ILLINOIS STATE CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION

Giving parents and students high quality school choices throughout the State of Illinois

*** October 2012 ***
National Studies Show The Task of Educating Illinois’ Children is Not Done.

- The Alliance for Excellent Education ranked Illinois:
  - 30th in the nation in 4th grade reading proficiency and
  - 35th in 8th grade reading proficiency
- Illinois received a C in post-secondary attainment
The Illinois legislature passed the Charter Schools Law in 1996 to help improve Illinois’ educational outcomes.

The General Assembly . . . declares that this Article is enacted for the following purposes:

1. To **improve pupil learning** by creating schools with high, rigorous standards for pupil performance.

2. To **increase learning opportunities** for all pupils, with special emphasis on **expanded learning experiences for at-risk pupils**

3. To **encourage the use of teaching methods that may be different** in some respects than others regularly used in the public school system.

4. To allow the **development of new, different, or alternative forms of measuring pupil learning** and achievement.

5. To **create new professional opportunities for teachers**, including the opportunity to be responsible for the learning program at the school site.

6. To **provide parents and pupils with expanded choices** within the public school system.

7. To **encourage parental and community involvement** with public schools.

(105 ILCS 5/27A-2(b))
In 2011, the legislature amended the Charter Law to create the State Charter School Commission.

The legislature gave the Charter Commission Four Goals:

1. **Promulgate best practices** in charter school authorizing, including model RFPs
2. **Resolve all appeals** from denials of new charter school applications, charter renewals & revocations
3. **Supervise charter schools** authorized by ISBE and/or by the Commission on appeal. Currently:
   1. Prairie Crossing Elementary & Southland High School
The Commissioners are voluntary education-oriented appointees from across Illinois.
Illinois charter schools currently serve 40,000 charter school students in 116 campuses.
Two of Illinois’ 51 Charter Schools are Commission-Authorized Charter Schools.

ILLINOIS STATE CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION
COMMISSION-AUTHORIZED SCHOOLS AS OF JULY 2012

PRAIRIE CROSSING
CHARTER SCHOOL
WHERE EDUCATION COMES NATURALLY

SOUTHLAND COLLEGE PREP
CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL
Illinois’ charter schools primarily serve children of color and 82% are from low-income families.
National Studies Demonstrate that Charter Schools Can Help Improve Student Performance and Close the Achievement Gap.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Research Organization</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Findings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Caroline M. Hoxby, Harvard University and National Bureau of Economic Research</td>
<td>Achievement in Charter Schools and Regular Public Schools in the United States: Understanding the Differences</td>
<td>This study reviewed the performance of nearly every charter elementary school student in the country and compared their achievement against their counterparts at nearby district public schools. The study found <strong>charter students were more likely to be proficient in both reading and math than traditional public school students.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>National Bureau of Economic Research and Stanford University</td>
<td>How New York City’s Charter Schools Affect Achievement</td>
<td>Under-served students who attended charter schools in New York City for nine consecutive years, from kindergarten to eighth grade, <strong>would close most of the “Scarsdale-Harlem” achievement gap.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Rand Corporation</td>
<td>Are Charter Schools Making a Difference?</td>
<td>This study found that students attending charter high schools in Chicago and Florida <strong>had higher ACT scores, graduation rates and college entrance rates</strong> than their peers in traditional public schools.</td>
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In 2011-2012, in 88 school districts, 25% or more of district students did not meet Illinois state standards. In Chicago, 27% of students did not meet ISAT standards. In Venice Central Unified School District 3, half of the students did not.

Source: ISAT/PSAE Reading and Math, and ACT Performance Results, 2010-2011

Illinois High School Graduation Rates

- Native American: 30%
- African American: 51%
- Hispanic: 57%
- White: 83%

AP Participation by District: High School Class of 2011

Source: 2009 – 2010 NCES 12th grade district enrollment, 2011 College Board AP Cohort Data
Illinois Needs Charter Schools, both Elementary and High Schools, in All Areas of the State.

The districts described in the preceding slides are spread out across Illinois:

- Counties containing districts where 25% or more of students did not meet ISAT standards are highlighted in blue.
- Counties containing districts with an average ACT score of 18 or below are highlighted in yellow.
- Counties containing both are highlighted in green.

Source: ISAT/PSAE Reading and Math, and ACT Performance Results, 2010-2011
Illinois needs more charter schools, and 31 charters are still available anywhere in the State.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Charters in Chicago</th>
<th>Charters Outside of Chicago</th>
<th>Charters Designated for Re-enrollment of High School Dropouts in Chicago</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>110 Total Campuses</td>
<td>14 Total Campuses</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 Allowed Under Cap</td>
<td>45 Allowed Under Cap</td>
<td>5 Allowed Under Cap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41 Approved</td>
<td>14 Approved</td>
<td>None have been designated as counting against the 5 outlined in the statute (RFP Underway)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Total Campuses in Illinois**: 124
Commission schools currently are their own LEAs, receive 100% per capita and pay a 3% fee.

- **Status of Commission Schools**
  - Currently, each of the Commission’s 2 charter schools is its own LEA.

- **Funding Rate and Mechanism for Commission Schools**
  - Illinois Charter Law provides that an authorizer fund a charter school in its district an amount between 75% to 125% of the district’s per capita tuition.
  - Currently, per capita tuition in Illinois ranges from a high of $20,000 to a low of $5,100, with a state average of $9,440 across 864 districts. (CPS=$9,126)
  - Currently, the Commission’s 2 charter schools receive 100% of the per capita tuition of the districts where their students reside.
  - The Commission’s payments to its charter schools are made quarterly from deductions from the districts’ General State Aid revenue, and paid directly from the State Board to the schools.

- **The Commission’s Administrative Fee**
  - Illinois Charter Law authorizes the Commission to support its activities by assessing an annual administrative fee of its schools in an amount of no more than 3% of each school’s general state aid. The Commission has authorized a 3% fee for the FY13 school year, with fees in future years to be determined later.
The Commission has managed 3 appeals in its first year and plans to issue a Model RFP in 2013.

- **The Commission’s Appeals in FY2012**
  - The Commission processed 3 appeals in FY12 from the districts of Maywood, Thornton and Chicago. All 3 appeals were withdrawn by applicants following Commission interviews of both applicants and districts.
  - Per Illinois law, the Commission reviews appeals in 75 days.

- **The Commission’s Plans for FY2013**
  - Model RFP: expected issue date: April 2013
  - Campaign for Participation: both districts and applicants will be solicited to join in and utilize the Commission’s Model RFP
  - The Commission’s Accountability Standards for Renewal: in early 2013 the Commission plans to adopt an accountability framework for its schools following national best practices.
Are you a District or an Applicant interested in helping Illinois create quality charter schools?

Contact the Commission:

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