



OFFICE OF CHARTER SCHOOLS

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TO: *Indiana State Board of Education*
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FROM: Dr. Robert Marra, Executive Director
Ball State University, Office of Charter Schools

DATE: January 27, 2015

RE: Agenda Item – Ball State Authorized Charter Schools
Hoosier Academy and Options Charter School - Noblesville

Dear Board Members:

Thank you for giving Ball State University – Office of Charter Schools (“OCS”) the opportunity to address the academic concerns surrounding two of Ball State authorized charters, Hoosier Academy (“Hoosier”) and Options Charter School-Noblesville (“Options”). OCS understands the significance of Hoosier and Options remaining in the lowest category or designation of school improvement, as well as the potential outcomes as a result of receiving such designation. I.C. §24-2.2-2. Individualized improvement plans, as well as the alternative programs provided by Hoosier and Options exemplify both schools’ attempt to address academic deficiencies, particularly as it relates to a diverse and complex student body. Because of these improvement plans, and the unique alternative programs offered, Ball State respectfully requests that it be permitted to continue reviewing and monitoring both schools under its Academic, Financial and Organizational Performance Frameworks.

In 2013, Hoosier was granted a three (3) year charter renewal contract conditioned upon Hoosier’s strategic and continuous school improvement and achievement plan. I.C. §20-31-

5-2. Should Hoosier opt to apply, Hoosier's charter will be considered for renewal in the 2015-2016 school year. Note that during the final year of the charter contract, OCS will conduct a comprehensive review of a charter school's effectiveness in the areas of academic performance, financial performance, and organizational compliance. Ball State uses adopted standards of quality charter school authorizing as recognized by the National Association of Charter School Authorizers ("NASCA") and Public Impact. I.C. §20-24-2.2.1.5. Submissions for renewal are due by October 1, 2015. Ball State will make a recommendation regarding the renewal applications by January 15, 2016, with a final decision by March 1, 2016. It is important that Hoosier fulfill its contractual obligation, so as to allow Ball State the data necessary to assess any improvement and growth in accordance with Hoosier's charter agreement and Ball State's Performance Standards.

Options charter school provides an alternative environment, enrolling students with special needs and challenges, such as drug or alcohol addiction, prior withdrawal from school, prior incarceration, or other special circumstances. Because Options provides service in a different environment to that of a traditional public school, Ball State would like to continue its oversight of Options' methods and practices.

Thank you again for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have additional questions or concerns.