

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
CHARTER SCHOOL PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT – Renewing Charter School
Gateway Lab School

This Performance Agreement (“Agreement” is entered into this 20th day of May, 2014 by and between the Delaware Department of Education (hereinafter referred to as “DDOE”) and *Gateway Lab School*, a public charter school of the State of Delaware (hereinafter referred to as “School”), authorized by the Department of Education with the assent of the Delaware State Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as “DSBE”).

1. **Effective Date.** Notwithstanding the date set forth above this Agreement shall become effective on the date upon which the DSBE shall assent to the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

2. **Term of the Agreement.** This agreement shall continue in full force and effect during the term of the school's charter and any subsequent renewal term thereof; provided, nevertheless, that in the sole discretion of the DDOE, with the assent of the DSBE, this agreement may be amended at such time as the school's charter may be renewed under the provisions of 14 *Del. C.* §515 (b) or subjected to review under 14 *Del. C.* §515 (c). This agreement may also be amended to comply with subsequent changes in state or federal law and/or regulations relating to charter schools or the Performance Framework (“Framework”) as deemed necessary by the DDOE, with the assent of the DSBE. This Agreement may also be modified:

(a) At any time by mutual consent of the DDOE and the School, provided, nevertheless that the DSBE shall assent to such modification; or

(b) If the DDOE shall determine, with the assent of the DSBE, that it is necessary or appropriate to modify this Agreement to reflect subsequent changes in the Performance Framework.

3. **Obligations of School.** While this agreement remains in effect, the School shall:

(a) Comply with all state and federal laws and regulations imposed on Delaware public charter schools, and otherwise comply with the terms of the School's charter, including any conditions now or subsequently imposed upon its charter by the DDOE with the assent of the DSBE; and

(b) Make satisfactory annual progress toward the indicators and performance targets in the Academic, Financial and Organizational Expectations set forth in this Agreement as measured by the Framework. An annual performance review will be conducted by the Department of Education Charter School Office using the Framework to evaluate such progress. The Framework is incorporated into and made a part of this agreement. If the DDOE finds that the school is not making satisfactory progress toward its performance targets, the DDOE, with the assent of the DSBE, may place the school's charter on formal review pursuant to 14 *Del. C.* §515 (c).

Background Information (*Characteristics of school, current location, summary of student population and grades served by the school, etc.*)

The Gateway Charter School, Inc. d.b.a. Gateway Lab School (GLS) is a Title I school located in suburban Wilmington, Delaware, drawing students from every district in New Castle County. GLS first opened its doors to the public in the 2011-12 school year; and, serves the educational needs of 208 students in grades 3 through 8 with an average class size of 14 students. Approximately 65% of Gateway students have Individual Education Plans (IEP).

The GLS model was created specifically for Delaware students and aligned as required at application, to the Delaware Content Standards. Gateway, like other public schools in Delaware, has made the shift to align its curriculum to National Core Content Standards. Our school model is related to a model designed by the Lab School of Washington®, located in Washington, DC. The efficacy of the Lab School of Washington® (LSW) model is its unique arts-infused, special education approach specifically designed for students with learning disabilities and ADHD.

Based on research, we understand that approximately 12% of students in area schools have been identified as Special Ed and have the accommodations they qualify for under law. However, Gateway Lab School goes beyond the mandated accommodations and uniquely meets the needs of our entire student body with most of these accommodations because they are built into our curriculum and are a natural part of everyday school life. This approach provides an enormous benefit to those students without IEP plans as well. The Gateway model is holistic. Our curriculum includes daily LAB periods for small group instruction in math and reading, social skill training through Responsive Classroom®, as well as daily arts and physical education instruction.

Mission Statement

To provide an extraordinary educational opportunity for our students using arts-based, multi-sensory teaching techniques and curriculum that is aligned to Delaware Content standards in a safe, secure, and nurturing environment. The school plans to eventually serve the community as a center for the professional development and education of teachers, parents and students by providing access to the latest research-based curriculum, technology, and training.

Vision Statement

The vision of Gateway Lab School is to prepare children who have struggled academically in the traditional classroom for success in high school and beyond. We do this by using an academically rigorous, arts-infused curriculum aligned to Common Core standards in an atmosphere that values each student's individuality and unique gifts, and helps them to articulate their learning styles which will lead to self-advocacy.

The Gateway Lab School philosophy is based on the belief that children, who have struggled to achieve academic success in the traditional school environment and learn differently, have the capacity to achieve academic success and to realize individual learning potential. The teachers and staff of Gateway Lab School are committed to developing a sense of inquiry and love of learning in each student. This is accomplished by focusing on providing interventions in the areas of reading, oral and written language, math and motor skills. The social studies and humanities areas of study are supplemented through the Academic Club Method™ developed at the Lab School of Washington®, which provides a unique program that incorporates art, music, drama and hands-on learning experiences. Students also learn how to function effectively in school and society through tailored social skills/character development training and an understanding of how they best learn.

An education at Gateway Lab School includes helping our students know the appropriate behavior in a given situation, knowing how to approach the unknown, knowing how to request additional support/accommodations, and knowing how to interact with other people. These skills are the foundation for functional living essential to the student population we will serve.

Academic Performance Expectations

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 use of Reading and Math interventionists will assist GLS in targeting individual student needs.

Mission-Specific Goal 1	As a school that focuses on high needs students, our goal is to have students increase performance in Reading skills.
Measure/Metric	Percentage of students meeting expected growth targets using Fall to Spring MAP assessments.
Target	60% of students will meet anticipated growth targets on the Spring MAP assessments..
Indicators	<p><u>Exceeds Standard -</u> The school has at least 80 percent of all students meeting their growth target using MAP</p> <p><u>Meets Standard -</u> The school has between 60 and 79 percent of all students meeting their growth target using MAP</p> <p><u>Does Not Meet Standard -</u> The school has between 40 and 59 percent of all students meeting their growth target using MAP</p> <p><u>Falls Far Below Standard</u> The school has less than 40 percent of all students meeting their growth target using MAP</p>

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.

Financial Performance Expectations

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 Expectations

Gateway Lab School's overall organizational rating is Does Not Meet. The school's student attendance rate is impacted negatively when students are in alternate placements/hospitals. Due to our unique student population, students 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.

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.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have hereunto set their Hand and Seals the day and year first above-written.

GATEWAY LAB SCHOOL

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

BY: 
President

BY: _____
Secretary of Education

Assented to by resolution of the Delaware State Board of Education on the _____ day of _____, 20__.