

Update on the Indiana Charter School Board

Presentation to the State Board of Education
January 2, 2013



INDIANA CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD

Contents

- Indiana Charter Schools Landscape
- Overview of Indiana Charter School Board
- Charter Board's Activities To Date
- Charter Board's Current Priorities



Indiana's Charter School Authorizers

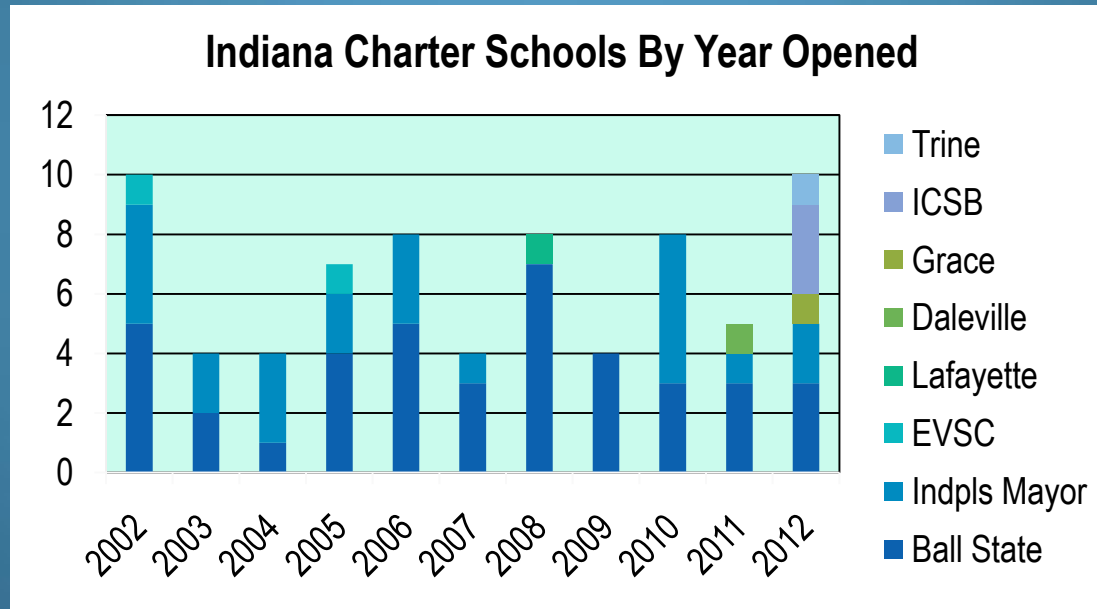
- In May 2001, Indiana became the 37th state to enact charter schools legislation.
- The original law allowed for the following to act as charter school authorizers (also called “sponsors”):
 - Governing bodies of school corporations
 - State educational institutions that provide a four-year baccalaureate degree
 - The executive of a consolidated city (i.e., the Mayor of Indianapolis).
- For 10 years, the state’s primary authorizers were Ball State University and The Mayor of Indianapolis. In addition, two school corporations have served as authorizers (Evansville Vanderburgh and Lafayette School Corporations).
- In May 2011, Indiana’s charter schools law was amended to add the following statewide authorizers:
 - The Indiana Charter School Board, an independent charter schools commission
 - Non-profit colleges or universities that provide a four-year degree program
- Currently, there are 8 active authorizers in Indiana:
 - Ball State University, Daleville Community Schools, Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation, Grace College, Indiana Charter School Board, Indianapolis Mayor’s Office, Lafayette School Corporation, and Trine University



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Indiana's Charter Schools

- There are 72 charter schools statewide, 10 of which opened in August 2012 under 5 different authorizers.
- 31 charter schools are located in Indianapolis, 8 are in Gary, and 5 are in Fort Wayne.
- Other locations include: Anderson, Bloomington, Carmel, Columbus, East Chicago, Evansville, Lafayette, LaPorte, Madison, Marion, McCordsville, Muncie, New Albany, Noblesville, Portage, Porter, Richmond, Schererville, Sellersburg, South Bend, and West Lafayette.



