

January 25, 2023

AUTHORIZE RENEWAL OF THE INSTITUTO JUSTICE AND LEADERSHIP ACADEMY CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL AGREEMENT WITH PERFORMANCE BENCHMARKS AND CONDITIONS**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:**

Authorize renewal of the Instituto Justice and Leadership Academy Charter High School Agreement (the "Charter School Agreement") for a one year period, commencing July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024, with performance benchmarks and conditions. A new Charter School Agreement, which will constitute the Charter applicable to this renewal term, will include the conditions set forth in this report and the benchmarks as established by the Chief Executive Officer or designee, the Office of Network Support. The authority granted herein shall automatically rescind in the event a written Charter School Agreement is not executed by the Board and the charter school's governing board within 120 days of the date of this Board Report. The agreement authorized herein will only take effect upon certification by the Illinois State Board of Education. The Renewal and any related contracts must be executed by the current contract's expiration date in order for First Quarter funding to be released for the new contract term. Information pertinent to this renewal is stated below.

SCHOOL OPERATOR: Institute for Latino Progress, Inc., an IL not-for-profit corporation
2520 S. Western Avenue
Chicago, IL 60608
Phone: 773-890-0055
Contact: Karina Ayala-Bermejo, Chief Executive Officer and President

CHARTER SCHOOL: Instituto Justice and Leadership Academy Charter High School
2570 S. Blue Island Avenue
Chicago, IL 60608
Phone: 773-890-0055
Contact: Elias Alonzo, Principal

OVERSIGHT: Office of Innovation and Incubation
42 W. Madison, 3rd Floor
Chicago, IL 60602
Phone: 773-553-1530
Contact Person: Alfonso Carmona, Chief Portfolio Officer

ORIGINAL AGREEMENT: The original Charter School Agreement (authorized by Board Report 12-0425-EX6) was for a term commencing July 1, 2012 and ending June 30, 2017 and, pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/27A-4(b), authorized the operation of a multi-campus charter school that is devoted exclusively to re-enrolled high school dropouts and/or students 15 or 16 years old at risk of dropping out of school. The charter school served no more than 165 students in grades 9 through 12. The charter and Charter School Agreement were further renewed for a three (3) year term commencing July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2020 (authorized by Board Report 16-1207-EX7). The charter and Charter School Agreement were further renewed for a three (3) year term commencing July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2023 (authorized by Board Report 20-0122-EX5).

CHARTER RENEWAL PROPOSAL: Institute for Latino Progress, Inc. submitted a renewal proposal on July 29, 2022 to continue the operation of Instituto Justice and Leadership Academy Charter High School (Instituto Justice) under a unified mission. The charter school shall continue to serve grades 9 through 12 with a maximum enrollment of 165 students.

The agreement will incorporate an accountability plan in which the charter school is evaluated by the Board each year based on numerous factors related to its academic, financial and operational performance.

CHARTER EVALUATION: After receiving the charter renewal proposal, the Office of Innovation and Incubation conducted a comprehensive evaluation of Instituto Justice's academic performance, financial viability, and legal and contract compliance. This evaluation included a review of the proposal, academic results, financial performance, governance documents, parental issues, facilities surveys, and special education documentation. A public hearing was held on January 10, 2023 for all contract and charter schools going through renewals to receive public comments, including Instituto Justice. The Office of Innovation and Incubation recommends that, based on the school's performance on these and other accountability criteria, as well as the school's demonstration of intent to satisfy the "Additional Terms and Conditions" referred to herein below, Instituto Justice be authorized to continue operating as a charter school.

RENEWAL TERM: The term of Instituto Justice's charter and agreement is being extended for a one (1) year term commencing July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024.

ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Additional terms, Performance Benchmarks and conditions will be communicated to the charter school by the Chief Executive Officer or his designee in a formal Letter of Conditions and shall be included, with no modifications, as an attachment to the Charter School Agreement with Institute for Latino Progress, Inc. The formal Letter of Conditions will contain specific performance benchmarks with deadlines determined by the Board. Failure to meet any of the performance benchmarks within the deadlines set forth in the Charter School Agreement may result in the non-renewal of the charter and Charter School Agreement.

AUTHORIZATION: Authorize the General Counsel to include relevant terms and conditions, including any indemnities to be provided to the charter school, in the written Charter School Agreement. Authorize the President and Secretary to execute the written Charter School Agreement. Authorize the Executive Director of the Office of Innovation and Incubation to issue a letter notifying the Illinois State Board of Education of the action(s) approved hereunder and to submit the approved proposal and signed Charter School Agreement to the Illinois State Board of Education for certification. Authorize the General Counsel to further negotiate and execute any amendments to the Charter School Agreement as required by the Illinois State Board of Education.

LSC REVIEW: Approval of Local School Council is not applicable to this report.

FINANCIAL: The financial implications will be addressed during the development of the 2023-2024 fiscal year budget. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond FY23 are deemed to be contingent liabilities only, subject to appropriation in subsequent fiscal year budgets.

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, 1996 (96-0626-PO3), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

Ethics - The Board's Ethics Code adopted May 25, 2011 (11-0525-PO2), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

Approved for Consideration:

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Alfonso Carmona
Chief Portfolio Officer

Approved:

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Pedro Martinez
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Chief Executive Officer

Approved as to Legal Form:

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