



INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

To: Indiana State Board of Education
From: Brian Murphy
Date: October 6, 2015
RE: Approval of Charter Grants

Recommendation: Adopt staff recommendations regarding charter grant applications.

IC 20-24-13 established the charter grant program, which provides for grants to certain charter schools in the amount of \$500.00 per eligible pupil. In short: 1) some charter schools automatically qualify for the grant, 2) some are automatically ineligible, and 3) some schools must apply to the SBOE for full or partial approval because they neither fully automatically qualify, nor are automatically ineligible.¹ The latter category of schools submitted applications to SBOE staff, which reviewed them and drafted recommendations.

The staff recommendations are attached, and below is a brief summary of the recommendations. Once the September ADM counts are finalized, staff will work with the Budget Agency so the amounts will be disbursed to the approved schools.

Summary of Recommendations:

- 1) Canaan Community Academy – deny because school is ineligible based on test irregularities for the most recently completed school year.
- 2) Career Academy High School – deny because this school is ineligible based on the fact that for two (2) consecutive years the school was placed in a worse category or designation of performance than the nearest non-charter public school that is configured to teach the same grades of students as the charter school teaches.
- 3) Carpe Diem/Meridian – approve grant in the amount of \$500 for each student served in all grades (6-12).

¹ More information about the eligibility requirements for charter grants can be found at http://www.in.gov/sboe/files/Network_School_Grant_Memorandum.pdf.

- 4) Community Montessori – deny based on the fact that the school was placed in a worse category or designation of performance (F) for the most recently completed school year than the nearest schools serving similar grade configurations.
- 5) Charter School of the Dunes – approve grant in the amount of \$500 for each student served in grades K-6.
- 6) East Chicago Lighthouse – approve grant in the amount of \$500 for each student served in grades 5-7.
- 7) Indiana Math & Science Academy/South – policy decision.
- 8) Indiana Life Sciences Academy (Imagine Indiana Life Science West) – approve grant in the amount of \$500 for each student served in grades 7-8.
- 9) Inspire Academy – deny because Inspire Academy received a worse grade (“D”) than South View Elementary School (“C”), serving grades K-5 for the 2013-14 school year.
- 10) New Community School – policy decision. One option is that New Community School receive grant funds for grades 5-6 because it received a C in 12-13, which is the same as Lafayette Sunnyside. Therefore, it is not automatically ineligible for those grades.
- 11) Options Charter School Noblesville 2551/Options Charter School Noblesville 2524 – approve grant in the amount of \$500 for each student served in all grades at both locations.
- 12) Xavier – approve grant in amount of \$500 for each student served in grades K-4.

CHARTER AND INNOVATION NETWORK SCHOOL GRANT PROGRAM

Application Period July 1, 2015 through September 1, 2015

Recommendation

Applicant Information	
Charter School Name:	School Number:
Canaan Community Academy	3312
Eligibility: Canaan Community Academy's 2013-14 ISTEP scores were ruled "invalid" by the Indiana Department of Education after an investigation found irregularities in how the test was administered during the 2013-2014 school year. This placement was approved by the State Board at its November 5, 2014 meeting.	
Recommendation: It is our recommendation that Canaan Community Academy not receive a grant for the 2013-14 school year. While IC 20-43-13-4(3) provides that a charter school is automatically eligible if it "does not receive a category or designation of performance established under IC 20-31-8-3 for the most recently completed school year," we do not believe that it was the intent of the legislature, or good policy, to include schools in this category who did not receive a category or designation due to testing irregularities.	

CHARTER AND INNOVATION NETWORK SCHOOL GRANT PROGRAM

Application Period July 1, 2015 through September 1, 2015

Recommendation

Applicant Information	
Charter School Name:	School Number:
Career Academy High School	7564
Eligibility: <p>A charter school that was placed in the “D” or “F” category or designation for the most recently completed school year where there is no nearest non-charter public school configured to teach the exact same grades of students as the charter school teaches. The school is not eligible if for two (2) consecutive years the school has not been placed in the same or a better category or designation for the most recently completed school year than the nearest non-charter public school that is configured to teach the same grades of students as the charter school teaches.</p> <p>Career Academy High School serves grades 9-12 and received an “F” grade for 2013-14 and an “F” grade for 2012-13. The nearest non-charter public school is Washington High School, which received a “D” grade for 2013-14 and a “D” grade for 2012-13.</p> <p>Career Academy High School generally would be ineligible for a grant because for two (2) consecutive years the school was placed in a worse category or designation of performance (“F”) than the nearest non-charter public school that is configured to teach the same grades of students as the charter school teaches (“D”).</p> <p>However, the school submitted a New School Improvement Baseline Request (511 IAC 6.2-6-5.9) to the Department in July of 2015 based on a change of at least 70% of the student population and a significant change in staffing. 511 IAC 6.2-6-5.9 provides the opportunity for a school to apply for a new accountability baseline if the school has had a 70% change of student population, a significant change in educational philosophy, curriculum or staffing, and the change isn’t being made to avoid accountability. This process allows for a determination to be made as to whether the influx of students has an impact on the accountability before the appeals process occurs.</p>	
Recommendation: <p>The New School Improvement Baseline Request, even if granted, would not affect the High School’s accountability grade for 2013-14. Therefore, the High School is ineligible for a grant because for two (2) consecutive years the charter school has been placed in a worse category or designation of performance for the most recently completed school year than the nearest non-charter public school that is configured to teach the same grades of students as the charter school teaches.</p>	

CHARTER AND INNOVATION NETWORK SCHOOL GRANT PROGRAM

Application Period July 1, 2015 through September 1, 2015

Recommendation

Applicant Information	
Charter School Name:	School Number:
Carpe Diem – Meridian	9755 (5979)
Eligibility: A charter school that was placed in the “D” or “F” category or designation for the most recently completed school year where there is no nearest non-charter public school configured to teach the exact same grades of students as the charter school teaches. The school is not eligible if for two (2) consecutive years the school has not been placed in the same or a better category or designation for the most recently completed school year than the nearest non-charter public school that is configured to teach the same grades of students as the charter school teaches. Carpe Diem serves grades 6-12. Its 2013-14 school grade was a “D.” It did not receive a grade in 2012-13. There are no other nearby non-charter public schools serving grades 6-12. The nearest schools serving similar grade configurations are: [By distance] Elder W. Diggs Elementary School (K-6) – 2013-14 school grade = “F” (2.1 m) Arsenal Tech High School (9-12) – 2013-14 school grade = “D” (2.5 m)	
Recommendation Carpe Diem – Meridian received a better grade (“D”) than Elder W. Diggs (“F”) for the 2013-14 school year. Carpe Diem – Meridian received the same grade (“D”) as Arsenal Tech High School (“D”) for the 2013-14 school year. It is our recommendation that Carpe Diem - Meridian receive the full grant amount for all grades served.	

CHARTER AND INNOVATION NETWORK SCHOOL GRANT PROGRAM

Application Period July 1, 2015 through September 1, 2015

Recommendation

Applicant Information	
Charter School Name:	School Number:
Community Montessori	1536
Eligibility: A charter school that was placed in the “D” or “F” category or designation for the most recently completed school year where there is no nearest non-charter public school configured to teach the exact same grades of students as the charter school teaches. The school is not eligible if for two (2) consecutive years the school has not been placed in the same or a better category or designation for the most recently completed school year than the nearest non-charter public school that is configured to teach the same grades of students as the charter school teaches. Community Montessori serves grades K-12. The school received a “D” grade for both the 2012-13 and 2013-14 school years. There are no nearby non-charter public schools serving grades K-12. The nearest schools serving similar grade configurations are: [By distance] Grant Line School (K-4) – 2012-13 = “B”; 2013-14 = “C” (0.4 m). Hazelwood Middle School (5-8) – 2012-13 = “C”; 2013-14 = “A” (4.6 m). New Albany High School (9-12) – 2012-13 = “C”; 2013-14 = “C” (4.5 m).	
Recommendation Community Montessori received a worse grade (“D”) than Grant Line School (“C”), serving grades K-4, a worse grade (“D”) than Hazelwood Middle School (“A”), serving grade 5-8, and a worse grade (“D”) than New Albany High School (“C”) for the 2013-14 school year. It is our recommendation that Community Montessori receive no grant funds.	

