Setting the Standard: Charter School Accountability

Senate Education Committee
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Central Michigan University
2015 - 2016 CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
AUTHORIZED BY CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

61 Public School Academies (PSA)

1 Strict Discipline Academies (SDA)

Approximately 31,000 Students
OUR SCHOOLS: BY THE NUMBERS

CMU Charter Students Compared to Statewide Average

- Free and Reduced Lunch
- Minority
- Special Education

50
Number of Elementary Schools

51
Number of Middle Schools

27
Number of High Schools
CMU: BY THE NUMBERS

Number of applications received by CMU over the past 10 years. Only 24 – or 8.6% have become operational.

Number of applications received by CMU for schools to be located in Detroit over the past 10 years. Only 4 – or 3.7% have become operational.
Number of CMU-authorized schools NOT reauthorized over the past 10 years

Number of CMU-authorized schools that have reduced the number of grade levels served over the last 10 years
UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The University’s Board Policy establishes three core questions to consider when issuing a charter contract:

1. Is the Academy’s academic program successful?
2. Is the Academy organizationally and financially viable?
3. Is there a demonstration of good faith in following the terms of the charter contract and applicable law?
A PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT

The Charter Contract between the CMU Board of Trustees and the school’s board of directors is a performance contract. The contract contains standard compliance requirements, as well as specific performance requirements:

1. Educational Goal
2. Fiscal Accountability
3. Organizational Performance
EDUCATIONAL GOAL

The Educational Goal requires each academy to:

“Prepare students academically for success in college, work and life.”

This is determined by two measures of success:

1. **Student Achievement**
2. **Student Growth**
PIONEERS IN COMPUTER ADAPTIVE TESTING
SINCE 2001

- All statewide charter authorizers agreed in 2011 to adopt CMU’s assessment model including computer adaptive testing and the “growth to standard” analysis.

- Major announcement made on Mackinac Island on May 30, 2012 that DPS and EAA would join charter authorizers and adopt the CMU testing model for every Detroit school, starting in 2012.

- Testing includes MAP by NWEA or Performance Series by SCANTRON in grades 2-8. High school students take the EXPLORE (8/9), PLAN (10) and ACT (11) tests.

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May 30, 2012

We believe every school should provide a high quality education – regardless of whether that school is a public charter, traditional Detroit Public School, or an independent or private school. Parents, families, and communities need to make the right choices for their children and we turn to us to improve them.

In partnership, the Michigan Council of Charter School Authorizers, Detroit Public Schools and the Education Achievement Authority agree to the following:

- All schools should be held accountable for academically preparing students for success in college, work, and life, and demonstrating improved academic achievement for all groups of students.
- All schools should adopt a common approach for measuring the academic growth and achievement of their students. Specifically, all schools should measure student performance using a growth-oriented standard assessment beginning in Fall 2012 as a key indicator or achievement targets or achievement standards consistent with a common definition of college readiness and grade level proficiency.

Assessment Tools, Administration Window and Grades Assessed

All Detroit schools serving students in grades 2-8 will annually administer one of the following web-based, computer adaptive tests during a common window:

- Measures of Academic Progress® (MAP) by Northwestern Evaluation Association (NWEA) or
- Scantron Performance Series® by Global Scholar

All schools serving Detroit students in grades 9-12 will annually administer the EXPLORE test in grades 8 and 9, the PLAN test in grade 10, and the ACT® test in grades 11 and 12 during a common testing window.

The following chart identifies the minimum grade levels that are to be assessed as part of this agreement.

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The Governor John Engler Center for Charter Schools
Central Michigan University
REAUTHORIZATION PROCESS

- Oversight
  - Ongoing throughout term of charter contract

- Compile
  - Receive data and documentation from schools
  - Content area experts submit feedback

- Deliberate
  - Review all data and information for each school
  - Discuss specific issues

- Decide
  - Determine necessary interventions
  - Inform board members of decision
  - Assist with student transition (if necessary)
CONSIDERATIONS FOLLOWING CLOSURE DECISION

- Students
- Closure is a process
- Human Resources
- Physical Assets & Facilities

Number of CMU-authorized schools NOT reauthorized over the past 10 years
RECONSTITUTION CONSIDERATIONS

- Students

- Needs assessment – by the authorizer – of other educational options

- Capacity of school leadership and/or board members to make rapid change

- Enhancing accountability through specific performance benchmarks

- Communication
STATE POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- Flexible AND Firm
  - Clear performance expectations
  - Rethink “Restart”

- Attract the best talent
  - Indianapolis
  - New Orleans

- Consistent Accountability
  - Reliable student assessments
OUR MISSION

To transform public education through accountability, innovation and access to quality education for all students.