

May 28, 2026

**AUTHORIZE RENEWAL OF THE CHRISTOPHER HOUSE CHARTER SCHOOL AGREEMENT WITH CONDITIONS****THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:**

Authorize renewal of the Christopher House Charter School Agreement (the "Charter School Agreement") with conditions for an additional four-year period. A new Charter School Agreement applicable to this renewal term will be negotiated. 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:** Christopher House, an IL not-for-profit corporation  
4701 N. Winthrop Ave.  
Chicago, Illinois, 60640  
Phone: 773-769-4540  
Contact: Adnan Assad, Board Chair

**CHARTER SCHOOL:** Christopher House Charter School  
5235 W. Belden Avenue Chicago, IL 60639  
Phone: 773-922-7542  
Contact: Julie Dakers, Chief Executive Officer

**OVERSIGHT:** Office of Innovation and Incubation  
42 W. Madison Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Chicago, IL 60602  
Phone: 773-553-1530  
Contact Person: Acting Chief Portfolio Officer, Conrad Timbers

**ORIGINAL AGREEMENT:** The original Charter School Agreement (authorized by Board 11-1214-EX8) was for a term commencing July 1, 2013 and ending June 30, 2018 and authorized the operation of a charter school serving no more than 540 students in grades K through 8. The charter and Charter School Agreement were further renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2023 (authorized by Board Report 17-1206-EX10). The charter and Charter School Agreement were subsequently renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2026 (authorized by Board Report 23-0125-EX8).

**CHARTER RENEWAL PROPOSAL:** Christopher House submitted a renewal proposal on September 30, 2025 to continue the operation of Christopher House Charter School ("Christopher House"). The charter school shall continue to be located at 5235 W. Belden Avenue and shall continue to serve grades K through 8 with a maximum enrollment of 540 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 Christopher House'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 8, 2026 for all charter schools going through renewal to receive public comments, including Christopher House. 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, Christopher House be authorized to continue operating as a charter school.

**RENEWAL TERM:** The term of Christopher House's charter and agreement is being extended for a four (4) year term commencing July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2030.

**ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS:** The following conditions shall be incorporated into the Charter Agreement between the Board of Education of the City of Chicago and Christopher House.

- By July 1st, 2026, and annually throughout the term, no one person shall hold a directorship and an executive position or other position with substantial financial decision-making authority.
- Due to its Summative Designation, the school must participate in the Innovation & Incubation Academic Support process. This process requires schools to complete a Self-Reflection template, the District-managed Continuous Improvement Work Plan (CIWP), and participate in joint progress monitoring and Continuous Improvement activities. The Academic Support process runs annually, offering schools the opportunity to exit based on criteria defined by Innovation and Incubation. Schools not meeting the annual exit criteria will remain in Academic Support until they meet them.
- The school must demonstrate progress toward implementing the Recommendations codified in the Special Education Renewal Site Visit Report by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD).
- On an annual basis throughout the term, the school must meet state and federal rules governing English Learners as demonstrated by a rating of Partial or higher on formal compliance reports from the Office of Multilingual-Multicultural Education (OMME). Chicago Public Schools has designated OMME to conduct school visits and determine school compliance with state and federal rules regarding English Learner programs.
- On a bi-annual basis throughout the term, the school must submit a facility deficiency repair plan to communicate the status of the facility and ADA issues identified in the Facilities Assessment Report.


**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 2026-2027 fiscal year budget. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond FY26 are deemed to be contingent liabilities only, subject to appropriation in subsequent fiscal year budgets.

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** The agreement shall contain general conditions including but not limited to the following: Inspector General provision, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-13.1; Conflicts provision, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-21.3; Indebtedness provision, in accordance with the Board's Indebtedness Policy Section 404.2; Ethics provision, in accordance with the Board's Ethics Code as amended, and a Contingent Liability provision..


**Approved for Consideration:**

Signed by:  
  
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**Conrad Timbers-Ausar**  
 Acting Chief Portfolio Officer

Approved as to Legal Form: 

Signed by:  
  
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**Elizabeth K. Barton**  
 General Counsel

**Approved:**

Signed by:  
  
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**Macqueline King, Ed.D**  
 Superintendent/Chief Executive Officer