CHARTER AND INNOVATION NETWORK SCHOOL GRANT PROGRAM

Application Period July 1, 2015 through September 1, 2015

Recommendation

Applicant Information	
Charter School Name:	School Number:
Charter School of the Dunes	1535 (9310)
Eligibility: A charter school that was placed in the “D” or “F” category or designation for the most recently completed school year where there is no nearest non-charter public school configured to teach the exact same grades of students as the charter school teaches. The school is not eligible if for two (2) consecutive years the school has not been placed in the same or a better category or designation for the most recently completed school year than the nearest non-charter public school that is configured to teach the same grades of students as the charter school teaches. Charter School of the Dunes serves grades K-12. It received an “F” grade in 2012-13 and in 2013-14. There are no other nearby non-charter public schools serving K-12, the nearest schools serving similar grade configurations are: [By distance] Jacques Marquette Elementary School (K-6) – 2012-13 = “F”; 2013-14 = “F” (1.9m). Thomas A Edison Jr-Sr High School (7-12) – 2012-13 = “D”; 2013-14 = “B” (2.0m).	
Recommendation: Charter School of the Dunes received the same grade as Jacques Marquette Elementary School for both the 2012-13 and 2013-14 school years. It received a worse grade than Thomas A Edison Jr-Sr High School for both the 2012-13 and 2013-14 school years. It is our recommendation that Charter School of the Dunes receive a partial grant equal to the number of students it serves in grades K-6.	

CHARTER AND INNOVATION NETWORK SCHOOL GRANT PROGRAM

Application Period July 1, 2015 through September 1, 2015

Recommendation

Applicant Information	
Charter School Name:	School Number:
East Chicago Lighthouse	9595
Eligibility:	
<p>A charter school that was placed in the “D” or “F” category or designation for the most recently completed school year where there is no nearest non-charter public school configured to teach the exact same grades of students as the charter school teaches. The school is not eligible if for two (2) consecutive years the school has not been placed in the same or a better category or designation for the most recently completed school year than the nearest non-charter public school that is configured to teach the same grades of students as the charter school teaches.</p>	
<p>East Chicago Lighthouse serves grades K-7. It received an “F” grade in 2012-13 and a “D” grade in 2013-14. There are no other nearby non-charter public schools serving K-7, the nearest schools serving similar grade configurations are:</p>	
<p>[By distance]</p>	
<p>Abraham Lincoln Elementary School (PK-4) – 2012-13 = “A”; 2013-14 = “A” (0.7 m)</p>	
<p>Joseph Block Middle School (7-8) – 2012-13 = “F”; 2013-14 = “F” (0.7 m).</p>	
<p>Benjamin Franklin Elementary School – this school is now closed, but offered grades 5-6 in 2012-13 and 2013-14. The school received an “F” for both the 2012-13 and 2013-14 school years (0.7 m).</p>	
Recommendation:	
<p>East Chicago Lighthouse received a better grade (“D”) than Joseph Block Middle School (“F”) and the Benjamin Franklin Elementary School (“F”) for the 2013-14 school year. It received a worse grade (“D”) than Abraham Lincoln Elementary School (“A”) for the 2013-14 school year. It is our recommendation that East Chicago Lighthouse receive a partial grant equal to the number of students it serves in grades 5-7.</p>	