* NOTE: Chart does not represent schools that have been closed by their authorizer.



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Indiana Charter School Board: Overview

- Established in July 2011 as a statewide charter school authorizer.
- Per IC 20-24-2.1-2, the Indiana Charter School Board's duties are the following: establish a process to: (a) review a proposal to establish a charter school (b) make a decision on the proposal; and (c) monitor charter schools sponsored by the charter board.
- The Indiana Charter School Board ("ICSB") was established as an independent state agency. It has been incubated within the Indiana Department of Education for the past 18 months and will separate in January 2013.
 - IC 20-24-2.1-3: The department shall provide staff to carry out the duties of the charter board under this chapter until the time when the charter board begins receiving administrative fees pursuant to IC 20-24-7-4(e).
- As with all authorizers, the ICSB may collect up to 3% of basic tuition support from the schools it authorizes to fund authorizing duties.
- Seven (7) voting board members are appointed to the ICSB for four-year terms. Board members are appointed by the Governor (2 appointments), the Superintendent of Public Instruction (1 appointment), and the leaders of the majority and minority political parties in both the Indiana House of Representatives and Senate (1 appointment each).



INDIANA CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD

Indiana Charter School Board: Board & Staff

- Seven current Board members :
 - *Maureen Weber (Chair) – Appointed by Dr. Tony Bennett
 - Larry DeMoss – Appointed by Senator Vi Simpson
 - Jamie Garwood – Appointed by Senator David Long
 - Virginia Calvin, Ed.D.– Appointed by House Minority Leader Patrick Bauer
 - Scott Jenkins – Appointed by Governor Mitch Daniels
 - M. Karega Rausch – Appointed by House Speaker Brian Bosma
 - Bill Shrewsberry – Appointed by Governor Mitch Daniels

*NOTE: Ms. Weber replaced Mr. Todd Huston, who resigned in September 2012 due to other obligations. The ICSB Chair is named by the Governor.
- Two full-time staff members:
 - Claire Fiddian-Green, Executive Director
 - Sarah McClamroch Sullivan, Manager
 - Start-Up support from IDOE, including Legal Affairs and Communications



Indiana Charter School Board: Vision & Mission

The ICSB received a planning grant from The Fund for Authorizing Excellence in Fall 2011. The Board and staff went through a facilitated strategic planning process last Winter and Spring and adopted a 5-Year Strategic Plan in June 2012.

Vision

- The ICSB's vision is that students throughout Indiana have access to high-performing public schools.

Mission

- The ICSB's mission is to authorize and hold accountable a portfolio of high-performing charter schools in which students achieve high levels of growth and graduate prepared for college and careers.



Indiana Charter School Board: Guiding Principles

- **Students First.** When performing its duties, the ICSB always assesses whether its actions will further the best interests of students.
- **High Expectations.** The ICSB expects the charter schools it authorizes to set high academic achievement expectations, develop strong plans for family and community engagement, and adhere to high ethical standards for students, staff and board members. Similarly, the ICSB establishes high performance expectations, engagement plans and ethical standards for itself.
- **Excellence in Leadership.** Operating a high-performing charter school requires excellent leadership from school boards and staff. The ICSB authorizes schools that can demonstrate strong leadership at both the school governance and administrative levels.
- **Commitment to Innovation.** The ICSB is particularly interested in operators that show strong potential to accelerate student success through dramatically different school models, instructional strategies, uses of technology, staffing models, governance arrangements, family and community engagement strategies, and other approaches.
- **Rigorous and Transparent Accountability.** The ICSB holds schools accountable for performance through rigorous and transparent accountability mechanisms that uphold schools' autonomy, foster excellence, and protect student and public interests. In turn, the ICSB is held to a high performance bar by the State Board of Education.



