

**APPROVE THE PRE-QUALIFICATION STATUS OF VARIOUS SCHOOL OPERATORS  
AND SCHOOL MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS TO PROVIDE DESIGNATED SERVICES**

**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:**

Approve the pre-qualification status of various school operators and school management consultants to provide designated services over a period of four years. School operators and consultants were selected on a competitive basis pursuant to an Invited Request for Proposals. If awarded a subsequent agreement authorized by the Board, school operators and consultants and the Board will negotiate, as applicable, an amendment to a Charter School Agreement, a Performance and Management Agreement, or a Consulting Agreement. No services shall be provided by any School Operator prior to the execution of such subsequent agreement. Information pertinent to this matter is stated below.

**SCHOOL OPERATORS:**

1. University of Chicago Charter School c/o Center for Urban School Improvement  
1313 East 60<sup>th</sup> Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60637  
Phone: (773) 702-0663  
Contact Person: Linda Wing  
School Model: New charter school campuses  
School Type & Grade: Charter Schools (Elementary and Middle Schools)
2. Noble Network of Charter Schools  
1010 N. Noble Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60622  
Phone: (773) 862-1449  
Contact Person: Michael Milkie, Superintendent  
School Model: New charter school campuses  
School Type & Grades: Charter School (High Schools)
3. American Quality Schools, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation  
850 West Jackson Blvd., Suite 275  
Chicago, IL 60607  
Phone: (847) 467-2876  
Contact Person: Michael Bakalis  
School Model: New Start and Turnaround  
School Type & Grades: Contract, (Elementary Schools)
4. UNO Charter School Network  
954 W. Washington Blvd., 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60607  
Phone: (312) 432-6301  
Contact Person: Juan Rangel, President  
School Model: New charter school campuses  
School Type & Grades: Charter School, (Elementary Schools)

**OVERSIGHT:**

Office of New Schools ("ONS")  
125 S. Clark, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Chicago, IL 60603  
773-553-1530  
Contact Person: Josh Edelman, Executive Officer

**BACKGROUND:**

In the fourth year of launching the Renaissance 2010 review process, ONS issued a Request for Proposals on April 11, 2007 that featured an evaluation process (called the Invited RFP) for school operators experienced in successful school replication. The purpose of the Invited RFP is to enhance the District's ability to efficiently meet the demand for new Renaissance 2010 schools, especially in time-sensitive situations such as the need to conduct a "Turnaround" in a matter of months in priority communities. By creating a pipeline of experienced school operators and consultants, each pre-qualified to provide a specific services, the District will have the flexibility to designate identified school operators to handle such situations in an efficient and strategic manner.

Measured on stringent academic performance criteria, ONS extended invitations to select school operators and consultants to submit proposals to provide specific services over a four-year period, through the submission of one application. Proposals were to open distinct school models that include "New Start" and "Turnaround" schools at the high school or elementary school level(s). "New Start" schools are those schools or campuses established by the Board without a pre-existing student population. "New Starts" typically begin with one or a limited set of grades and grow to full capacity over a period of years. "Turnarounds" refer to situations where operators or consultants are asked to serve an existing school population in an existing CPS building with all grades operating in the first turnaround year. Ability to operate a "Turnaround" requires participation in a Turnaround Supplemental Question process, to be released in November 2007. The school operators identified in this Board Report are being recommended based upon a review and evaluation of the submitted proposals.

**TERM OF PRE-QUALIFICATION:** The term of this pre-qualification period shall commence on January 1, 2008 and shall end December 31, 2011. The Board shall have the right to terminate the pre-qualification status of a school operator or consultant in its discretion.

**USE OF PRE-QUALIFIED POOL OF SCHOOL OPERATORS:** Award of a subsequent agreement to a school operator or consultant is contingent upon the school operator or consultant submitting timely responses to requests for additional information (RFI), filing supplements to their respective proposal, participating in interviews and community forums, and providing any other information requested by the Board. The award of an agreement and the opening of any New Start School or provision of Turnaround School services is also contingent upon further Board approval via a Board Report and such other contingencies including, but not limited to, District needs, demographics, the School Operators' continued demonstration of organizational, educational and financial capacity, satisfaction of eligibility criteria, and certification by the Illinois State Board of Education where required. School Operators are not guaranteed the award of an agreement, and if awarded an agreement are not guaranteed any given number of seats in any given year or any community, as such matters are based on community input, available CPS resources, and other such conditions. Public hearings will be held in compliance with state law and Board policy prior to the award of an agreement. A Performance and Management Agreement, Consulting Agreement, and/or amendment to an existing charter school agreement with each school operator or consultant will be negotiated only after Board authorization pursuant to a Board Report is obtained. The type of school model for which each school operator or consultant is pre-qualified is indicated above. The school operators and consultants are pre-qualified to open a maximum of four (4) schools or campuses during the pre-qualification period, with a maximum number of two (2) schools or campuses per year.

**FINANCIAL:** There is no cost to the Board as a result of designating these school operators and consultants as pre-qualified.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** A public hearing on these school operators' plans for opening multiple schools/campuses occurred on August 15, 2007 and September 19, 2007 at CPS Board Chambers, 125 S. Clark St., Chicago, IL 60603 in accordance with the Renaissance Policy. The hearings were recorded. A summary report of the hearing is available for review. Any additional public hearings required by state law or district policy prior to the utilization of any seats referenced herein shall be held in a timely and compliant manner.

**AUTHORIZATION:** Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to conduct abbreviated request for proposal, request for additional information, or similar processes subject to further Board review and approval prior to award.

**AFFIRMATIVE ACTION:** Not Applicable

**LCS REVIEW:** Local School Council approval is not applicable to this report.

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:**

Inspector General – Each party to the agreement shall acknowledge that, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-13.1, the Inspector General of the Board of Education has the authority to conduct certain investigations and that the Inspector General shall have access to all information and personnel necessary to conduct those investigations.

Conflicts – The agreement shall not be legally binding on the Board if entered into in violation of the Provisions of 105 ILCS 5/34-21.3, which restricts the employment of, or the letting of contracts to, former Board members during the one-year period following expiration or other termination of their terms of office.

Indebtedness – The Board's indebtedness Policy adopted June 26, 2006 (96-0626-P03), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

Ethics - The Board's Ethics Code adopted June 23, 2004 (04-0623-PO4), as amended from time to time shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

Contingent Liability - The agreement shall contain the clause that any expenditure beyond the current fiscal year is deemed a contingent liability, subject to appropriation in subsequent fiscal year budget(s).

**Approved:**

  
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**Barbara Eason-Watkins**  
Chief Education Officer


**Respectfully submitted:**

  
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**Arne Duncan**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Within Appropriation:**

  
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**Pedro Martinez**  
Chief Financial Officer

**Approved as to Legal Form:** 

  
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**Patrick J. Rocks**  
General Counsel