

That the Board of Education (the "Board") adopt a new Policy to Establish Renaissance Schools.

POLICY TEXT:

I. Purpose and Goals

The Board believes that it can enhance educational quality and opportunities for Chicago students, families and educators by establishing a variety of public schools that are guided by high, rigorous standards for academic performance that are expressly stated in binding performance agreements or Board-approved plans. These Renaissance Schools will provide alternative educational opportunities

"Contract Schools" are schools created pursuant to the Board's powers under the Illinois School Code, 105 ILCS 5/34-18(30). Contract schools may be designated as an alternative or small school pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/34-18(30). Contract schools may be designated as an alternative or small school pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/34-18(30).

School proposals. All TACs shall be formed prior to the Board's final approval of schools to be housed in a particular CPS site and shall operate for a period of one year from the date the site is fully occupied by one or more Renaissance Schools or from the date the last Renaissance School locating at the site opens.

All TACs shall be comprised of various persons from the specific community in which the

V. Autonomy

CPS experience with alternative, charter, and small schools indicates that students benefit when parents, teachers, and community members are given the opportunity to create new, innovative and more flexible ways of educating children within the public school system. In exchange for higher accountability,

Renaissance Schools shall have autonomy over a wide range of educational and operational issues.

The specific degree of autonomy available to each Renaissance School shall be determined by the

to determine how available funding is allocated to serve these

purposes.

- C. For Performance Schools: The Board recognizes the need to support CPS teachers and staff and provide them with new opportunities to innovate and improve academic

achievement within CPS led schools and without the extensive involvement of central office administration at the school level. The autonomy that is offered to educators at Charter and Contract Schools may likewise lead to enhanced educational outcomes when that autonomy is provided in exchange for higher accountability in CPS-led

substantially inhibit the implementation of a school's Charter School Agreement, Contract School

School Code and regulations of the Illinois State Board of Education.

The applicability of Board Policies and Rules and other laws shall vary with the school type.

- A. For Charter Schools: Charter Schools shall operate at all times in accordance with the

Schools shall also comply with the provisions of the Open Meetings Act. Except as otherwise specified herein, the Chief Executive Officer or his designee shall identify those Board policies and rules from which Performance Schools may be exempt. Each Performance School may submit a proposal containing a request to be exempted from application of additional Board policies and rules. The Chief Executive Officer or his designee shall have the discretion to approve or deny any such request.

The following Board policies shall apply unless an alternative policy is presented in the school's proposal contained in the school's Performance Plan, and approved by the

Board.

1. Promotion Policy. Each Performance School shall comply with the Board promotion policies, 04-0128-PO1 and 04-0324-PO3, as amended.
2. Graduation Requirements. Each Performance School shall comply with the Board graduation requirement policy, Section 03-1022-PO02, as amended, regarding the minimum number of credits required to graduate.
3. Assessments. Each Performance School shall comply with and participate in all state assessments that are required by law and all local assessments that are necessary to participate in the "Accountability System for All Chicago Public Schools" policy. All Performance Schools may create unique learning standards.

Contract and Performance Schools shall be evaluated in accordance with and by the application of

Report 04-0225-04), as may be amended and by application of factors identified in each school's

B-1 Payment for Capital Expenditures Each Dependent Child shall be eligible to receive

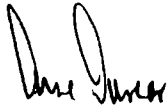
LEGAL REFERENCES: Illinois Charter Schools Law, Illinois School Code, 105 ILCS 5/27A; Illinois School Code, 105 ILCS 5/24.18-20; Illinois School Code, 105 ILCS 5/24.0-4; Illinois School Code, 105 ILCS 5/24.18-20

ILCS 5/34-2.1.

Approved For Consideration:


Barbara Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer

Approved:


Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer

Noted:

Approved as to Legal Form: