

Public Charter School Commission Update

February 23, 2015

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Appreciate opportunity to provide brief update

- 35 schools
- 14,950 students
- Expansions to add an additional 1,440 in coming years

Commissioners

- Located around state
- Different professions & areas of expertise
- All have demonstrated support for high quality charter schools

Performance Outcomes

- In 2013, PCSC and stakeholders collaborated over many months to develop framework
- Framework applied on annual basis to evaluate each school in 4 categories
- Mission-specific offers meaningful recognition for successes not reflected on standardized tests
- Outcomes from first annual reports now becoming available
- Still processing responses, results expected to shift slightly

Accountability Designations

- Scores on all framework measures combine to place each school in 1 of 4 accountability designations
- Basically schools in Honor and Good Standing will be renewed
- Schools in Remediation or Critical (particularly Critical) may be non-renewed

Academic Accountability Designations

- Based on 2012-13 Star Rating data
- 69% in Good Standing or Honor
- 19% in Remediation
- 6% in Critical
- Unrated are schools too young to have 2012-13 data

Academic Breakdown by Indicator

- Schools that struggled tended to have more trouble with growth indicators than proficiency indicators
- College and career readiness – grain of salt – sample size and school mission impacts these results (1/3 of PCSC-authorized HS focus on alternative, at risk, special education, or credit recovery)
- Similar pattern for all portfolio schools; majority of schools doing well on all indicators, college & career expected to improve

SAT Results

- 2014 results for 11th graders tested on the regular test date
- Left column represents large category of all non-charter students; other columns represent smaller categories of 1 PCSC-portfolio school each
- Full height of bar against left axis shows median score
- Height of orange bar against right axis shows % scoring over 500 (level generally identified as “college ready”)
- Similar patterns for math and writing

SAT Results (Aggregated)

- Aggregated all-charter data shown by gold bars, all non-charter by green bars

Go-On Data

- Go-on data for Idaho charter students, both PCSC-portfolio and district-authorized, class of 2011
- Gold sections show students newly enrolled, red sections show students retained, grey sections show students disenrolled prior to graduation, dark blue sections show students for whom we have no records
- Charters appear not to be faring quite as well as full scope of Idaho schools
- New data to us, not prepared to draw conclusions about possible causes of discrepancy, but interested in learning more
- More ways of looking at go-on data are available if interested

Operational Outcomes

- Majority of schools doing very well in terms of operational stability and compliance
- Weak areas tend to be late reporting, some sped and other compliance issues now resolved

Financial Outcomes

- Finances tend to be an area in which many charter struggle for a variety of reasons
- 69% in Honor or Good Standing
- Important to bear in mind that the measures are based on industry standards, and contextual information is important to fully understanding the status of any individual school. Existence of one or two low scores does not necessarily indicate a problem, but rather should lead to additional conversation.

Financial Breakdown by Indicator

- Schools in Remediation/Critical status tend to be stronger on near-term measures than on sustainability measures, though a few face serious near-term concerns as well
- All portfolio pattern is similar, but sustainability indicator results are expected to improve as schools provide contextual information

PCSC Evaluation

- National Association of Charter School Authorizers performed formative evaluation in 2014
- 2-day site visit, extensive document review, stakeholder surveys & interviews – Goal was to consider the PCSC’s work in light of national best practices
- Commendations and recommendations presented in August 2014 affirmed the PCSC’s direction and focus, and offered additional insight for successful implementation

Looking Ahead

- Maximize schools’ flexibility while remaining focused on making data-driven decisions based on performance outcomes
- Foster increased availability of seats in high-quality charter schools
- Provide additional resources to schools and commissioners
- One of the limitations in our ability to implement recommendations is capacity – staffing level and budget well below national averages for similar authorizers (NACSA evaluation report, Oct 2013 Authorizing Roadmap)
- Additional staff will enable us be more responsive to schools as individuals and ultimately make well-informed decisions.
- Spoken with many of you, appreciate your thoughtful queries and support of our efforts.

Stand for Questions