

# LAS AMÉRICAS ASPIRA ACADEMY

## Charter School Renewal Report

This report summarizes the charter school’s performance to date as measured by the Performance Framework through 2012-2013. 2013-2014 data will be available prior to the charter school’s submission of a charter renewal application and Annual Report (both due September 30) and will inform the charter renewal process. Current law (14 Del. C. §514A(c)) requires that the renewal report be based, among other things, on the charter contract. However, the requirement that the Department of Education present a charter contract to an applicant upon approval of a charter school application was not in existence at the time this charter was approved. If the charter renewal application is approved, a charter contract will be presented to the applicant for the renewal period.

**Academic Performance Framework: (Exceeds Standard, Meets Standard, Does Not Meet Standard, or Falls Far Below Standard):**

2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013
N/A	Does Not Meet Standard	Meets Standard

Las Américas ASPIRA Academy received an overall rating of “Meets Standard” in the 2012-2013 school year, with an underlying score of 63 points. In 2011-2012, ASPIRA received an overall rating of “Does Not Meet Standard” with an underlying score of 44 points. The school is trending in a positive direction with regard to overall academic performance. Of note, more students are meeting their growth targets in ELA and more students are on track to be proficient in three years in both Math and ELA. ASPIRA met AYP in 2012-2013.

While ASPIRA received an overall rating of “Meets Standard” for the 2012-2013 school year and has shown a positive trend in overall academic performance, only 38% of students met their growth targets in Math which resulted in a “Falls Far Below Standard” rating for Measure 1a of the Academic Framework for 2012-2013. Less than 50% of students in the lowest quartile met their growth targets in both Math and ELA in both 2011-2012 and 2012-2013. With regard to proficiency, students are performing below the State average in Math and did not meet the State’s Annual Measurable Objectives (AMO) for Math. With regard to proficiency in ELA, students are performing above the state average and did meet the state’s AMO for ELA. Low Socioeconomic Status (SES) students, English Language Learners, Hispanic students and White students are all performing below the State average in Math, with White students showing regression in Math proficiency from 2011-2012 to 2012-2013. However, students in each of these subgroups are performing above the State average and meeting the State’s AMO targets in ELA. Finally, when compared to student performance in the district in which ASPIRA is located (Christina School District), students at ASPIRA are not performing as well as Christina School District’s students in Math. However, students at ASPIRA performed better than Christina School District students in ELA.

**Financial Performance (Meets Standard, Does Not Meet Standard, or Falls Far Below Standard):**

<b>2010-2011</b>	<b>2011-2012</b>	<b>2012-2013</b>
<b>N/A</b>	<b>Meets Standard</b>	<b>Meets Standard</b>

ASPIRA earned an overall rating of “Meets Standard” on the Financial Framework report for the 2011-2012 school year. All near term measures and sustainability measures met the standards for a rating of “Meets Standard,” indicating that the school finished the year in sound financial condition.

ASPIRA earned an overall rating of “Meets Standard” on the Financial Framework report for the 2012-2013 school year. Only one indicator, unrestricted days cash, earned a rating of “Does Not Meet Standard,” because at the time of the audit, the school had 51 days of cash on hand and did not reach the “Meets Standard” threshold of 60 days. However, the school noted that this measure was impacted by a strategic decision to pay down principal on an outstanding loan.

**Organizational Performance (Meets Standard or Does Not Meet Standard):**

<b>2010-2011</b>	<b>2011-2012</b>	<b>2012-2013</b>
<b>N/A</b>	<b>Meets Standard</b>	<b>Does Not Meet Standard</b>

ASPIRA earned an overall rating of “Meets Standard” on the Organizational Framework Report for the 2011-2012 school year. All measures also earned ratings of “Meets Standard,” indicating that there were no identified compliance issues.

ASPIRA earned an overall rating of “Does Not Meet Standard” on the Organizational Framework Report for the 2012-2013 school year, based on three identified issues of non-compliance. With respect to financial management, the Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 audit released in March 2013 included a finding of material weaknesses and significant deficiencies. With respect to students and employees, only 79.17% of all teachers met the criteria for certification and licensure requirements. With respect to the school environment, ASPIRA did not submit a Comprehensive School Safety Plan.

In the 2013-2014 school year, several of those compliance issues persisted. The FY13 Audit released in October 2013 included a finding of a material weakness and a significant deficiency. With respect to the school environment, ASPIRA has not yet submitted a Comprehensive School Safety Plan as required by the Delaware Omnibus School Safety Act.

The Charter School Office has not yet concluded the process of gathering information about compliance for the 2013-14 school year. There may be additional compliance issues that have yet to be brought to the attention of the Charter School Office by other DOE workgroups.