary plan might align to Learn.Plan.Succeed. Things to consider when developing your response to this section:

- How you will inform parents and the community about any programs you offer?
- How you will engage parents and community members to support students in programs you offer?
- Who is responsible for overseeing the implementation of college readiness supports?
- Which staff members will support these efforts?
- How will your post-secondary and graduation supports align to the [CPS Vision](#)?

2.8.2: Parent and Community Engagement

In addressing the questions under this section, consider providing a parent handbook.

Illinois Charter Schools Law (105 ILCS 5/27A-7(a)(10)) requires that a proposal describe the nature and extent of parent and community involvement in the governance and operation of the charter school. Boards tend to be most effective when they have close ties to the community and are knowledgeable about local priorities and politics. There are myriad ways that a school may allow parents and community members to play a role in the governance and operation of the charter school. Some examples follow:

- Include parent and community members on the school board;
- Develop parent surveys to receive regular parent feedback (e.g. on enrichment activities that they value for themselves and their students, requests for transportation services, feelings about school facilities, their sense of their child's progress in school, etc.);
- Establish a parent advisory council in which parents can provide suggestions to the school, cite complaints, organize volunteer activities, etc.; and
- Allow parents to participate in faculty hiring panels.

Section 2.9: Human Capital

2.9.1: Recruitment and Selection

Staffing plans should reflect the school's proposed growth model (enrollment and grades year one through year five) and associated staffing needs. The staffing plan and narrative should



clearly identify which staff member is responsible for overseeing all of the key design elements of the proposed school model. For example, if the school has a focus on service learning, the staffing plan and narrative should clearly identify which staff member is responsible for overseeing the program, establishing and maintaining relationships with external partners, assigning students to organizations, etc. The staffing plan should also align with the budget.

Things to consider:

- For charter schools, all staff working in instructional positions must meet the criteria detailed in 105 ILCS 5/27A-10(c).
- Special education and English learner teachers in all schools must be appropriately licensed.

Teacher and administrator qualification requirements are identified above in Table 1: Charter and Contract School Structure.

2.9.2: Professional Development

The professional development section should reflect any training or development related to unique or innovative curricular or instructional methods, as described in other parts of the proposal. Teams should consider how the school's PD plan will prepare teachers to embrace and execute the many unique aspects of the proposed school model (e.g. project-based learning, technology focus, performing arts, etc.).

If the proposed professional development program is active and working in another school or network, please cite the school and its results.

Section 2.10: Design Team Experience and Capacity

2.10.3: Evidence of Success

This section should detail the team members' experience and expertise in areas that are aligned to the needs of a start-up school. A diversity of experiences and skills is important. The applicant should provide a detailed summary of the team's capacity to support the myriad needs of a new charter school.

The evaluation team realizes that not all members of every high-potential applicant team have direct experience running successful schools in the past. Because of this, the evaluation team is open to applicants describing how their team members' experiences and achievements outside of running a school would be relevant and transferable to the successful management of a new charter school.

If the applicant is a national operator or is proposing to partner with a management organization, the applicant should include a table or attached Excel spreadsheet in Appendix 2.10.3 that provides demographic data on student populations served at each existing school in the network, including the following (%):

- Free- and reduced-price lunch (FRL);
- African American, Hispanic, Caucasian, Asian American, and other;



- English Language Learners;
- Students with Individual Education Plans (IEPs); and
- Students in Temporary Living Situations.

Applicants may either submit state or district report cards, vendor reports, or other school performance reports to demonstrate historical performance. Academic data, including (1) student academic growth, (2) student academic attainment, and (3) student behavior metrics should be included in the report(s). (See Appendix I of this Resource Guide for more information.) Identify any metrics that the applicant is unable to provide this information for and why.

Please note that any submitted data that is unverifiable (i.e. not from a third-party source) will not be considered.

