

May 28, 2026

**AUTHORIZE RENEWAL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO CHARTER SCHOOL AGREEMENT
WITH CONDITIONS**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:

Authorize renewal of the University of Chicago 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: University of Chicago Charter School Corporation, an IL not-for-profit corporation c/o Urban Education Institute
1313 E. 60th Street
Chicago, IL 60637
Phone: 773-834-1781
Contact Person: Deborah Gorman-Smith, Board Chair

CHARTER SCHOOL: University of Chicago Charter School ~~4343~~
~~E. 60th Street~~ 6030 S. Ellis Avenue
Chicago, IL 60637
Phone: ~~773-834-4354~~ 773-702-2776
Contact Person: Aneesa Sergeant, Interim Chief Executive Officer

OVERSIGHT: Office of Innovation and Incubation
42 W. Madison Street, 3rd 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 Report (97-1217-EX22) was for a term commencing July 1, 1998 and ending June 30, 2003 and authorized the operation of a charter school serving no more than 336 students in grades Pre-K through 8. The charter and Charter School Agreement were subsequently renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2003 and ending June 30, 2008, serving not more than 450 students (authorized by Board Report 03-0225-EX05). The charter and Charter School Agreement were further renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2013, serving no more than 1,966 students in grades K through 12 (authorized by Board Report 08-0326-EX11). The charter and Charter School Agreement were then renewed for a five (5) year term commencing July 1, 2013 and ending June 30, 2018 (authorized by Board Report 13-0227-EX9). The charter and Charter School Agreement were further renewed for a five (5) year term commencing July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2023 (authorized by Board Report 17-1206-EX16). The charter and Charter School Agreement were subsequently renewed for a three (3) year term commencing July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2026 (authorized by Board Report 23-0125-EX14).

CHARTER RENEWAL PROPOSAL: University of Chicago Charter School Corporation submitted a renewal proposal on September 30, 2025 to continue the operation of University of Chicago Charter School under a unified mission. The charter school shall continue to serve grades K through 12 with a maximum enrollment of 1,586 students.

Campus Name	Year Opened	Address	At Capacity Grades	At Capacity Enrollment
North Kenwood/Oakland	1998	1119 E. 46th Street	K-5th	336
Donoghue	2005	707 E. 37th Street	K-5th	500
Woodlawn	2006	6300 S. University Avenue	6th - 12th	750

If the University of Chicago Charter School Corporation is authorized to operate a pre-kindergarten program in the same building as the charter school, the children enrolled in the pre-kindergarten will not be included in the enrollment of the charter school and the pre-kindergarten program will not be governed by the Charter School Agreement.

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 University of Chicago Charter School'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 University of Chicago Charter School. 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, University of Chicago Charter School be authorized to continue operating as a charter school.

RENEWAL TERM: The term of University of Chicago Charter School'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: Additional terms and conditions will be communicated to the charter school by the Chief Executive Officer or his designee in a formal Letter of Conditions and will be included as an attachment to the Charter School Agreement with University of Chicago Charter School Corporation.

- 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.
- By July 1, 2026, the University of Chicago Charter Schools must update its Board Bylaws to set term limits for Members and create a process for re-election. These new term lengths and procedures may take effect for current Members beginning July 1, 2026.
- By August 1, 2026, the network must enter the newly-established terms for each of its board members in Epicenter's Board Center.
- All campuses in the network 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, all campuses within the network 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 an annual or more frequent basis throughout the term, each campus within the network must ensure the accuracy of teachers reported as licensed in the Employee Roster by validating it with the ISBE Educator Licensure Information System (ELIS). The network will notify staff in writing of deficiencies and pending licensure renewal deadlines, as needed. On an annual basis throughout the term, the network must demonstrate compliance with the requirement of 75% teacher licensure.
- On a bi-annual basis throughout the term, each applicable campus must submit a facility deficiency repair plan to communicate the status of the facility and ADA issues identified in the Facilities Assessment Reports for the campuses.

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:

Conrad Timbers-Ausar

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Conrad Timbers-Ausar
Acting Chief Portfolio Officer

Approved:

Signed by:

Macqueline King

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Macqueline King, Ed.D
Superintendent/Chief Executive Officer

Approved as to Legal Form:

Initial
ELS

Signed by:

Elizabeth Barton

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Elizabeth K. Barton
General Counsel