



Media Advisory
For Immediate Release

Thursday, October 18, 2012

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Indiana Charter School Board Releases Strategic Plan **Blueprint Focuses on High Expectations and Accountability**

The Indiana Charter School Board (ICSB) released its five-year strategic plan today, laying the framework for an authorizing model focused on generating quality educational options for Hoosier families. Approved charter schools must set high expectations for students, staff and leadership, and the ICSB will hold them accountable for meeting performance criteria.

“The plan sets forth a transparent and detailed blueprint to guide the ICSB’s work over the next five years,” ICSB Executive Director Claire Fiddian-Green said. “Our aim is to increase the supply of high performing charter schools in Indiana by emphasizing innovative school models and by holding schools accountable for academic and financial performance. The charter schools we authorize will offer quality options for students and their families around the state. In performing its duties, our board will always seek to further the best interests of students.”

The plan includes the following five-year goals to guide the ICSB as it considers new applications each fall and spring and monitor schools’ performance over the course of a five-year charter term:

- Goal #1: Increase the supply of high performing charter schools in Indiana.
- Goal #2: Hold ICSB-authorized charter schools accountable to high standards of academic, fiscal and operational performance.
- Goal #3: Improve student learning outcomes among ICSB-authorized charter school students.

For each goal, the plan provides strategies to meet expectations and measurable outcomes by which progress can be tracked.

For example, to accomplish Goal #1, the board will seek high-performing operators that have demonstrated the capacity to replicate a proven charter school model.

The ICSB will focus on truly innovative options for families. In its biannual Request for Proposals (RFP), the ICSB will seek applications from organizers proposing dramatically different schools models, instructional strategies or uses of technology, among other innovations.

In support of Goal #2, the ICSB has established a rigorous accountability framework that measures success based largely on outcomes rather than process. The ICSB will refine this framework over the next few months to align with the goals and outcomes set forth in the strategic plan. The board will use written reports, data analysis and school site visits to regularly assess each school’s performance. The ICSB will act swiftly to impose sanctions – including school closure - when schools fail to meet performance expectations.

The board’s third goal will be met if the process and outcomes laid out in its first two performance goals are achieved. ICSB’s commitment to improving learning outcomes for the students in its schools is best demonstrated through the last accountability expectation detailed in the report:

“Each year, 100 percent of the schools in the ICSB’s portfolio will meet ICSB Accountability Plan criteria related to academic success or will be categorized as ‘requiring additional scrutiny’ or designated for closure.”

The plan’s goals, strategies and outcomes were developed through a comprehensive strategic planning process that was facilitated by national education policy consulting firm Public Impact. The plan also demonstrates the board’s commitment to operational efficiency and transparency. A grant from the National Association of Charter School Authorizers’ Fund for Authorizing Excellence helped fund the creation of the ICSB strategic plan.

Staffing levels will be kept at a minimum and administrative oversight fees will be reduced over time to ensure more dollars flow to the classroom. Data on all ICSB schools will be made publically available through the ICSB website.

The ICSB’s first application process took place in the fall of 2011. Since that time, eleven organizers have been authorized by the ICSB to operate fourteen schools in Indiana.

More information on the ICSB and a full copy of the plan can be found at <http://www.in.gov/icsb>.