



# DAC 2019

## Recommendations for Charter Renewals

Prepared for the Denver Board of Education  
by the District Accountability Committee



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# Great Schools Subcommittee Members

Scott Esserman	Kathryn Fleegal	Susan Grattino
Ed Krug	Noah Stout	Adie Tate*

\* Chair

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# Charter Review Process Overview

The DAC Great Schools Subcommittee received renewal applications from 13 schools.

The subcommittee chose to focus resources for in-depth analysis on three (3) schools with low SPF scores or significant declines on the 2019 SPF.

Subcommittee members reviewed charter renewal applications, SPF results, and DPS staff site -visit reports, utilizing shared online resources (Google Drive, Google Docs) for information sharing and collective recordkeeping.

The subcommittee formulated consensus opinions through two subcommittee working meetings.

# Description of Review and Recommendation

The subcommittee summarizes our assessment of schools with a listing of 'strengths' and 'challenges' identified through review of available documentation. Each assessment concludes with one of four (4) possible recommendations:

- **Long Term Contract Renewal** - this school demonstrates excellence in serving DPS students and should be awarded a full renewal; 5 year renewal recommended.
- **Medium Term Contract Renewal** - this school has demonstrated success, but also demonstrates sufficient opportunity for growth so that the committee believes five years until the next review may not ensure DPS kids and families continue to receive an excellent education; 2 to 4 year renewal recommended.
- **Short Term Contract Renewal** - this school demonstrates noticeable gaps in performance; the committee believes a shorter contract is necessary to ensure the school implements an improved performance plan to meet the needs of the community; 1 to 2 year renewal recommended.
- **Non-Renewal** - this school has failed to meet the needs of the community and is not providing the education our kids deserve; the committee believes that this school should be phased because the DPS portfolio of charters schools likely includes a superior opportunity to serve affected students and families.

# General Process Feedback

The Great Schools Subcommittee had some general process feedback based on our experience with Charter Renewal

- The site visit report is universal for all schools, we would like to see the site visit report template be more aligned to the needs of the schools who use the alternative SPF
- We would like to have data for the number of licensed teachers and the number of highly qualified teachers in each school
- We would like to see the district collect more data from the community, specifically parents and students, to be considered in the renewal process
- We would like to have at least one DAC member at the interviews for charter renewals

# RISE UP

## Strengths

- Strong parent and student satisfaction rating
- Increased attendance and substance abuse support
- School has set up an internship program to meet students' interests and help them to enter the workforce
- New leadership in place

## Challenges

- Does not meet expectations in many areas on the state assessment
- Does not meet expectations at many levels in postsecondary readiness and attendance and truancy
- Instruction at the site visit was below grade level

Final Recommendation and Rationale: **Medium term (3-4 year)** contract renewal. The committee notes that Rise UP serves a specialized population. The committee recommends that the district extend the contract for a medium term as the new school leadership has developed specific plans for ensuring student growth and parent and student satisfaction are high.

# Highline Academy Charter NE

## Strengths

- Meets expectations on within school gaps in many area
- Hitting enrollment projections
- One year rating for 2019 was higher than the two-year combined rating in 15 categories and only lower in 3 School culture overall rating is high and governance is high

## Challenges

- Student Achievement is does not meet expectations for almost all subjects
- SPF on a downward trajectory and no clear solution on what to change
- Cultural Competence answer did not include teacher training or any specifics
- Concern that the family and student satisfaction is only approaching
- Confusion around evaluations and reporting from teachers

Final Recommendation and Rationale: **Short/medium term (2 year)** contract renewal. Academic performance is concerning and the school does not address the specific obstacles that it faces. The committee would like to see a more specific plan in place on how they will improve

# STRIVE Prep: Kepner

## Strengths

- High family satisfaction
- ELL growth was meets

## Challenges

- SPED population has does not meet expectations on Student Progress
- SPED population and ELL does not meet expectation on Student Achievement
- Student Satisfaction is approaching
- Enrollment is under projection
- Significant decline in SPF rating

Final Recommendation and Rationale: **No final recommendation.** The committee did not feel that they had enough information to make a recommendation. There were many areas of concern that were not addressed in the renewal application. Two committee members voted for 1 year renewal. The committee did note that there were multiple STRIVE network schools who were on the renewal list that had significant decline in SPF rating over the past three years.