



# Charter Accountability Update and 2012-2013 Renewal Recommendations Presentation to the Chicago Board of Education

February 27, 2013







## Warning List

The Warning Lists allows CPS to take action with charter schools on an ongoing basis based on the following beliefs:

- Charter Schools trade increased autonomy for increased accountability
- Charter schools must meet their contractual accountability
- Historically, the sole mechanism CPS has used for charter accountability is the

## What Happens Next: Next Steps for Warning List Schools

1. Based on contractual performance, school is deemed to be on Warning List (September) and at that time the school also receives revocation notice and parents are notified
2. Per Illinois school code guidelines, school remediation plan is developed and approved by CPS (October-November)
3. School implements remediation plan (November through April)
4. CPS reviews performance data to determine whether goals in the plan were achieved (May)
5. Board (June)

\*\*This process will take effect beginning with an updated warning list, based on current data, announced in September of 2013.

# Warning List

| Campus                        | ES/HS | 2010    | 2011    | 2012   |
|-------------------------------|-------|---------|---------|--------|
| ACE TECH CHRTR HS             | HS    | Failing | Failing | Making |
| ASPIRA CHRTR HS EARLY COLLEGE | HS    | Failing | Failing | Making |
|                               |       | Failing |         | Making |
|                               |       | Making  | Failing |        |
|                               |       | Failing |         | Making |
|                               |       | Making  | Failing |        |
|                               |       | Making  | Failing |        |
|                               |       | Making  | Failing |        |
|                               |       | Making  | Failing |        |
|                               |       | Making  | Failing |        |





# Renewal process and timeline

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# REVISED CHARTER CONTRACTS



## Conditions for All Charter Contracts

In order to more consistently monitor the performance of charter schools during the term of their contract, all charters will have specific academic and fiscal performance targets. Failure to meet these targets may result in closure of campus or revocation of charter.

### Academic Conditions

1. If any campus is rated in the lowest level on the Board's School Performance, Remediation and Probation Policy ("PRPP"), as it may be amended, in three of the next five years, that campus may automatically be closed.
2. The Charter School must address the performance of any Attendance Center that currently holds a failing status. Attendance Centers that currently hold a Level 3 rating in accordance with the Board's School Performance, Remediation and Probation Policy ("PRPP"), as it may be amended, are considered "failing" or "in Probation". The Board shall continue to monitor the performance and progress of these Attendance Centers on an annual basis. If these Attendance Centers have not progressed beyond the lowest rating, under the contractual performance policy, by September 1, 2017, the Board shall have the unilateral right to invoke a material modification to close those Attendance Centers.

### Fiscal Conditions

1. If the school commits three tier 1, two tier 2, or one tier 3 financial infraction in any year of their contract, the school may automatically receive a shortened renewal.
2. If the school is more than 15 days delinquent (from the payroll date) on their CTPF contributions, CPS will provide written notification to the school that the delinquent payments must be "cured" within 15 days. Otherwise, CPS reserves the right to withhold these contributions from the next quarterly payment.

# Betty Shabazz International Charter School *Recommended for Five Year Renewal with the phase-out of DuSable campus*

Shabazz serves 940 students in K-12 across 3 campuses

## Summary of Recommendation

The Office of New Schools recommends five year renewal of the Betty Shabazz International Charter School (BSICS) with conditions and the phase-out of the DuSable.

### Academic Performance

*BSICS was held to its contractual accountability plan, which differs from the District’s accountability plan.*

| Campus | 2011 Contractual Performance Rating | 2012 Contractual |
|--------|-------------------------------------|------------------|
|        |                                     |                  |
|        |                                     |                  |
|        |                                     |                  |

### Renewal Site Visit Outcomes

- The BSICS network earned “Developing” ratings for Statements of Practice indicators during the CPS Renewal Site Visits (RSV): strategies and structures designed to improve academic performance were absent or only newly instituted, inconsistently implemented and were difficult to verify as effective.
- The RSVs found evidence that school and classroom management was inconsistent.
- Some parents and students had significant issues with the schools, including a lack of academic rigor, lack of engagement in student outcomes, and verbal and physical altercations with other students or parents.
- The renewal application lacked specific strategies for academic or financial improvement and provided improvement goals that were not well defined or measurable.

