

Charter School Renewal Report



Thomas A. Edison
Charter School
2017-18

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Requirements Under the Law

The charter school law (14 *Del. C.* § 514A) outlines the provisions that the Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) follows for charter renewal and nonrenewal. The DDOE is required to review the preliminary performance of the charter school to determine its compliance with its charter and its satisfaction of the criteria set forth in this title for the purposes of renewal or nonrenewal¹. 14 *Del. C.* § 514A (c) states that,

(c) No later than April 30, the approving authority shall issue a charter school renewal report and charter renewal application guidance to any charter school whose charter will expire the following year. The renewal report shall summarize the charter school's performance record to date, based on the data required by 79 *Del. Laws*, c. 51 and the charter contract, and shall provide notice of any weaknesses or concerns perceived by the approving authority concerning the charter school that may jeopardize its position in seeking renewal if not timely rectified. The charter school shall have 10 working days to respond to the renewal report and submit any corrections or clarifications for the report.

¹ A full copy of 14 *Del. C.* Chapter 5 can be found at: <http://delcode.delaware.gov/title14/c005/>

I. Overview

1.1 Basic Information

Review the following chart with the school’s basic information:

BASIC INFORMATION	
Name of School	Thomas Edison Charter School
Year School Opened	2000
Current Enrollment	739
Approved Enrollment	745 (SY 2017-18)
School Address	2200 North Locust Street Wilmington, DE 19802
District(s) of Residence	Brandywine School District
Website Address	Edison (Thomas A.) Charter School
Name of School Leader	Salome Thomas-El
School Leader Email and Phone Number	salome.thomas-el@tecs.k12.de.us 302-778-1101
Name of Board President	Ron Pinkett
Board President Email	ronald.pinkett@comcast.net
Mission Statement:	
<i>Thomas Edison is a K-8 charter school that serves high needs students who live in a struggling community. Our goal is to increase the reading performance of our students.</i>	

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1.2 Enrollment & Demographic Information

Review the following chart with the school's demographics at the time of submission (all information must be verifiable through state reporting tools):

ENROLLMENT & DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION			
	2014-15²	2015-16²	2016-17²
Total Enrollment	745	758	739
% Male	45.6%	44.6%	44.5%
% Female	54.4%	55.4%	55.5%
% African American	97.2%	97.9%	97.6%
% American Indian	0	0	0
% Asian	0	0	0
% Hispanic/Latino	1.6%	1.2%	1.5%
% White	1.1%	0.9%	0.9%
% Multiracial	0.1%	0	0
% Special Education	7.1%	7.0%	6.6%
% English Language Learners	0.4%	0.3%	0.5%
% Low-Income	76.2%	78.6%	67.9%

1.3 Approved Minor and Major Modifications

Date	Modification Requested	Outcome
August 2013	Minor—Alternative Educator Evaluation	Approved

² Based on September 30th Unit Count

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1.4 Enrollment Trends

Review the following chart with the school’s enrollment data:

School Enrollment Trends								
<i>Cells highlighted in gray were grade levels not serviced by this school.</i>								
	2013-2014		2014-2015		2015-2016		2016-2017	
	Approved Enrollment	9/30 Enrollment Count	Approved Enrollment	9/30 Enrollment Count	Approved Enrollment	9/30 Enrollment Count	Approved Enrollment	9/30 Enrollment Count
K	100	99	100	89	100	102	100	96
Grade 1	100	97	100	101	100	91	100	104
Grade 2	100	98	100	87	100	101	100	85
Grade 3	100	88	100	93	100	89	100	93
Grade 4	80	100	80	81	80	90	80	89
Grade 5	75	80	75	99	75	80	75	80
Grade 6	70	77	70	69	70	79	70	75
Grade 7	60	56	60	69	60	63	60	64
Grade 8	60	53	60	57	60	63	60	53
Grade 9								
Grade 10								
Grade 11								
Grade 12								
Total	745	748	745	745	745	758	745	739

Summary:

Thomas A. Edison Charter School has had consistent enrollment over the past four years. The school has achieved 99-100% of the authorized enrollment of 745 students each year.