CHARTER AND INNOVATION NETWORK SCHOOL GRANT PROGRAM

Application Period July 1, 2015 through September 1, 2015

Recommendation

Applicant Information	
Charter School Name:	School Number:
Indiana Math & Science Academy – South	5671 (9375)
Eligibility: A charter school that was placed in the “D” or “F” category or designation for the most recently completed school year where there is no nearest non-charter public school configured to teach the exact same grades of students as the charter school teaches. The school is not eligible if for two (2) consecutive years the school has not been placed in the same or a better category or designation for the most recently completed school year than the nearest non-charter public school that is configured to teach the same grades of students as the charter school teaches. Indiana Math & Science Academy – South currently serves grades K-8 (it served grades K-7 in the 2013-14 school year). The school did not receive a grade 2012-13 school year and received a “D” grade for the 2013-14 school year. There are no nearby non-charter public schools serving grades K-7 (the grades served by the school during the year of comparison). The nearest schools serving similar grade configurations are: [By distance] Eleanor Skillen School 34 (K-6) – 2012-13 = “F”; 2013-14 = “B” (1.5 m). Paul I Miller School 114 (PK-6) -- 2012-13 = “C”; 2013-14 = “B” (1.8 m) [Default]. Emma Donnan Middle School (7-8) – 2012-13 = “F”; 2013-14 = “F” (2.6 m) [Default]. James A Garfield School 31 (KG-8) – 2012-13 = “D”; 2013-14 = “C” (2.6 m).	
Recommendation	
Policy decision. One option is that the SBOE could award grant for grades 7-8 since the school had a better grade in 13-14 than Emma Donnan.	

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CHARTER AND INNOVATION NETWORK SCHOOL GRANT PROGRAM

Application Period July 1, 2015 through September 1, 2015

Recommendation

Applicant Information	
Charter School Name:	School Number:
Indiana Life Sciences Academy (Imagine Indiana Life Science West)	5484
Eligibility: A charter school that was placed in the “D” or “F” category or designation for the most recently completed school year where there is no nearest non-charter public school configured to teach the exact same grades of students as the charter school teaches. The school is not eligible if for two (2) consecutive years the school has not been placed in the same or a better category or designation for the most recently completed school year than the nearest non-charter public school that is configured to teach the same grades of students as the charter school teaches. Indiana Life Sciences Academy currently serves grades K-8. The school received a “D” grade for the 2012-13 school year and an “F” grade for the 2013-14 school year. There are no nearby non-charter public schools serving grades K-8. The nearest schools serving similar grade configurations are: [By distance] Carl Wilde School 79 (K-6) – 2012-13 = “A”; 2013-14 = “A” (0.07 m). Northwest Community Jr High School (7-8) – 2012-13 = “F”; 2013-14 = “F” (0.7 m).	
Recommendation For the 2013-14 school year, Indiana Life Sciences Academy received a worse grade (“D”) than Carl Wilde School 79 (“A”), serving grades K-6, and received a better grade (“D”) than Northwest Community Jr High School (“F”), serving grades 7-8. It is our recommendation that Indiana Life Sciences Academy receive a partial grant equal to the number of students it serves in grades 7-8.	

CHARTER AND INNOVATION NETWORK SCHOOL GRANT PROGRAM

Application Period July 1, 2015 through September 1, 2015

Recommendation

Applicant Information	
Charter School Name:	School Number:
Inspire Academy	1518 (9735)
Eligibility: <p>A charter school that was placed in the “D” or “F” category or designation for the most recently completed school year where there is no nearest non-charter public school configured to teach the exact same grades of students as the charter school teaches. The school is not eligible if for two (2) consecutive years the school has not been placed in the same or a better category or designation for the most recently completed school year than the nearest non-charter public school that is configured to teach the same grades of students as the charter school teaches.</p> <p>Inspire Academy currently serves grades K-6 (the school served grades K-5 in the 2013-14 school year). The school did not receive a grade for the 2012-13 school year and received a “D” grade for the 2013-14 school year. There are no nearby non-charter public schools serving grades K-5 (the grades served by the school during the year of comparison). The nearest schools serving similar grade configurations during 2013-14 were:</p> <p>[By distance] South View Elementary School (K-5) – 2012-13 = “C”; 2013-14 = “C” (0.6 m). Southside Middle School (6-8) – 2012-13 = “F”; 2013-14 = “F” (1.8 m).</p>	
Recommendation <p>Inspire Academy received a worse grade (“D”) than South View Elementary School (“C”), serving grades K-5 for the 2013-14 school year. It is our recommendation that Inspire Academy not receive a grant this year.</p>	

