ILLINOIS STATE CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION

GOVERNING PRINCIPLES

Adopted October 15, 2013

The following Governing Principles provide definitions, standards and operational clarity in furtherance of the Commission’s implementation of its Vision and Mission Statements, adopted October 15, 2013.

1. The Commission Will Resolve Appeals Fairly and Timely. The Commission will manage and resolve all appeals in a fair and transparent manner, treating all parties equally with respect, applying the law of Illinois through a rigorous de novo appeal review process, and authorizing on appeal only those charter school proposals of high quality which will serve the best interests of the students for whom they are designed.

2. The Commission Will Manage Commission-Authorized Schools Rigorously and Transparently. The Commission will serve as a model authorizer for the schools it supervises, preserving the schools’ autonomy, while also insuring through vigorous compliance measures, that only schools of high quality are renewed and/or maintained in the Commission’s portfolio. The Commission will report regularly and publicly on the performance of its schools in all accountability domains.

3. The Commission Will Serve as a Resource Equally to Districts, Applicants & the Public. The Commission will serve as a resource for districts and applicants alike, being responsive to requests for information and guidance, and offering model best practice documents and processes regarding proposal review, management of authorizing activities, especially renewal, and other policies and practices. Further, the Commission will, through its regular reports, attempt to lead the way in presenting well-researched information on the state of charters and charter school authorizing in Illinois, and in suggesting helpful changes to Illinois’ laws, rules, policies and practices which would be of benefit to the positive development of quality charter schools in this State.

4. The Commission Will Lead Civil Civic Discourse across the State to Promote Equitable Charter Practices. The Commission will take the lead in attempting to create civil civic discourse in Illinois in which authorizers cooperate at the highest levels, uniformly focusing on the goal of what is in the best interest academically for children and families in Illinois, in terms of school choice and high quality options, and seeking to keep lines of communication open to and with other authorizers, civic leaders at all levels, all charter schools and all families attending, or desirous of attending, Illinois’ charter schools.