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1.5 School Reenrollment:

Review the following chart with the school’s reenrollment trends during the current charter term. The Reenrollment Rate is the % of students continuously enrolled in the school from one year to the next

School Reenrollment Trends								
<i>Cells highlighted in gray were grade levels not serviced by this school.</i>								
	2013-2014		2014-2015		2015-2016		2016-2017	
	Number of Students Reenrolled	Percentage of Students Reenrolled	Number of Students Reenrolled	Percentage of Students Reenrolled	Number of Students Reenrolled	Percentage of Students Reenrolled	Number of Students Reenrolled	Percentage of Students Reenrolled
	count	%	count	%	count	%	count	%
K	**		**		**		**	
Grade 1	85	85.0%	87	87.9%	81	87.6%	89	87.3%
Grade 2	90	88.2%	75	77.3%	83	82.2%	68	74.7%
Grade 3	86	86.9%	85	86.7%	70	80.5%	81	80.2%
Grade 4	93	89.4%	76	86.4%	79	85.0%	75	84.3%
Grade 5	72	81.8%	85	85.0%	70	86.4%	70	77.8%
Grade 6	70	87.5%	66	82.5%	78	78.8%	66	82.5%
Grade 7	53	79.1%	69	89.6%	62	89.9%	63	79.8%
Grade 8	51	96.2%	55	98.2%	63	91.3%	52	82.5%
Grade 9								
Grade 10								
Grade 11								
Grade 12								
Total/Avg	600	86.6%	598	86.0%	586	85.2%	564	81.2%

** School entry level. Students retained in kindergarten are included with Grade 1 cohort data

Summary:

Thomas A. Edison Charter School’s reenrollment rate declined from 86.8% in 2013-14 to 81.1% in 2016-17.

II. Academic Performance

Changes in the Academic Framework

From School Year (SY) 2010-11 through SY 2013-14, the academic performance of all charter schools was evaluated using the Delaware Academic Framework Reports that were publishing annually. In July of 2015, the DDOE received approval from the United States Department of Education to use 2014-15 as a flexibility year for all schools in order to transition to a new accountability framework³. This new accountability report is referred to as the Delaware School Success Framework (DSSF).

For the purposes of reporting the academic achievement for charter schools during this transition period, academic performance is broken down into reporting categories. These categories include:

- ❖ Academic Framework Reporting (2010-11 through 2013-14): This report includes percentages reflecting: Student Progress Over Time (Growth), Student Achievement Status, State and Federal Accountability, Post-Secondary Readiness (High Schools Only), and Mission-Specific Academic Goals which were an optional measure.
- ❖ DSSF Reporting (2014-15 through 2015-16): This report includes two systems for ratings. Metric ratings represented by a one to five star rating for Academic Achievement, Academic Growth, On-Track to Graduation, and College and Career Readiness. This report also includes Academic Performance ratings in the four core subject areas (English Language Arts (ELA), Math, Science, and Social Studies as well as Academic Growth, On Track to Graduation, and College and Career Preparation that are represented as a percentage.

Because these reports differ in how individual reporting categories are calculated, it would not be appropriate to incorporate the data from the DSSF into the Academic Framework utilized from 2010 through 2014. Because SY14/15 was a flexibility year, the charter school data is reported in relationship to the state for comparison purposes only.

All charter schools provide descriptions of their academic performance strengths and areas of growth in their annual reports. Please review the annual reports attached to this report to see the school's response to their annual academic performance.

³ US DOE Flexibility Letter can be found at http://www.doe.k12.de.us/cms/lib09/DE01922744/Centricity/domain/232/esea/DEESEA_Flex_Renewal_Letter_7-9-15.pdf.

II. Academic Performance

Is the academic program a success?

2.1 Academic Framework/Delaware School Success Framework

Year	Academic Framework																				OVERALL RATING/ SCORE
	1.a. Growth		1.b. Bottom 25%		1.c. Growth to Proficiency		2.a. Proficiency		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 Goal			
	Math	ELA	Math	ELA	Math	ELA	Math	ELA	Math	ELA	Math	ELA	Math	ELA							
13-14	D	D	M	D	M	D	D	D	D	D	D	F	M	D	D	N/A	N/A	N/A	D	54.1%	

2.2 Academic Achievement

Overall Academic Ratings

Metrics	Delaware School Success Framework (DSSF)	
	2014-2015	2015-2016
Academic Achievement	2 Stars Needs Improvement	2 Stars (41/150 pts) Needs Improvement
Growth	3 Stars Approaching	3 Stars (113/200 pts) Approaching
On Track to Graduation	5 Stars Exceeds	5 Stars (48/50 pts) Exceeds
College and Career Preparation	1 Star Far Below	2 Stars (21/100pts) Needs Improvement

Summary:

In SY2013-14, Thomas A. Edison Charter School did not meet standard according to the Academic Performance Framework. In SY2014-15 and 2015-16, Thomas A. Edison Charter School was rated as ‘needing improvement’ in academic achievement and as ‘approaching’ in the growth metric. In SY2014-15, the school was rated ‘far below’ in the area of college and career preparation. The school was rated as needing improvement in that same category for 2015-16. The school was rated as ‘exceeds’ both years for the on track to graduation metric.