CHARTER AND INNOVATION NETWORK SCHOOL GRANT PROGRAM

Application Period July 1, 2015 through September 1, 2015

Recommendation

Applicant Information	
Charter School Name:	School Number:
New Community School	1538
Eligibility:	
<p>A charter school that was placed in the “D” or “F” category or designation for the most recently completed school year where there is no nearest non-charter public school configured to teach the exact same grades of students as the charter school teaches. The school is not eligible if for two (2) consecutive years the school has not been placed in the same or a better category or designation for the most recently completed school year than the nearest non-charter public school that is configured to teach the same grades of students as the charter school teaches.</p> <p>New Community School currently serves grades K-8 (it served grades K-7 in the 2013-14 school year). The school received a “C” grade for the 2012-13 school year and an “F” grade for the 2013-14 school year. There are no nearby non-charter public schools serving grades K-7 (the grades served by the school during the year of comparison). The nearest schools serving similar grade configurations are:</p> <p>[By distance] Murdock Elementary School (K-4) – 2012-13 = “A”; 2013-14 = “A” (0.7 m) Lafayette Sunnyside Intermediate (5-6) – 2012-13 = “C”; 2013-14 = “C” (0.8 m) Vinton Elementary (K-4) – 2012-13 = “A”; 2013-14 = “A” (0.9 m) <i>Mays Elementary (K-6) – 2012-13 = “A”; 2013-14 = “A” (1.2 m). [Closed]</i> Lafayette Tecumseh Jr High (7-8) – 2012-13 = “B”; 2013-14 = “C” (2.4 m). West Lafayette Jr/Sr High School (7-12) – 2012-13 = “A”; 2013-14 = “A” (2.5 m)</p>	
Recommendation	
<p>Policy decision. One option is that New Community School receive grant funds for grades 5-6 because it received a C in 12-13, which is the same as Lafayette Sunnyside. Therefore, it is not automatically ineligible for those grades.</p>	

CHARTER AND INNOVATION NETWORK SCHOOL GRANT PROGRAM

Application Period July 1, 2015 through September 1, 2015

Recommendation

Applicant Information	
Charter School Name:	School Number:
Options Charter School Noblesville	2551
Options Charter School Noblesville	2524
Eligibility: A school that has a majority of students with developmental, intellectual, or behavioral challenges is automatically eligible for the grant. Guidance issued by State Board staff requires schools qualifying under this category to submit a signed letter to the State Board explaining specifically how it so qualifies.	
Recommendation: Both Options schools are officially designated as State-approved Alternative Education Programs under IC 20-30-8 because a majority of the students have “failed to comply academically and would benefit from instruction offered in a manner different from instruction offered in a traditional school” or “intends to withdraw or has withdrawn from school before graduation.” See IC 20-30-8-10. The two Options Charter Schools qualify for the grant pursuant to IC 20-24-13-4(4).	

CHARTER AND INNOVATION NETWORK SCHOOL GRANT PROGRAM

Application Period July 1, 2015 through September 1, 2015

Recommendation

Applicant Information	
Charter School Name:	School Number:
Xavier School of Excellence	9845
Eligibility: A charter school that was placed in the “D” or “F” category or designation for the most recently completed school year where there is no nearest non-charter public school configured to teach the exact same grades of students as the charter school teaches. The school is not eligible if for two (2) consecutive years the school has not been placed in the same or a better category or designation for the most recently completed school year than the nearest non-charter public school that is configured to teach the same grades of students as the charter school teaches. The Xavier School of Excellence serves grades K-8. The school received an “F” grade for both the 2012-13 and 2013-14 school years. There are no nearby non-charter public schools serving grades K-8. The nearest schools serving similar grade configurations are: [By distance] Monroe Primary Center (K-4) – 2012-13 = “D”; 2013-14 = “F” (0.6 m). Marshall Intermediate Center (5-8) – 2012-13 = “F”; 2013-14 = “D” (2.2 m).	
Recommendation The Xavier School of Excellence received the same grade (“F”) as Monroe Primary Center (“F”), serving grades K-4, and a worse grade than Marshall Intermediate Center (“D”), serving grade 5-8, for the 2013-14 school year. It is our recommendation that the Xavier School of Excellence receive a partial grant equal to the number of students it serves in grades K-4.	