Because CPS does not have access to student-level data for schools outside of Chicago, the applicant is responsible for providing comprehensive data for each of its schools and for making the case for its network track record of driving academic achievement with similar student populations. If verifiable student demographic and academic data from third-party organizations or vendors (e.g. district or state performance reports, assessment data directly from external assessment vendors) is not provided by the operator for every school or campus for each student metric (I: Academic Growth, II: Academic Attainment, III: Behavior Metrics), evaluators will be unable to determine whether the existing schools in the network meet the benchmark standard. In the absence of the required data, evaluators will rate the school or campus as “does not meet” the standard.

III. Domain 3: Financial Plan

Section 3.2: Financial Controls and Monitoring

As part of the 2020 RFP process, I&I will review the proposed school's fiscal policies/handbooks. This review process will assess, but is not limited to, the following categories:

- Comprehensive Reporting: Timely and regular production of three standard monthly financial statements: the statement of activities (including budget-to-actuals), statement of financial position (balance sheet), and statement of cash flows.
- Review of Financial Statements: Monthly financial statements reviewed by a member or committee of the board of directors; budgets and audits are reviewed annually.
- Meeting Schedule: Board of directors meet, at a minimum, on a quarterly basis; ideally, meetings would occur monthly or bi-monthly.
- Committees: Appropriate committee structures in place with clearly defined roles and responsibilities as well as regularly scheduled meetings.

- Financial Systems: Adequate internal controls in place, including without limitation, proper checks and balances, appropriate separation of duties as well as qualified persons for the generation and review of monthly financial statements.
- Qualified Personnel: Persons involved in the generation and review of financial reports ideally have backgrounds in finance and/or accounting, an MBA/CPA, and/or extensive financial experience, preferably in the nonprofit sector.

IV. Domain 4: Operational Plan

Section 4.2: Student Recruitment and Enrollment

4.2.1: Student Enrollment

The applicant should demonstrate that plans for student recruitment, school start-up, and operational supports ensure that the school serves a diverse student population.

Applicants proposing a charter school must ensure that their policies comply with the Illinois Charter Schools Law and the Illinois School Code. Illinois Charter Schools Law requires that charter schools have open enrollment. Specifically, the law provides that:

- “Enrollment in a charter school shall be open to any pupil who resides within the geographic boundaries of the area served by the local school board” (105 ILCS 5/27A-4(d)).
- “If there are more eligible applicants for enrollment in a charter school than there are spaces available, successful applicants shall be selected by lottery” (105 ILCS 5/27A-4(h)).
- Preference in the lottery **must** go to (1) siblings of pupils enrolled in the charter school, and (2) pupils enrolled in the charter school the previous school year, and **may** go to (3) pupils who reside within an applicable attendance boundary, if one has been designated.

No other enrollment preferences, other than the above, are allowed for charter schools. Consistent with the open enrollment requirements in the law, an admission form should in general be limited to:

- Contact information;
- Age/grade level information; and
- Information related to permissible enrollment priorities.

An admission form filled out prior to the lottery may NOT request social security numbers under any circumstances.

Post-lottery registration forms, which are filled out after the student has been guaranteed a spot at the school, may request the following information:

- Special education status;



- English language proficiency;
- Other information related to the student's academic aptitude; and
- Proof of immunization status.

If race/ethnicity demographic information is requested, the form should be clear that such information is optional and is used only for statistical purposes. Applicants are advised to include a non-discrimination statement on their forms.

Illinois Charter Schools Law includes requirements for how charter schools should conduct their application, lottery, and enrollment processes (105 ILCS 5/27A-4(h)). Applicants should review the legislative section in its entirety.

Charter schools may conduct additional intake activities after a lottery is held (e.g. student essays, school-parent compacts, open houses, etc.), but these activities cannot be required as a condition of student enrollment in the school.

