

Executive Summary

The Charter Schools of Excellence, Inc. Charter School of Excellence – Riverland (5281)

Five-Year Renewal of Charter Agreement with a Specific Remedial Action Clause

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| School Name | Charter School of Excellence – Riverland (5281) |
| Implementation Year | 2008-2009 |
| Termination Date of Current Charter Agreement | June 30, 2014 |
| Address | 3550 Davie Blvd. Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312 |
| Grades | K-5 |
| Benchmark Enrollment | 39 |
| Target population | Neighborhoods surrounding the school |
| Curriculum Focus | Traditional |
| School Grade 2012-2013 | D (395 points) Lowest 100 Performing Elementary School |
| School Grade 2011-2012 | C (438 points) AMO – No |
| School Grade 2010-2011 | F (379 points) AYP – No |

On May 5, 2009, The School Board of Broward County, Florida, approved a Charter School Agreement authorizing The Charter Schools of Excellence, Inc., to open Charter School of Excellence – Riverland (5281). The original contract was effective for a five-year period, to conclude on June 30, 2014.

Pursuant to Section 1002.33, Florida Statutes, The Charter Schools of Excellence, Inc., (Charter School of Excellence – Riverland 5281), has received a program review as required for charter contract renewal. This program review, conducted in school year 2013-2014, identified academic and programmatic 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.” The documented findings have been noticed in this executive summary and are the basis for a specific remedial action clause. It is recommended that the findings be given ninety (90) days to cure.

Charter School of Excellence – Riverland (5281), has been designated by the State as one of the 100 lowest performing elementary schools in Florida. The lowest 100 elementary schools are determined based on the reading performance and learning gains points each school earns in the school grades model.

Pursuant to Section 1002.33(8)(a), Florida Statutes, The sponsor shall make student academic achievement for all students the most important factor when determining whether to renew or terminate the charter. The sponsor may also choose to not renew or may terminate the charter for any of the following grounds:

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.

Section 1002.33(9)(n)1, Florida Statutes states that “The director and a representative of the governing board of a charter school that has earned a grade of “D” or “F” pursuant to s. 1008.34(2), shall appear before the sponsor to present information concerning each contract component having noted deficiencies. The director and a representative of the governing board shall submit to the sponsor for approval a school improvement plan to raise student achievement. Upon approval by the sponsor the charter school shall begin implementation of the school improvement plan...”

As part of its renewal process for charter schools, the Superintendent’s Charter School Review Committee has conducted a review of the school’s data and of the charter renewal program review submitted by The Charter Schools of Excellence, Inc., (Charter School of Excellence – Riverland 5281), as required by Section 1002.33, Florida Statutes. Upon reviewing the renewal program review, the Superintendent’s Charter School Review Committee concluded that, although there were deficiencies in the area of Educational Performance, they were not sufficient to deny any renewal of the contract as such the committee recommended a renewal with a specific remedial action clause of the charter school agreement to be met within the first year.

DEFICIENCIES FOUND IN THE CHARTER RENEWAL PROGRAM REVIEW

The following is the specific section of the renewal program review that did not meet or partially met the renewal criteria, thus contributing to the recommendation of a renewal with a specific remedial action clause of the Charter School Agreement to be met within the first year.

EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE

The Superintendent’s Charter School Review Committee has reviewed the Charter Renewal Program Review submitted by The Charter Schools of Excellence, Inc., (Charter School of Excellence – Riverland 5281), and has determined that it has the following deficiencies in the section of Educational Performance.

Deficiency 1 – Federal Accountability - Assessment

Findings:

- Failure to meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for 2011 and Annual Measurable Objectives (AMO) for 2012 and 2013.

Deficiency 2 – State Accountability - Assessment

Findings:

- Failure to meet the state requirements for student performance.
- The Charter School has a lower percentage of students meeting high standards in reading, math, writing and science than that of the District.

| | CSE Riverland 5281 | District |
|---------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Reading | 30 | 58 |
| Math | 35 | 61 |
| Writing | 21 | 66 |
| Science | 26 | 55 |

- The Charter School has a lower percentage of students making learning gains in reading and math than that of the District.

| | CSE Riverland 5281 | District |
|---------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Reading | 52 | 65 |
| Math | 32 | 65 |

- The number of school grade points earned has decreased from 2011-2012 to 2012-2013.

| School Year | CSE Riverland 5281 |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 2012-2013 | 395 |
| 2011-2012 | 438 |
| 2010-2011 | 379 |

Remedial Measures:

- The charter school shall comply with all State and District accountability initiatives as they relate to charter schools.
- The charter school must receive a grade or point allocation that would equate to a “D” grade or higher for the 2013-2014 school year. For the remaining four (4) years of the Charter Agreement, the school shall receive and maintain a grade or point allocation that would equate to a “C” grade or higher.

Deficiency 3 – Educational Performance – ESOL

Findings:

- Failure to complete Annual Reviews in a timely manner as required by State Board Rule 6A-6.0902, Florida Administrative Code.
- Failure to provide the registration packet/Home Language Survey in multiple languages as required by State Board Rule 6A-6.0908, Florida Administrative Code.

Remedial Measures:

- The charter school shall follow the state-approved District ELL Plan and procedures to ensure the needs of ELLs are being met as per Section 1003.56, Florida Statutes, English Language Instruction for Limited English Proficient Students and State Board Rules 6A-6.0900 to 6A-6.0909.

Deficiency 4 – Educational Performance – ESE

Findings:

- Failure to generate and provide to parents the Parent Notification Letter as required by State Board Rule 6A-6.03028(3)(b), Florida Administrative Code.

Remedial Measures:

- The charter school shall provide parents with adequate information necessary to complete the Parent Notification Letter as required by State Board Rule 6A-6.03028(3)(b), Florida Administrative Code.

It is therefore requested that The School Board of Broward County, Florida, approve the renewal of the Charter School Agreement for The Charter Schools of Excellence, Inc., (Charter School of Excellence – Riverland 5281), for a five-year period, starting on July 1, 2014, and ending on June 30, 2019. This five-year renewal term with a specific remedial action clause will afford the charter school an opportunity

to continue its operations while demonstrating its ability to remediate deficiencies within the first year as required by Section 1002.33, Florida Statutes.

If the renewed charter school fails to implement the specific remedial measures listed in the renewal of the Charter School Agreement and as stated above, in the timeframe indicated, such non-compliance will be considered grounds for automatic termination of the renewed Charter School Agreement.

The Charter School of Excellence – Riverland (5281), is located in District 3.