

# IX.B.

## CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION Hartford

### TO BE PROPOSED:

July 14, 2020

**RESOLVED**, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (g) of Section 10-66bb of the Connecticut General Statutes, extends, by one year, the term of each charter school included in Table A of the Commissioner's July 14, 2020, memorandum to the State Board of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Approved by a vote of \_\_\_\_\_, this fourteenth day of July, Two Thousand Twenty.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Miguel A. Cardona, Secretary  
State Board of Education

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Hartford**

**TO:** State Board of Education  
**FROM:** Dr. Miguel A. Cardona, Commissioner of Education  
**DATE:** July 14, 2020  
**SUBJECT:** Charter Renewal Period Extensions

**Executive Summary**

**Introduction**

The purpose of this action is to extend by one-year the term of each of the eligible charter schools currently in operation and under the jurisdiction of the State Board of Education (SBE). As outlined more fully below, the rationale for this action is to ensure that our charter schools are able to devote all the time and resources necessary to adequately address the issues imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and maintain a comprehensive charter renewal process.

The COVID-19 crisis has forced our public schools to reimagine how to educate students in Connecticut. Schools have been investing considerable amounts of time and resources needed to develop and implement distance learning programs to serve the needs of all students, provide professional development to support staff’s capacity to teach in this changing environment, and support the social and emotional needs of staff, students, and families. The investment of time and resources has been significant and will continue to be, as schools work to ensure the safety and well-being of their students, families, and staff during the pandemic. In addition, the crisis prompted the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) to apply for a waiver from the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) to waive state summative testing and implementation of the Next Generation Accountability System for the 2019-20 year, which was granted. The elimination of the Next Generation Accountability Report for 2019-20 will have a significant impact on the CSDE’s evaluation of the School Performance of each charter school up for renewal in 2020-21.

**History/Background**

In accordance with C.G.S. Section 10-66bb(g), the SBE makes charter school renewal decisions based on the evaluation of charter school performance and operations relative to four core Performance Standards approved by the SBE in 2015. The performance standards include: School Performance; Stewardship, Governance and Management; Student Population and Legal Compliance. The SBE uses findings from the school evaluation to determine the length of the renewal and any necessary conditions and/or reporting requirements. Under the law, the SBE has the discretion to determine the term of a charter granted or renewed, provided that the term cannot exceed five years.

**Recommendation**

In an effort to address the issues imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and maintain a comprehensive charter renewal process, the CSDE requests that the SBE extend by one-year the term of the charter for each school referenced in the attached Table A. Between April 2017 and June 2020, the SBE renewed the charter of each of the schools referenced in Table A for terms ranging from one to four-years. The SBE is legally authorized to modify the term of these charters because the determination of a charter school's term is wholly within the SBE's discretion, and because the SBE granted each school a term of less than the statutory maximum of five-years. Following the application of this proposed one-year extension, no charter school's term will exceed this statutory limit of five-years. This one-year extension of the term for eligible charter schools will allow them to concentrate the time and effort needed to meet the educational, operational, and social emotional needs of the schools during these uncertain times. The CSDE will notify the schools whose charter renewal period has been affected by the action taken by the SBE following its meeting on July 14, 2020. The schools are advised to take advantage of relevant technical assistance opportunities and receive technical assistance from the CSDE designed to improve their educational programs. The CSDE conducts follow-up visits with each school to ensure they are addressing issues raised as part of the renewal and subsequent findings resulting from CSDE oversight of school operations. In addition, certain schools are required to appear before the State Board of Education's Accountability and Support Committee to provide an update on the status of issues raised during renewal.

Prepared by: Robert E. Kelly, Charter School Program Manager  
Turnaround Office

Reviewed by: Lisa Lamenzo, Division Director  
Turnaround Office

Approved by: Desi D. Nesmith, Deputy Commissioner  
of Academics and Innovation

**Table A: Charter Renewal Calendar**

<b>School Name</b>	<b>Date of SBE Renewal Action</b>	<b>Start of Term</b>	<b>Current Expiration of Term</b>	<b>Proposed Expiration of Term</b>
Explorations	05/02/2018	07/01/2018	06/30/2021	06/30/2022
Great Oaks	03/06/2019	07/01/2019	06/30/2021	06/30/2022
Integrated Day	04/05/2017	07/01/2017	06/30/2021	06/30/2022
New Beginnings	05/02/2018	07/01/2018	06/30/2021	06/30/2022
The Bridge	03/04/2020	07/01/2020	06/30/2021	06/30/2022
Achievement First Bridgeport	02/06/2020	07/01/2020	06/30/2022	06/30/2023
Achievement First Hartford	05/01/2019	07/01/2019	06/30/2022	06/30/2023
Amistad Academy	02/06/2020	07/01/2020	06/30/2022	06/30/2023
Brass City	05/02/2018	07/01/2018	06/30/2022	06/30/2023
Elm City College Prep	02/06/2020	07/01/2020	06/30/2022	06/30/2023
Elm City Montessori	05/01/2019	07/01/2019	06/30/2022	06/30/2023
Park City Prep	05/01/2019	07/01/2019	06/30/2022	06/30/2023
Booker T. Washington	06/03/2020	07/01/2020	06/30/2023	06/30/2024
Capital Prep Harbor	06/03/2020	07/01/2020	06/30/2023	06/30/2024
Common Ground	03/04/2020	07/01/2020	06/30/2023	06/30/2024
Highville	06/03/2020	07/01/2020	06/30/2023	06/30/2024
ISAAC	06/03/2020	07/01/2020	06/30/2023	06/30/2024
Jumoke	06/03/2020	07/01/2020	06/30/2023	06/30/2024