4.2.2 Student Recruitment

Charter and contract schools must comply with the [CPS policy regarding Students in Temporary Living Situations](#). This policy codifies a Consent Decree entered into the Settlement Agreement in *Salazar v. Edwards*, 92 CH 5703. As such, proposals must state how the school will protect the rights of children who are homeless in compliance with the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. § 11431 et seq., the Illinois Education for Homeless Children Act, 105 ILCS 45/1-5 et seq., and all other laws and administrative rules that protect the rights of children who are homeless. Pursuant to the CPS policy and the Consent Decree in *Salazar*, proposals should describe the steps the school will take to be responsive to the needs and concerns of students who are homeless, the services that are offered by the school and by outside providers, and the school's efforts to ensure that children who are homeless are not deprived of their rights. School proposals should consider:

- The school's plan to identify two appropriately-skilled staff persons who participate in training from CPS' Support for Students in Temporary Living Situations (STLS) to carry out duties related to the STLS program;
- How the school will provide notification of McKinney-Vento student rights to the entire student population and identify McKinney-Vento eligible students;
- How the school will document compliance with fee waivers for all McKinney-Vento students;
- The kind of training staff will receive regarding the needs and rights of students in temporary living situations; and
- How the school will include students in temporary living situations in all proposed school programs and activities.



Section 4.3: Operational Compliance

4.3.1: Transportation

Illinois Charter Schools Law mandates that charter schools describe how they will meet the transportation needs of all pupils and provide a transportation plan for addressing the transportation needs of low-income and at-risk students.

Please note that transportation supports and services provided by the school may – but are not required to – include bus service. A transportation plan may include (but is not limited to) bus service, subsidized public transportation, coordinated parent or volunteer carpools, and/or participation in the state’s Parental Transportation Reimbursement program.

Here are a few things to consider when developing a response to this section:

- A charter school’s budget should adequately support the proposed transportation plan.
- A statement that most students will live within walking distance of the school is not sufficient to satisfy this requirement.
- The school may be required to provide transportation for students with disabilities and students who are homeless, in accordance with applicable state and federal law.

4.3.2: ADA Compliance

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability and require accessibility in all aspects of school operations, including employment, buildings, programs and activities, communications, and information technology.

The ADA compliance plan should clearly articulate how the proposed school will ensure compliance with requirements under the ADA.

Section 4.4: Governance

4.4.1: Governance Start-up

All charter schools must be governed by a not-for-profit governing body pursuant to the Illinois Charter Schools Law (105 ILCS 5/27A-5), and each school’s Charter School Agreement. A school’s ability to fulfill its mission is largely determined by the governance structure and the recruitment of a capable and engaged board. Proposals should specifically identify the board’s ongoing responsibilities, above and outside of fiduciary responsibilities, to ensure a real and meaningful impact on school decision making.

At least three directors are required to apply for Not-for-Profit status in Illinois (http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf_publications/c165.pdf), so at least three board members should be identified at the time of Application submission. Please note that CPS requires that at least the proposed founding board chair be present at the capacity interview. CPS reserves the right to request additional meetings with board members.

Please note that the Illinois Charter Schools Law requires that charter school proposals submitted to the local school board include a description of the “nature and extent of parental, professional educator, and community involvement in the governance and operation of the



charter school (105 ILCS 5/27A-7(10)). A strong governance plan will account for and ensure initial and ongoing involvement of local stakeholders and parents. The school oversight structure should also provide adequate, appropriate, and meaningful opportunities to maximize parent, teacher, staff, and community involvement in the mission and operation of the school.

Board bylaws should include the following elements:

- Number (or range) of board members;
- Qualifications of board members;
- Board member selection process;
- Procedures for filling vacancies on the board;
- Guidelines for board member removal and resignation;
- Term limits;
- General powers;
- Fees and compensation;
- Officer selection process;
- Job description for officers;
- Procedures for filling officer vacancies;
- Term limits for officers;
- Location and number of meetings to be held each year;
- Policy on special meetings;
- Compliance with the Open Meetings Act and the Freedom of Information Act;
- Quorum and voting rules;
- Number and purpose of board committees;
- Job description for each committee;
- Procedure for creating a committee or task force;
- Rules of order; and
- Amendments.



4.4.2: Governance Structure and Ongoing Oversight

Effective governing boards provide comprehensive academic, financial, and operational oversight of the school to ensure viability and stability. The governing board is responsible for ensuring that the school is in compliance with all applicable state and federal laws.

