

CHARTER SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Las Américas ASPIRA Academy

**RENEWAL APPLICATION
FINAL REPORT**

CSAC Final Meeting: November 12, 2014
CSAC Final Report Published: November 20, 2014

By September 30, 2014, Las Américas ASPIRA Academy submitted an application to renew its charter. Consideration of this application is in accordance with the applicable provisions of 14 *Del. C.* § 514A and 14 DE Admin. Code § 275. Written renewal application guidance is provided by the Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) on its website. The renewal application template developed by DDOE is aligned to measures and targets within the Performance Framework, which outlines the academic, organizational and fiscal standards by which all Delaware charter schools are evaluated. The evaluation of the school's performance as measured by the Framework is a major component of the decision on the renewal application. The decision on the renewal application is based on a comprehensive review, guided, in part, by the following three questions:

1. Is the academic program a success?
2. Is the school financially viable?
3. Is the school organizationally sound?

This report serves as a summary of the strengths, areas of follow-up, and/or concerns identified by members of the Charter School Accountability Committee (CSAC) during their individual reviews of the charter applicant's renewal application, Performance Review Reports, Annual Reports and Performance Agreements and during the CSAC meetings.

The following were in attendance at the Final Meeting of the CSAC on November 12, 2014:

Voting Committee Members of the Charter School Accountability Committee

- David Blowman, Chairperson of the Charter School Accountability Committee and Deputy Secretary of Education, DDOE
- Karen Field Rogers, Associate Secretary, Financial Reform and Resource Management, DDOE
- April McCrae, Education Associate, Science Assessment and STEM, DDOE
- Barbara Mazza, Education Associate, Exceptional Children Resources, DDOE
- Tasha Cannon, Deputy Officer Talent Recruitment, Selection and Strategy, Teacher and Leader Effectiveness Unit (TLEU), DDOE
- Charles Taylor, Community Member and Former Charter School Leader

Ex-Officio Members (Non-voting)

- Kendall Massett, Executive Director, Delaware Charter School Network
- Donna Johnson, Executive Director, Delaware State Board of Education

Staff to the Committee (Non-voting)

- Catherine Hickey, Deputy Attorney General, Counsel to the Committee
- Jennifer Nagourney, Executive Director, Charter School Office, DDOE
- John Carwell, Education Associate, Charter School Office, DDOE
- Jennifer Carlson, Education Associate, Charter School Office, DDOE
- Michelle Whalen, Education Associate, Charter School Office, DDOE
- Brook Hughes, Education Associate, Financial Reform and Resource Management

Representatives of Las Américas ASPIRA Academy

- Margie Lopez-Waite, Head of School
- Greg Panchisin, Director of School Operations
- Beth Anne Gluck, Dean of Instruction

Additional Attendees Noted

- Elizabeth Lewis, Delaware Office of Management and Budget

Performance Framework Ratings Summary

Ratings Scales

Academic	Financial	Organizational
E = Exceeds Standard (89-100)	M = Meets Standard	M = Meets Standard
M = Meets Standard (63-88)	D = Does Not Meet Standard	
D = Does Not Meet Standard (39-62)	F = Falls Far Below	DNM = Does Not Meet Standard
F = Falls Far Below Standard (Below 39)		

Academic

Year	1.a. Growth		1.b. Bottom 25%		1.c. Growth to Prof		2.a. Prof		2.b. Overall Subgroup		2.c. District		2.d. Similar Schools		3.a. AYP	4.a. SAT	4.b. Grad Rate	5.a. Mission Specific	OVERALL RATING/SCORE	
	Math	ELA	Math	ELA	Math	ELA	Math	ELA	Math	ELA	Math	ELA	Math	ELA						
10-11	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
11-12	F	D	F	F	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	F	D	D	N/A	N/A	N/A	D	43.4
12-13	F	M	D	D	M	M	D	M	D	M	D	M	D	M	M	N/A	N/A	N/A	M	62.5
13-14	D	D	D	D	M	M	D	M	D	M	M	M	M	M	M	N/A	N/A	M	M	65.0

Financial

Year	1.a.	1.b.	1.c.	1.d.	2.a.	2.b.	2.c.	2.d.	OVERALL RATING
11-12	M	M	M	M	NR	M	NR	M	M
12-13	M	D	M	M	NR	M	NR	M	M
13-14	F	D	M	M	M	M	F	M	M

Organizational

Year	1.a.	1.b.	2	3.a.	3.b.	3.c.	4.a.	4.b.	4.c.	4.d.	5.a.	5.b.	6	OVERALL RATING
11-12	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	N/A	M	M	M	M	Meets
12-13	M	M	DNM	M	M	M	M	M	DNM	M	M	DNM	M	Does not Meet
13-14	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	DNM	M	M	M	M	Meets

Discussion

Mr. Blowman noted for the record that, at the Initial CSAC Meeting on October 13, 2014, the CSAC indicated that the Academic Framework, Financial Framework and Organizational Framework sections of the renewal application met standard.

Mr. Blowman noted that the CSAC had requested the following information in order to inform its decision-making:

- Revenue sheets

Mr. Blowman acknowledged that the school submitted the revenue sheets and the Department determined that the submission was satisfactory. Mr. Blowman asked the CSAC members to indicate whether there were any questions, comments or feedback related to the supplemental information that the school submitted. There were none.

Conclusion

Mr. Blowman noted that the school meets the standard on all sections of the Performance Framework.

Mr. Blowman then requested a motion to recommend renewal of the charter of the Las Américas ASPIRA Academy.

The motion was made to approve the recommendation and the motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Blowman reminded the applicant that the CSAC's recommendation was just that; a recommendation to the Secretary of Education on the renewal application.

Next Steps:

- A second public hearing will be held on December 9th in the 2nd floor Auditorium of the Carvel State Office Building, located at 820 North French Street, Wilmington DE, beginning at 5:00 p.m.
- The public comment period ends on December 10, 2014.
- The State Board of Education will hold a meeting on December 18, 2014, at 1:00 p.m. in the 2nd floor Cabinet Room of the Townsend Building, located at 401 Federal Street, Dover DE, at which point the Secretary of Education will announce his decision on the renewal application and, if required, the State Board will act on that decision.