Indiana Charter School Board: Application Process

- Two application cycles per year: Spring and Fall.
- Differentiated application process for new operators and experienced operators.
- Letter of Intent is required, followed by a Full Application.
- Review process for Full Applications includes:
 - Application scored by Indiana Charter School Board staff, legal counsel, and external evaluators with expertise in charter schools. Evaluators use a rubric that is posted on our website.
 - Due diligence with other authorizers and State Education Agencies (if applicable).
 - In-person interviews.
 - Public hearings, as required by Indiana law.
 - Final Q&A with voting Board members.
- Board meeting, open to the public, where voting members make final charter determinations.
- Application process is designed to assess the demonstrated capacity of the applicant group to open and operate a high performing charter school, as defined in our Accountability System.



Indiana Charter School Board: Accountability System

- The ICSB is committed to fulfilling its role as a high-quality charter school authorizer by holding its schools accountable across a clear set of objective performance criteria.
- The core components of the ICSB Accountability System are the **charter agreement** and the **Accountability Plan**, which is incorporated into the charter agreement.
- The Accountability Plan consists of a set of standard goals and outcome measures across three performance dimensions: **academic success, financial health, and organizational compliance.**
- These outcome measures enable the ICSB to assess on a consistent basis the performance of each school within its portfolio. A school's progress as measured against the Accountability Plan performance dimensions is assessed through a combination of written reports, data submission, and annual site visits. This collective body of evidence is used to assess school performance over the charter term and also forms the basis for charter renewal decisions.
- To ensure full transparency, ICSB performance assessments will be reported annually to the school's leader and Board of Directors, and posted on the ICSB website. We have created a Performance Dashboard for this purpose.



Indiana Charter School Board: Accountability System Highlights

Academic Success Goals and Outcomes for all schools by end of 5-Year charter term

- School receives a B or higher under P.L. 221/ A-F Model
- School outperforms comparable schools on state assessments

Additional Goal for K-8 Schools

- 81% or more of students pass the IREAD assessment in grade 3.

Additional Goals for Grades 9-12

- 75% or more of graduating students in the current school year achieve at least one of the following college and career readiness indicators:
 - Scored a composite PSAT score of at least 145 or 152 (if administered in either 10th or 11th grade) and a combined SAT score of at least 1550.
 - Scored minimum PLAN composite score of 18; and minimum ACT composite score of 21.
 - Scored a 3, 4 or a 5 on the AP exam.
 - Scored a 4, 5, 6 or 7 on the IB exam.
 - Earned 3 or more college transcribed and verifiable credits from the Priority Liberal Arts or CTE course lists.
 - Earned an industry certification approved by the Indiana Department of Education and Indiana Department of Workforce Development.
- 80% or more of high school graduates enroll in a post-secondary institution or are employed within 5 months following graduation.
- 95% of graduates who receive a waiver diploma must also receive an industry certification

Financial Health and Organizational Compliance Goals and Outcomes are consistent for all schools. Examples include: clean audits, material compliance with Open Door Law.



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Indiana Charter School Board: Start-Up Activities

- Executive Director began duties in June 2011; Manager in place by August 2011.
- Full Board appointed by September 2011.
- Staff conducted extensive research on authorizing best practices with the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (“NACSA”), which in turn connected the ICSB with authorizers and charter school experts around the country. Benchmarking allowed us to focus upon designing systems and processes that would result in quality authorizing.
- We continue to rely upon NACSA and its members to advise us as we conduct our work. We would also like to thank and acknowledge the Indianapolis Mayor’s Office and Ball State University for their assistance and partnership during our start-up.
- Application procedures adopted; most Accountability System procedures adopted.
- Three application cycles conducted to date: Fall 2011, Spring and Fall 2012.
- The Board has held 12 Meetings as of December 2012, during which all ICSB policies have been debated, revised as needed, and adopted.
- Board members and staff have participated in 19 public hearings around the state.
- Completed the development of our new website, which includes a video interview series entitled “Charter School Excellence: What it takes to create and sustain a high-performing charter school.”



