



May 4, 2014
Charter School Renewal Report Reply

Academic Performance Framework

Gateway Lab School's overall academic rating is "Falls Far Below Standard." By 2014, our expectation is to achieve the overall rating of "Meets" or "Exceeds" standard as measured by the Alternative Academic Performance Framework. Each year, we will show growth within our overall rating putting us on track to achieve our academic performance expectations. This progress will be monitored through our annual performance review.

This year we are using data to determine the needs of our students and to group them for academic success in RTI groups. When our students are in tier groups our faculty can deliver instruction on the specific common core standards that they need help in mastering. The students will also have targeted differentiated instruction in the classrooms using our paraprofessionals in addition to our classroom teachers to keep the groups small for guided practice and independent practice. Our focus this year is standards based instruction, and teaching 'bell to bell' so that very little time is wasted in transitions.

The Curriculum and Staffing Committee of Gateway Lab School met to make a final decision on an assessment tool to be used to determine if students are meeting their annual growth goals. The committee agreed that the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment is rigorous, is used successfully by other schools, and is a norm referenced test. This mechanism will allow DDOE to verify student achievement on an annual basis. One of the strengths of this assessment is the reporting tools it offers. In addition to providing feedback to DDOE, MAP provides valuable feedback to teachers for setting their goals for individual student achievement. The MAP testing is three times per year which will provide data throughout the year to drive instruction. It is an adaptive test which adjusts to student performance. MAP provides a baseline in the fall and will direct RTI group instruction throughout the year. With the introduction of the new Smarter Balanced testing it will be valuable to have additional assessments throughout the year.

The Head of School and the Board of GLS have read, agree with, and accept the weighted Alternative Framework as submitted to the Delaware Dept. of Education, April 2014.

Financial Performance Framework

Gateway Lab School's overall financial rating is "Meets Standard" as measured by the Financial Performance Framework. By September 2014 our expectation is to achieve the overall rating of "Meets Standard" as measured by the Financial Performance Framework. Each year, we will be on track to demonstrate economic viability and achieve our financial performance expectation. This progress will be monitored through our annual performance review.

Organizational Performance Framework

Gateway Lab School's overall organizational rating is Does Not Meet. However, we do not agree with this rating. The school's student attendance rate is impacted negatively when students are in alternate placements/hospitals. Due to our unique student population, there are students that attend day treatment centers and inpatient facilities for extended stays to address their mental health needs. Attendance at these alternate placements/hospitals is often a result of a doctor's recommendation. Additionally, the excused absence rate is impacted by anxiety and sleep related health problems that some of our students have. Furthermore, the board makeup has always included a parent director, and the annual report was emailed to the Charter School Office on the due date, however rejected by the DOE server. After several failed attempts it was faxed, and hard copy mailed to the Charter School Office.

With approval from the DOE Pupil Accounting office, we are revising Measure 4b to: Gateway Lab School's average daily attendance will exceed 90%. By September 2014, our expectation is to achieve the overall rating of "Meets," as measured by the Organizational Performance Framework. Each year, we will be on track to demonstrate performance aligned with those organizational performance expectations. This progress will be monitored through our annual performance review.

Feel free to call if you have questions or concerns at 302-633-4091 X 223 or email catherine.dolan@gl.k12.de.us .

Sincerely,

Catherine

Catherine Dolan
Head of School

2501 Centerville Road
Wilmington, Delaware 19808
Phone: 302-633-4091 Fax: 302-633-5680

