

## Executive Summary

### Renewal of Charter School Agreement RISE Education Schools, Inc. RISE Academy School of Science and Technology - 5420

Implementation Year	2008-2009
Termination Date of Current Charter Agreement	June 30, 2013
Location	6101 N.W. 31 <sup>st</sup> Street Margate, Florida 33063
Grades Approved to Serve	K-8
Enrollment	289
Target Population	Neighborhoods surrounding the school
Curriculum Focus	Science and Technology
School Grade	No grade issued due to low enrollment in tested grades - school received a point value of 466, equivalent to a "C"

On May 8, 2008, The School Board of Broward County, Florida, approved a Charter School Agreement enabling RISE Education Schools, Inc., to open a charter school named RISE Academy School of Science and Technology. This original contract was effective for a five-year period. During the last year of the contract, pursuant to Section 1002.33, Florida Statutes, the charter school received program reviews as required for charter contract renewal. The program review demonstrated educational, financial, and operational deficiencies.

Section 1002.33(7)(b)(1), Florida Statutes, states that "a charter school may be renewed provided that a program review demonstrates that student achievement levels, and prior rates of academic progress have been accomplished, and that none of the grounds for non-renewal has been documented."

Section 1002.33(8)(a), Florida Statutes, specifies the causes for non-renewal or termination of a charter. These are:

1. Failure to participate in the state's education accountability system created in Section 1008.31, Florida Statutes or failure to meet the requirements for student performance stated in the charter.
2. Failure to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management.
3. Violation of law.
4. Other good cause shown.

As part of its renewal process for charter schools, the District conducted a review of the school's data and of the charter renewal application submitted by RISE Education Schools, Inc., (RISE Academy of Science and Technology – 5420). Upon reviewing this year's Charter Renewal Application, the Superintendent's Charter Renewal Committee concluded that there were deficiencies in the areas of Educational, Financial, and Operational Performance. The

deficiencies were not sufficient to deny any renewal of the contract as such the committee recommends a one-year renewal of the charter school agreement.

### **DEFICIENCIES FOUND IN THE RENEWAL CHARTER APPLICATION**

Following is the specific section of the Renewal Charter Application that did not meet or partially met the renewal criteria, thus contributing to the recommendation of a one-year renewal of the Charter Agreement:

#### **EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE:**

The Superintendent's Charter Review Committee reviewed the Educational Performance of the charter school as presented in the Renewal Charter Application. Staff has determined that RISE Education Schools, Inc., (RISE Academy School of Science and Technology – 5420) has the following deficiencies:

#### **Deficiency 1: Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Compliance:**

- Failure to demonstrate the capacity to meet the school's obligations under state and federal law regarding the education of exceptional students as required by Section 1002.33(16)(a)(3), Florida Statutes.
  - (a) The application lacked evidence of prior written notice provided to the parent/guardian according to required timelines as required State Board Rule 6A-6.03028(3)(b)(3), F.A.C., and the Local Education Agency (LEA) Agreement.
- Failure to demonstrate sound plans for educating exceptional students that reflect the full range of programs and services required to provide all students with a high quality education, as required by Section 1002.33 (16)(a)(3), Florida Statutes.
  - a) The application did not provide an explanation of the required continuum of services needed by ESE students as required by State Board Rule 6A-6.03011 and State Board Rule 6A-6.030281, F.A.C.
  - b) The application did not reference the process ensuring that IEPs that are out of compliance according to federal, state, and local guidelines and State Board Rule 6A-6.03028(3)(f), F.A.C., are current and accurate.
  - c) The application did not include sufficient information regarding the Response to Intervention process for struggling students, as required by State Board Rule 6A-6.0331 F.A.C.

#### **Remedial Measures:**

- The charter school shall incorporate procedures that will ensure compliance with federal, state, and local requirements regarding students with disabilities, for the alignment of IEPs (present level of performance, the impact of the disability, the priority educational needs, goals, services, and accommodations) as required by State Board Rule 6A-6.03028, F.A.C.
- The charter school shall document the issuance of accurate prior written notice to the parent/guardian according to current Local Education Agency (LEA) agreed upon timelines and State Board Rule 6A-6.03028(3)(f), F.A.C.

- The charter school’s ESE Specialist shall attend required meetings and trainings provided by the Exceptional Student Education and Student Support Department, as agreed upon in the Local Education Agency (LEA) Agreement.
- An ESE on-site visit will be conducted during the first semester of the 2013-2014 academic year and the charter school shall demonstrate improvement in all areas of compliance.

**Deficiency 2: English for Speakers of Other Languages**

- Failure to adhere to the appropriate test administration procedures of the Kaufman Test of Educational Achievement (KTEA).
- Failure to demonstrate understanding of the state-approved assessments and how they are used to determine eligibility and placement in the English for Speakers of Other Languages, (ESOL) Program.
- Failure to demonstrate understanding of the procedure for extension of services.
- Failure to follow the District’s English Language Learners, (ELL) Plan as stated in the Charter Agreement.

**Remedial Measures:**

- The charter school shall follow the procedures in the District ESOL Handbook for testing and placement of ELL in the ESOL Program.
- The charter school shall follow the procedures in the District ESOL Handbook for eligibility in the ESOL Program.
- The charter school shall follow the procedures in the District ESOL Handbook for exiting or continued service beyond three years in the ESOL Program.
- An ESOL on-site visit will be conducted during the first semester of the 2013-2014 academic year and the charter school shall demonstrate improvement in all areas of compliance.

**Deficiency 3 - No Evidence of Common Core Instruction:**

- Failure to include evidence of Common Core State Standards being implemented in grades K-5.

**Remedial Measures:**

- The charter school shall implement Common Core State Standard for Language Arts and Math and Next Generation Sunshine State Standards for Science and Social Studies in grades K-5 as required by the Florida Department of Education’s implementation calendar.

**OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE:**

The Superintendent’s Charter Review Committee reviewed the Operational Performance of the charter school as presented in the Renewal Charter Application. Staff has determined that RISE Education Schools, Inc., (RISE Academy School of Science and Technology – 5420) has the following deficiencies:

**Deficiency 4: Instructional Staffing**

- Failure to hire instructional staff that meets the qualifications of a Highly Qualified teacher.
- Failure to maintain accurate information regarding current teacher assignments in TERMS.
- Failure to document the school's plan of action for monitoring out-of-field and Highly Qualified requirement training compliance.

**Remedial Measures:**

- The charter school shall implement standards for employing instructional staff that meets the state's requirements for teacher certification and provide written notice to the Sponsor using the Sponsor's designated form within fourteen (14) calendar days of any new hires, leaves of absence, transfers, and terminations.
- The charter school shall ensure TERMS is maintained with current duty and course assignment information for each member of the school's instructional staff. TERMS data must be updated to reflect instructional staffing hires and terminations at the time the change is effective.
- The charter school shall identify any teacher who is not Highly Qualified and monitor the professional development progress toward meeting Highly Qualified training requirements.

**FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**

The Superintendent's Charter Review Committee reviewed the Financial Performance of the charter school as presented in the Charter Renewal Application. Staff has determined that RISE Education Schools, Inc., (RISE Academy School of Science and Technology - 5420) has the following deficiency:

**Deficiency 5: Financial Viability**

- Failure to provide a viable budget. The budget included in the charter renewal application projects revenue that has never been awarded to the school.

**Remedial Measures:**

- The charter school shall provide a comprehensive budget that is based on attainable revenue to allow for a positive fund balance.

**PROGRAMMATIC REVIEWS**

On January 23, 2013, a programmatic review of the ESE Program was conducted by District staff and noted the following deficiencies:

**Deficiency 6: Programmatic ESE On-Site Analysis**

- Based on the on-site visit conducted as part of the Renewal Application Process, the school did not maintain compliance of IEPs for students with disabilities.
- Based on the on-site visit conducted as part of the Renewal Application Process, the school did not maintain compliance of re-evaluation plans for students with disabilities.

- Based on the on-site visit conducted as part of the Renewal Application Process, the school did not provide prior written notice to the parent/guardian in a timely fashion for IEP/Re-evaluation meetings for students with disabilities.
- Based on the on-site visit conducted as part of the Renewal Application Process, the school did not ensure the proper membership was in attendance at IEP/Re-evaluation meetings.
- Based on the on-site visit conducted as part of the Renewal Application Process, the school did not provide a matrix that reflected the Individual Education Plan, (IEP) of students with disabilities.

**Remedial Measures:**

- The charter school shall incorporate procedures that will ensure compliance with federal, state, and local requirements regarding students with disabilities, for the alignment of IEPs (present level of performance, the impact of the disability, the priority educational needs, goals, services and accommodations), as required by State Board Rule 6A-6.03028, F.A.C.
- The charter school shall document the issuance of accurate prior written notice to the parent/guardian according to current Local Education Agency (LEA) agreed upon timelines and State Board Rule 6A-6.03028(3)(f), F.A.C.
- The charter school shall ensure that the required membership is present at the IEP meeting, as per State Board Rule 6A-6.03028(3)(c), F.A.C.
- The charter school’s ESE Specialist shall attend required meetings and trainings provided by the Exceptional Student Education and Student Support Department, as agreed upon in the Local Education Agency (LEA) Agreement.

On January 23 and 24, 2013, a programmatic review of the ESOL Program was conducted by District staff and the following deficiencies were noted:

**Deficiency 7: Programmatic ESOL On-Site Analysis**

- Based on the on-site visit conducted as part of the Renewal Application Process, the school did not administer the required Idea Proficiency Test (IPT), to update language proficiency.
- Based on the on-site visit conducted as part of the Renewal Application Process, the school did not follow the procedures for annual reviews and Re-evaluations.
- Based on the on-site visit conducted as part of the Renewal Application process, the school did not maintain accurate information and many discrepancies were noted between TERMS and the English Language Learners Student Education Plan (ELLSEP), folders.

**Remedial Measures:**

- The charter school’s ESOL Contact shall attend all required meetings and trainings provided by the ESOL Department regarding IPT testing, annual reviews and Re-evaluations.
- The charter school shall follow procedures outlined in the District ESOL Handbook to be in compliance in all areas of the District ELL Plan.

- The charter school shall maintain accurate records for every English Language Learner and ensure that the information submitted to the state corresponds to the information in the ELLSEP folders.

It is requested that The School Board of Broward County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent of Schools to notify the governing body of RISE Education Schools, Inc., (RISE Academy School of Science and Technology - 5420) of the proposed renewal of the Charter School Agreement for a one-year period starting on July 1, 2013, and ending on June 30, 2014, due to the aforementioned deficiencies encountered within the Renewal Charter Application and within the compliance documents. This one-year renewal term will afford the charter school an opportunity to continue its operations while demonstrating its ability to remediate deficiencies as required by Section 1002.33, Florida Statutes.

If the renewed charter school fails to implement the remedial measures listed in the renewal Charter Agreement and as stated above, such non-compliance will be considered grounds for the future termination of the renewed Charter Agreement or declination of any further contract renewal.

It is requested that The School Board of Broward County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to send the letter (Exhibit 3 of the ARF), notifying RISE Education Schools, Inc., (RISE Academy School of Science and Technology - 5420), of the approval of the Charter Renewal Application, and of the proposed one-year renewal of the Charter Agreement.

The governing board members of RISE Education School, Inc., reside in Broward and Palm Beach Counties.