2.3 Proficiency Data

Academic Framework		
Year	2.a Proficiency	
	Math	ELA
13-14	D	D

DSSF Definition: *Proficiency* in a given subject is the percent of students who are on grade level (i.e., proficient) in said subject.

Academic Achievement	Delaware School Success Framework (DSSF)			
	2014-2015		2015-2016	
Rating	2 Stars Needs Improvement		2 Stars (41/150 pts) Needs Improvement	
	School	State	School	State
ELA	33.1%	50.4%	30.74%	54.91%
Math	20.5%	36.0%	24.64%	42.87%
Science	16.6%	41.6%	18.43%	60.41%
Social Studies	34.9%	46.1%	33.50%	76.82%

Summary:

Thomas A. Edison Charter School did not meet Math and ELA proficiency standards in SY2013-14 and earned a ‘needs improvement’ rating on Math and ELA proficiency in SY2014-15 and SY 2015-16. The school proficiency was below the state average in ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies in SY2014-15 and SY 2015-16.

2.4 Growth Data

Academic Framework		
Year	1.a. Growth	
	Math	ELA
13-14	D	D

DSSF Definition: Growth measures how well schools are doing at improving student learning over time. This metric is a relative calculation of student progress as compared to students with similar assessment history on statewide summative assessments.

SY2014-15



Growth	Delaware School Success Framework (DSSF)			
	2014-2015		2015-2016	
Rating	3 Stars Approaching		3 Stars (113/200 pts) Approaching	
	School	State	School	State
ELA	See graphic above	See graphic above	53.17%	50%
Math	See graphic above	See graphic above	60.17%	50%

Summary:

Thomas A. Edison Charter School earned three stars, or ‘approaching,’ for academic growth in SY2014-15 and SY2015-16.

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2.5 On Track to Graduation Data

Academic Framework	
Year	4.b. Graduation Rate
13-14	N/A

DSSF Definition: In elementary and middle schools, attendance data are used to calculate On Track to Graduation Metric.

	Delaware School Success Framework (DSSF)			
On Track to Graduation	2014-2015		2015-2016	
Rating	5 Stars Exceeds		5 Stars (48/50 pts) Exceeds	
	School	State	School	State
Attendance	95.03%	94.7%	95.4%	94.4%
On-Track in the 9th grade	**	89.9%	**	84.8%
4-year Cohort Graduation Rate ⁴	**	84.4%	**	84.35%
5-year Cohort Graduation Rate ⁴	**	81.1%	**	85.84%
6-year Cohort Graduation Rate ⁴	**	81.3%	**	*Not calculated at the state level.

** The school did not service students in the grade levels assessed by this metric.

Summary:

Thomas A. Edison Charter School was rated 'exceeds' on attendance, the metric used by the State to indicate whether students are on track for graduation from high school.

⁴ Graduation rate data is lag data by one school year to include all students that have completed their high school diplomas during that year including summer graduates.

2.6 College & Career Preparation Data

Academic Framework			
Year	1.c. Growth to Proficiency		4a. SAT
	Math	ELA	
13-14	M	D	N/A

DSSF Definition: This DSSF metric gives an indication of whether students are growing enough to be proficient in the future. For elementary and middle schools, Growth to Proficiency in ELA and Math is based on 3 years of statewide assessment data, including Smarter assessment data and up to 3 years of DCAS, the prior statewide summative assessment.

	Delaware School Success Framework (DSSF)			
College & Career Prep	2014-2015		2015-2016	
Rating	1 Star Far Below		2 Stars (21/100pts) Needs Improvement	
	School	State	School	State
Growth to Proficiency ELA	23.5%	49.9%	27.56%	57.1%
Growth to Proficiency Math	7.3%	23.8%	15.32%	34.42%
College & Career Preparation	**	69.4%	**	46.41%

** The school did not service students in the grade levels assessed by this metric

Summary:

In SY2013-14, Thomas A. Edison Charter School earned a rating of ‘met’ for growth to proficiency in Math and was rated as ‘does not meet’ for ELA. In SY2014-15, the school was rated as ‘far below’ for growth to proficiency for both Math and ELA. In SY2015-16, Thomas A. Edison Charter School was rated as ‘needs improvement’ for growth to proficiency for both Math and ELA.

