

APPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PLATO LEARNING ACADEMY AND ENTERING INTO A SCHOOL MANAGEMENT AND PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT WITH AMERICAN QUALITY SCHOOLS, AN ILLINOIS NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING DECISION:

Approve the establishment of the Plato Learning Academy, at a location to be determined, and approve entering into a School Management and Performance Agreement with American Quality Schools, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, for the operation of the Plato Learning Academy. This approval is contingent upon the school operator meeting certain benchmarks established by the Office of New

Schools as detailed below, any required public hearings and Board approval of the location of the school.

Attendance Boundaries: The Department of School Planning is directed to work with the Office of New Schools, Plato Learning Academy, and the Austin community to develop an attendance plan for

submission to the Board for approval.

Curriculum: The American Quality Schools Plato Learning Academy aims to provide an elementary school that gives every child the capacity to succeed, "fostered through high academic and personal standards, respectful and orderly schools, competent and caring faculty and staff, involved and caring

parents, and administration and management leadership which fosters a climate and culture of continuous improvement and a commitment to high and measurable standards of excellence." American Quality Schools will provide a curriculum consisting of The Core Knowledge Curriculum, Open Court

LSC REVIEW: Approval of Local School Council is not applicable to this report.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION: Not applicable.

FINANCIAL: Using current year financial data, the general fund cost of 350 students in 2008-09 (FY09) will be approximately \$2,254,000.00. The financial implications will be addressed during the development

of the FY09 budget. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond the current FY09 are deemed to be