Things to consider:

Effective boards develop annual, strategic organizational plans with concrete, measurable goals, metrics, and rubrics to monitor and evaluate the school's progress throughout the school year that are consistent with the charter school agreement and accountability plan. The plan should examine academic, financial, fundraising, operational, and organizational progress. Dashboards are one method of ensuring that the board is able to track progress on school goals.

Efficient boards distribute materials ahead of the meeting and set the expectation that board members will review materials prior to the meeting at which they are discussed. When setting the agenda for a meeting, every agenda item should be linked to an annual goal.

Board packets, which are sent to board members in advance of a meeting, may include a wide range of materials for board members, such as:

- The previous meeting's minutes;
- Reports from committees and/or the CEO;
- Financial statements;
- Academic achievement data; and
- Copies of any documents requiring board approval.

Effective boards acknowledge a clear distinction between the roles of governance and management. Boards should focus on governance; school leader(s) are responsible for management decisions.

This section should include information on the selection, transition and ongoing training of the board to ensure rigorous academic, operational, and financial oversight of the proposed school.

There are many resources for evaluating a school leader and this is a critical area of responsibility for the charter school board. New Leaders has created an Urban Excellence Framework, which is a research-based analysis of the leadership practices and qualities of leaders in some of the nation's highest performing schools. This tool may be a helpful template when developing policies and procedures to evaluate the proposed school leader:

<http://www.newleaders.org/newsreports/publications/uef/>.

In addition, the National Charter School Resource Center has a [section on evaluating school principals](#).



4.4.3: Board Legal, Compliance, and Ethics Policies

As stated in the Illinois Charter Schools Law (105 ILCS 5/27A-5(c)), the governing boards of charter schools are subject to the [Illinois Open Meetings Act](#) and the [Freedom of Information Act](#). Training for the general public on both laws can be found on the [Illinois Attorney General's website](#).

Charter schools are required to submit an updated ethics policy to CPS on an annual basis, per the Charter School Agreement. Charter schools are able to develop their own ethics policy and are encouraged to tailor the policy to the school and its unique needs. When developing the ethics policy, it may be useful to reference the [CPS Code of Ethics Policy](#) as a guide.

Charter schools are required to submit an updated conflict of interest policy to CPS on an annual basis, per the Charter School Agreement. Charter schools are able to develop their own conflicts of interest policy. When developing the conflicts of interest policy, it may be useful to reference the CPS Code of Ethics Policy as a guide (linked in the paragraph above).

CPS recommends that a conflict of interest policy be submitted separately from the board bylaws. All charter school bylaws have to be filed with the State of Illinois and must be re-filed any time changes are made. Bylaws are generally a more static document, whereas conflict of interest policies are more frequently updated.

The Illinois Charter Schools Law has been amended to include the following language: "All authorizers shall ensure that any charter school established on or after the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 98th General Assembly has a governing body that is separate and distinct from the governing body of any CMO or EMO. In reviewing charter applications and charter renewal applications, authorizers shall review the governance model proposed by the applicant to ensure that there are no conflicts of interest."

V. Domain 6: Management Organizations (MOs)

CPS will conduct due diligence on all MOs. Applicants should transparently provide all of the information requested about the MO's financial, legal, and academic track record. If the due diligence process reveals information pertinent to this question that was not shared by the applicant, the lack of good faith will be taken into consideration when determining whether to recommend the applicant for approval.



Appendix I – Academic Replication Criteria for National Operators

At least one of the metrics/sources of data must be submitted for every campus or school managed by the operator for each criterion on the following tables. CPS reserves the right to ask for additional data based on its review of proposal materials.

Half of all existing campuses or schools must meet the requirements below across all three criteria.

For a school or campus to be considered “meeting the standard” in Student Growth and Achievement, test participation rates for the chosen metric/data source must be 95% or higher.

All sources of data submitted must have been produced either by the vendor administering the nationally-normed assessment or the state, district, or authorizing entity to which your network’s schools are accountable.