III. Organizational Performance Framework

- *Is the school organizationally sound and well operated?*
- *Is the school fulfilling its legal obligations, fiduciary duties, and sound public stewardship?*
- *Is the school meeting its obligations and expectations for appropriate access, education, support services, and outcomes for students with disabilities?*

School Year	Education Program		Financial Management	Governance and Reporting			Students and Employees				School Environment		Additional Obligations	OVERALL RATINGS
	1a	1b	2	3a	3b	3c	4a	4b	4c	4d	5a	5b	6	
	Charter Terms	Students with Disabilities	Financial Management and Oversight	Governance	Management Accountability	Reporting Requirements	Protecting Student Rights	Attendance Goal	Staff Credentialing	Employee Rights	Facility and Transportation Requirements	Health and Safety Requirements	Additional Obligations	
2013-2014	M	M	D	M	M	M	M	M	D	M	M	M	M	Meets Standard
2014-2015	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	N/R ⁵	M	M	M	Meets Standard
2015-2016	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	N/R	M	M	M	Meets Standard

Summary:

From 2013 through 2016, Thomas A. Edison Charter School had an overall rating of ‘Meets Standard’ on the organizational performance framework; however, there were two areas where Thomas A. Edison Charter School received a score of ‘does not meet standard’ in SY2013-14.

In SY 2013-14 the school did not meet standard in the following areas:

- Financial Management and Oversight (Measure 2). FY14 Independent audit identified a material weakness and significant deficiency. The Citizen Budget Oversight Committee meeting information was not posted per statutory requirements.
- Staff Credentialing Requirements (Measure 4c.): Highly-Qualified Teacher (HQT) requirement not met.

⁵NOTE: In 2013-14 and/or 2014-15, all schools were held to the NCLB requirement of 100% HQT which was more restrictive than the Delaware Statute which allows for charter schools to hire uncertified staff under certain conditions.

School's Response

In their 2013-14 annual report, Thomas A. Edison Charter School provided the following response to not meeting organizational framework standards in in measures 2 and 4c:

Financial Management and Oversight (Measure 2):

- *Thomas Edison's external audit for 2013-2014 identified two material weaknesses and/or significant deficiencies. The first was in monitoring procedures and payments to vendors. In the future, the Business Manager will monitor invoices and vendor payments closely. The CFO will review all invoices to insure information is entered correctly in the First State Financial (FSF) System before final approval.*
- *The second material weakness/ significant deficiency was in the payroll function. Timesheets for the 21st CCLC grant referenced 'After School or Summer Camp' and did not have the grants name referenced. Moving forward, the 21st CCLC Program Director will insure the grant's name is recorded on each timesheet and the Payroll Specialist will verify.*
- *Thomas A. Edison Charter School is on course to meet the performance expectations as measured by the performance framework for 2013-2014. For instance, we have begun preparing and posting agendas and minutes for our Citizen's Budget Oversight Committee (CBOC) meetings. Currently, all financial performance information is posted and up to date on the Thomas Edison website.*

Staff Credentialing Requirements (Measure 4c):

NOTE: In 2013-14, all schools were held to the NCLB requirement of 100% HQT which was more restrictive than the Delaware statue which allows for charter schools to hire uncertified staff under certain conditions.

- *Personnel changes at TECS were implemented with the highest level of precision to ensure success. Along with Principal EL, the existing leadership team was restructured and 20 new and highly qualified teachers and staff members were hired. School Administration and the Board of Directors also partnered with Teach for America and now currently have eleven corps members teaching at the school.*

IV. Financial Performance Framework

Is the school financially viable?

	Near Term Indicators				Sustainability Indicators				Overall Rating
	Current Ratio	Days Cash	Enrollment Variance	Default, Loan Covenants, & Debt Service Payments	Total Margin	Debt Asset Ratio	Cash Flow	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	
	1a	1b	1c	1d	2a	2b	2c	2d	
2013-2014	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	Meets Standard
2014-2015	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	Meets Standard
2015-2016	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	Meets Standard

Summary:

For the Financial Reporting Framework, Thomas A. Edison Charter School was found to have met standards for all three years of this charter renewal period to date.