

Context

The charter renewal evaluation is based on the evidence of school performance over the charter term as reported in the CSI Annual Review of Schools (CARS) Report. The CARS Report includes an evaluation of academic, financial, and organizational performance and CSI prioritizes academic performance in determining school ratings.

The suspension of state assessment during the 2019-2020 school year created a gap in the academic evaluation of school performance for both annual accountability and renewal decision-making for all schools. While some information related to school and student performance will be made available from the 2020-2021 state assessments, the changes in the requirements for schools and districts regarding the administration of the CMAS assessment may impact the number and representativeness of student scores, and it is unclear when student growth data may be made available.

Many factors were considered, and feedback was solicited from school leaders and school boards, CSI staff and board, national partners, and other authorizers.

Values

While changes to the renewal process and flexibility are required, it is important that the same values that informed the development of the current charter renewal process and renewal decision-making continue to inform the process and frame our thinking. These values are articulated below:

- Maintain transparency throughout the process.
- Continued commitment to evidence-based decision-making.
- Ensure consistent expectations for schools.
- Provide choice and agency for schools.

Annual Accountability

While state and federal accountability systems have been paused again for the 2020-2021 school year, the CSI accountability system (CSI Annual Review of Schools or CARS) will continue, albeit with a more limited scope. Annual performance reporting, like CARS, is an essential authorizing practice for effective oversight, communication with charter schools, and public accountability and transparency. CARS builds off the academic expectations in the state's accountability system by adding additional academic indicators and includes measures of financial and organizational performance. CSI prioritizes academic performance in determining school ratings, and a subset of financial and organizational measures may cause the school rating to be lowered. Despite the suspension of state assessment during the 2019-2020 school year and the changes in the assessment requirements in 2020-2021, CSI will be able to evaluate financial and organizational performance for the 2020-2021 school year.

The following constitutes the recommended modifications to the charter renewal process for the 2021 renewal cycle.

2021 Renewal Modifications

- **Performance Review**
 - This will replace the baseline renewal recommendation process which was implemented during the 2020 renewal process.
 - Performance information from the 2020 CARS Report (2015-16 through 2019-20) will be shared with PM and the school leader and board in June 2021.
 - Financial and organizational outcomes from 2020-2021 and the additional academic body of evidence reviews (see below) will be included in the renewal body of evidence in November 2021, and can impact the renewal recommendation and board action.
 - The performance review will not include a staff recommendation for a baseline contract term.
- **Academic Body of Evidence Review**
 - All renewal schools will participate in an expanded or supplemental body of evidence review.
 - Expanded body of evidence review:
 - Schools entering the renewal process with consistent historic performance above the 50th percentile will undergo an expanded body of evidence review that will **build on prior performance and demonstrate continued student and school success**.
 - Replacement body of evidence review:

Schools entering the renewal process with consistent performance below the 50th percentile, limited historic data, or no additional state data since the most recent renewal process will undergo a supplemental body of evidence review that will **replace the state assessment data that would have been collected in 2020 and 2021** and provide information that is not included in the 2021 CARS Report and is aligned to the CSI Performance Framework and/or the Guide to Renewal Actions by School Performance.
 - For both types of review, a list of possible data sources will be provided by CSI and additional data sources provided by the school will be considered.
 - Current performance contracts would be evaluated using the replacement body of evidence review process.
- **Timeline Flexibility**
 - Current timeline for renewal decision-making could be adjusted on a case-by-case basis between November 2021 and January 2022.
 - Maintain established deadlines for submission of academic, financial, and organizational/governance narrative.
- **Site Visits**
 - Onsite and in-person renewal site visits are anticipated. It is expected that some parts of the site visit will be conducted virtually to increase engagement or reach additional stakeholders, in alignment with the information learned conducting site visits remotely during the 2020 renewal cycle.

- Changes in public health guidance may cause some or all of the site visit to shift to a virtual platform.
 - Continue to prioritize CSI board member engagement with renewal schools during site visits.
- **Performance Contracts**
 - Emphasize performance contracts with milestones that do not use state data or provide enough time for state testing to resume.
 - Performance milestones could include state data for the 2022-2023 school year (2023 CARS/SPF).
 - New performance milestones could be structured to incorporate data submitted as a part of the body of evidence review.
 - Implementation evaluation milestones could be considered for renewal schools coming off a shorter contract or for schools that are renewed with a shorter-term contract.