### Operational Considerations

- Shabazz s preliminary financial performance scores for FYs 2011 and 2012: 1) Balanced budget (low); 2) Financial practices (high); and 3) Compliance (high).
- The network has a history of struggling with financial forecasting; the network has repeatedly over-projected student enrollments.
- The five-year budget contains unrealistic assumptions.
- BSICS has been cited repeatedly for noncompliance with ADA requirements at their Shabazz Academy facility; the existing Betty Shabazz Academy facility has documented ADA issues estimated at well over \$1,000,000 in the first year of a new contract; fixing these issues was a condition of their previous contract and was not met
- The five year budget allocates no money for facility improvements associated with the documented ADA issues

# Betty Shabazz Charter School Conditions





## Financial Conditions

1. Consolidated five year budget (CPS will provide a template) for all ASPIRA Campuses. The budget must be approved by Aspira's Board of Directors and submitted to CPS for approval by July 2, 2013.
2. A corrective action plan to address the three significant deficiencies noted in the Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting from Callero and Callero LLP dated October 26, 2012. The plan should outline when and how the School's Board will



# Architecture, Construction and Engineering Technical Charter School (ACE Tech)

## *Recommended for Three Year Renewal*

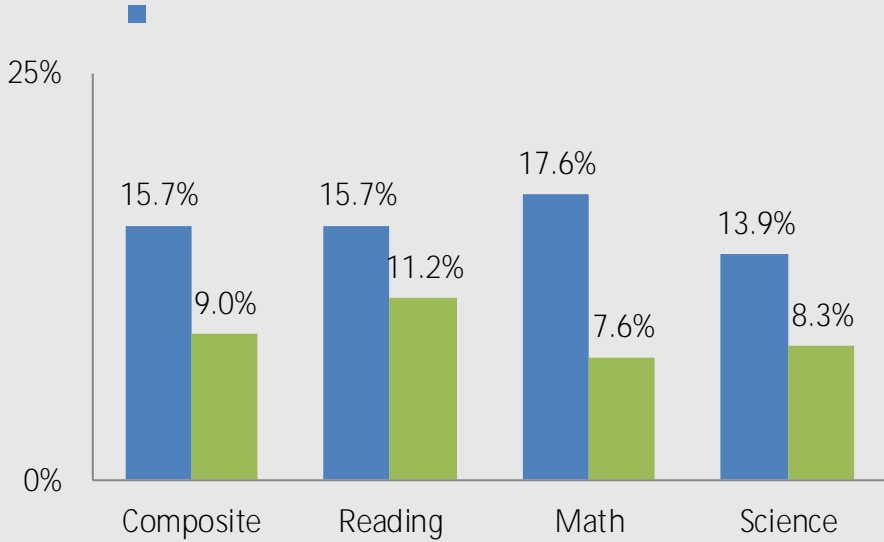
ACE Tech serves 484 students in grades 9-12 on a single campus in Washington Park.

### Summary of Recommendation

The Office of New Schools recommends a three year renewal for ACE Tech with conditions.

#### Academic Performance

- ACE Tech raised its Academic Status to Level 2 (Academic Progress Category: “Making Reasonable Progress”) in 2012, per the conditions set forth in its previous charter agreement.
- ACE Tech has consistently outperformed comparison schools on measures of PSAE Meets/Exceeds performance in the following areas in SY2012:



#### Evaluation Outcomes

- The Renewal Site Visit rated the chosen Statement of Practice Indicators as “Developing” based upon the initial design and implementation of the following changes:
- A new instructional leadership team
- Focus on coaching teachers
- A new observation and feedback cycle
- The addition of NWEA assessments.

#### Conditions

- The School must maintain a rating above the lowest for the first two years of its contract and outperform its comparison school on more than 75% of applicable academic performance and growth metrics per the performance policy. Failure to do so may result in an automatic non-renewal.
- By September 1, 2013, the school must achieve required certification levels (75% of teachers must be IL certified, 100% of teachers must be NCLB certified, and 100% of teachers must be in compliance with the Charter Schools Law).

# Summary of Recommendation

The Office of New Schools Recommends a three year renewal for CSW with conditions.

| Academic Performance | Evaluation Outcomes |
|----------------------|---------------------|
|----------------------|---------------------|

***CSW has not met the academic targets per its contract. However, the targets set forth insufficiently reflect that CSW is an alternative school, not a traditional high school.***

- CSW was Level 3 in SY2011 and SY 2012 on the district's performance policy, which aligns with their contractual performance policy
- The CET does not believe that the appropriate measurements are included in the school's contract. The PSAE provides a snapshot rather than a view of students' performance over time, which does not align with the mission of alternative schools.

- The school's renewal site visit indicated a strong sense of community and support network for students at CSW, as well as their families.
- CSW's application contained a clearly articulated mission and vision for the school and indicated how future supports for their students would be provided. The future goals stated in the application are ambitious- reaching for greater than nationally normed growth.
- CSW has significant special education violations.
- There does not appear to be appropriate oversight of compliance issues, including a lack of a Board handbook and strategic plan.

| Operational Considerations | Conditions |
|----------------------------|------------|
|----------------------------|------------|

- CSW is part of a larger neighborhood organization. For that organization, the current liabilities exceed the current assets. This may cause the school to fail if this parent organization becomes insolvent. The school itself is fiscally viable and has not had an issue to this point.

- Prior to the signing of the contract with CSW, the school must become a separate legal entity from the neighborhood organization.
- By June 30, 2014, the school must have a minimum of \$1,399,828 in cash and equivalents on hand.