HIGH SCHOOL CRITERIA FOR DEMONSTRATING SUCCESS

Criterion	Metrics	Requirements
Student Growth (Please provide data by campus or school for each metric)	Average student growth on another nationally normed assessment product (e.g. PSAT to SAT, STAR, NWEA, AIMSweb, EPAS, etc.). The report must show: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school's ranking against a local, state or national benchmark (i.e., value-added, school-level growth percentile, etc.); Percent making expected growth; Or Another growth metric that provides information on how much students at the school grow relative to local, state, or national peers. 	<i>If School-level ranking against local, state or national benchmark:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If percentile, 70th percentile or above in the composite or in at least 3 of 4 subjects, one of which must include math. If value added z-score, 0.5 or higher standard deviations above the mean on average, in the Composite or in at least 3 of 4 subjects, one of which must include math. <i>If Percent making expected growth:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 70% or above in the Composite or in at least 3 of 4 subjects, one of which must include math. <i>If Average Student Growth Percentile:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60th percentile or above in both reading and math
Student Attainment (Please provide data by campus or school for each metric)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percent of students at or above state meet/exceeds benchmark in at least 11th grade. If the state tests additional grades, scores for these students must also be submitted; Percent of students passing state or district-administered end of course exam; Or Overall achievement on a nationally-normed, school-purchased assessment tool (e.g. Terra Nova, SAT10, ITBS, etc.) 	Students Meeting or Exceeding State Standards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60% of students meeting or exceeding state standards in both reading and math Student Pass Rate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 70% of students pass in at least 75% of the exams taken. For example, if the state administers 8 different exams as graduation requirements, school must provide evidence of at least 70% of students passing in at least 6 of these exams <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students at or above benchmark: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 85% of students at or above benchmark in both reading and math
Student Behavior Metrics (Please provide data by campus or school for each metric)	Student Attendance Rate	> 90%
	4-Year Graduation Rate	> 75%
	College Enrollment Rate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percent of students graduating from high school who are enrolled in college in the fall following high school graduation. Includes 2-year and 4-year colleges. 	> 65%
	College Persistence Rate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percent of student who enroll in college in the fall following high school graduation who remain enrolled in college one year later. Includes 2-year and 4-year colleges. 	> 75%

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CRITERIA FOR DEMONSTRATING SUCCESS

Criterion	Metrics	Requirements
Student Growth	<p>School-level growth on a nationally normed state test administration, comparing students to their previous performance. Report must show:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school's ranking against a local, state or national benchmark (i.e., value-added, school-level growth percentile, etc.); Percent making expected growth; Or Another growth metric that provides information on how much students at the school grow relative to local, state or national peers. <p>Average student growth on an adaptive test such as NWEA MAP, SCANTRON, Renaissance Learning's STAR, or other. Report must show:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Average student growth percentile for reading and math; Conditional Growth Index; Or Percent making target growth 	<p>School-level ranking against local, state or national benchmark:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If percentile, 70th percentile or above in both reading and math. If value added z-score, 0.5 or higher standard deviations above the mean on average, in both reading and math. <p>Percent making expected growth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 70% or above in both reading and math. <p>Average Student Growth Percentile:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60th percentile or above in both reading and math <p>Conditional Growth index:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School-wide growth average of at or above 0.5 standard deviations above the growth projections <p>Students Meeting Individual Growth Targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 70% or above in both reading and math.
Student Attainment	<p>Overall achievement on state tests</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Or</p> <p>Overall achievement on a nationally-normed, school-purchased assessment tool (e.g. NWEA MAP, SCANTRON, STAR, Terra Nova, SAT10, ITBS, etc.)</p>	<p>Students Meeting/Exceeding Standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 70% of students meeting or exceeding state standards in both reading and math OR growth in the percent of students meeting standards in both reading and math of at least 10% over the past 3 years <p>Students at or above benchmark:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 85% of students at or above benchmark in BOTH reading and math
Student Behavior Metrics	Attendance Rate	> 95%