Indiana Charter School Board: Approved Charter Schools

- During its first three application cycles, the ICSB received complete applications from 30 organizers (i.e., the nonprofit, tax-exempt entity that submits an application to an authorizer).
- The ICSB's voting members have approved applications from 11 organizers.
- Three schools opened in August 2012:
 - Carpe Diem Meridian in Indianapolis, Grades 6-12
 - The Excel Center – Anderson, Grades 9-12
 - Thurgood Marshall Leadership Academy in Fort Wayne, Grades K-8
- Ten schools are approved to open in August 2013:
 - BASIS in Indianapolis, Grades 5-12
 - George and Veronica Phalen Leadership Academy in Indianapolis, Grades K-8
 - East Indianapolis Charter Academy in Indianapolis, Grades K-6
 - Nexus Academy of Indianapolis, Grades 9-12
 - Premier High School of Indianapolis, Grades 9-12
 - South Indianapolis Charter Academy in Indianapolis, Grades K-6
 - The Excel Center – Kokomo, Grades 9-12
 - The Excel Center – Lafayette, Grades 9-12
 - The Performing Arts Conservatory in Indianapolis, Grades 6-12
 - Via Charter School in Scottsburg, Grades K-6



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Indiana Charter School Board: Approved Charter Schools

- One school is approved to open in August 2015
 - Rocketship Indianapolis Public School in Indianapolis, Grades K-5
- Full applications for each approved and declined school are posted on the ICSB website. Applicants may also withdraw their application at anytime during the application cycle; several have chosen to do so once they have gone through the complete application assessment process.
- Four of the 11 approved organizers were awarded multiple charters over a number of years:
 - Carpe Diem Indiana, Inc.
 - Goodwill Education Initiatives, Inc.
 - Rocketship Education
 - The Phalen Leadership Academies – Indiana, Inc.
- Advantages for organizers:
 - Enables strategic hiring decisions and assists with talent attraction and retention
 - Enables long-term, strategic facilities and financial planning
- Managing multiple charter recipients:
 - Each organizer must go through a “green-lighting” process with its own Board of Directors and with the ICSB. If an organizer is meeting or exceeding Accountability System criteria, or is on track to do so in the short term, then the organizer may request permission from the ICSB to open a subsequent school.
 - An organizer that fails to meet performance criteria will not receive permission from the ICSB to open subsequent schools.
 - ICSB’s Bottom Line: quality.



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Indiana Charter School Board: Current Priorities

- Continue to emphasize quality when assessing charter school applicants.
- Monitor the three schools that opened this August.
- Oversee the successful start-up of the ten schools approved to open in August 2013.
 - We know from our own experience as well as the experience of more established authorizers that there will be unforeseen circumstances that result in the delay of a school opening.
- Continue to support the development of the nascent Indiana Authorizer Alliance, a forum in which Indiana's authorizers share information, resources and best practices, and identify meaningful ways in which to collaborate.
- In September 2012, the ICSB received a grant from The Fund for Authorizing Excellence to implement priority initiatives that align with the goals set forth in the ICSB's 5-Year Strategic Plan:
 - Finalize our Accountability System processes and procedures. (COMPLETED DECEMBER 2012)
 - Create alternate academic accountability criteria for dropout recovery high schools, which factor in the out-of-cohort challenge. (COMPLETED NOVEMBER 2012)
 - Create application tools and processes designed to foster greater innovation in the state's charter schools sector.



Website Resources

- Charter Schools Law: IC§20-24:
<http://www.in.gov/legislative/ic/code/title20/ar24/>
- Indiana Charter School Board Webpage:
<http://www.in.gov/icsb/index.htm>
- IDOE Charter Schools Webpage:
<http://www.doe.in.gov/idoec/charter-schools>

