

## Context

The charter renewal evaluation is based on the evidence of school performance over the charter term as reported in the CSI Annual Review of Schools (CARS) Report. The CARS Report includes an evaluation of academic, financial, and organizational performance and CSI prioritizes academic performance in determining school ratings.

The suspension of state assessment during the 2019-2020 school year creates a gap in the academic evaluation of school performance for both annual accountability and renewal decision-making for all schools. While it is likely that there will be a state assessment during the 2020-2021 school year and a resumption of state and CSI accountability, there may be additional challenges and considerations. Changes to the annual accountability and renewal decision-making must provide increased flexibility to navigate these and other unanticipated challenges.

While changes to the renewal process and flexibility are required, it is important that the same values that informed the development of the current charter renewal process and renewal decision-making continue to inform the process and frame our thinking. These values are articulated below:

- Maintain transparency throughout the process
- Continued commitment to evidence-based decision-making
- Ensure consistent expectations for schools
- Provide choice and agency for schools

Many factors were considered, and feedback was solicited from school leaders and school boards, CSI staff and board, and national partners and other authorizers.

The following constitutes the CSI staff recommendation for changes to the charter renewal process for the 2020 renewal cycle, but they could also be adopted for the 2021 renewal cycle. It is likely that modifications would be needed to address possible challenges in 2022 but much of that remains uncertain at this point.

## Recommendation

- Make baseline recommendations for renewal based on the Guide to Renewal Actions by School Performance using data in the 2019 CARS Report (2014-15 through 2018-19) to PM in June 2020.
  - Financial and organizational outcomes from 2019-2020 will be included in the body of evidence and can impact the final recommendation and board action.
  - If the baseline recommendation (and subsequent renewal contract terms or conditions/milestones) could be enhanced through the consideration of additional data from the 2019-2020 school year, schools could participate in an expanded review of their body of evidence.

- The expanded body of evidence review will **replace the state assessment data that would have been collected in 2019-2020** and should provide information that is not already demonstrated in the 2019 CARS Report and is aligned to the CSI Performance Framework or the Guide to Renewal Actions by School Performance. For example, additional academic data could be provided that **show an extension of a pre-existing trend or establish a positive trend.**
    - A list of possible data sources will be provided by CSI and additional data sources provided by the school will be considered.
      - Current performance contracts would be evaluated in the same way.
      - Current timeline for renewal decision-making could be adjusted.
  - Emphasize performance contracts with milestones that do not use state data or provide enough time for state testing to resume.
    - Performance milestones could include state data for the 2021-2022 school year (2022 CARS/SPF).
    - New performance milestones could be structured to incorporate data submitted as a part of the supplementary review (assuming schools that would be eligible for performance contracts would engage in the supplementary review).
  - Delay deadlines for submission of financial narrative from mid-June to July 30th.
  - Restructure renewal site visits for 2020
    - Consider implementing school visits on a case-by-case basis in the fall based on current public health guidance as directed by the school.
    - Replace with remote “visits” or visits to remote learning environments or other processes designed to provide contextual and qualitative information about the school.
    - Continue to prioritize CSI board member engagement with renewal schools.

## Timeline

June 9	PM review 2019 CARS data for renewal schools alongside the Guide to Renewal Actions by School Performance and make preliminary recommendations for the baseline renewal decisions.
July 13	Academic submission due (current deadline)
July 30th	Financial submission due (extended deadline)
July 31	School request for supplemental body of evidence review and alternative timeline due for those requesting a supplemental review and/or alternative timeline (new deadline)
August 17	Organizational and governance submission due (current deadline)
August 18	Denver Renewal Schools Renewal Discussion (current schedule)
September 15	Western Slope Renewal Schools Renewal Discussion (current schedule)

October 27 Colorado Springs Renewal Schools Renewal Discussion (current schedule)

TBD November 2020 CARS Report released with organizational and financial data

Nov. 10/Nov.17 Discussion at PM/decision at board meeting for schools that **did not request a supplemental body of evidence review**

Dec. 8/Dec. 15 Discussion at PM/decision at board meeting for schools that **requested a supplemental body of evidence review but did not request a delay**

Feb. 9/Feb. 16 Discussion at PM/decision at board meeting for schools that **requested a supplemental body of evidence review and a delay**