

M E M O R A N D U M

to: Milwaukee Charter School Review Committee (CSRC) Members
from: Susan Gramling, Janice Ereth, Children's Research Center (CRC)
cc: Cindy Zautke, Theresa Healy, Andrea Bogie
subject: Recommendation for Adopting a Rating Scale Based on the Scorecard Totals
date: June 21, 2012

The Children's Research Center (CRC) recommends that the Charter School Review Committee (CSRC) consider adopting a school educational performance rating scale based on the scorecard used by the CSRC to summarize the annual school performance for each of the schools it currently charters. The scorecard is based on multiple measures of academic progress and could be used to categorize school performance into the following categories:¹

City of Milwaukee Educational Performance Rating Scale for Charter Schools	
School Status	Scorecard % Total
High Performing/Exemplary	100%–85%
Promising/Good	84%–70%
Problematic/Struggling	69%–55%
Poor/Failing	54% or less

The CSRC could use this rating scale to guide its decisions in three areas based on a standard that expects a total score of 70% or more:²

1. Accept a school's annual report and continue monitoring as usual;
2. Recommend a school for a five-year contract renewal at the end of its fourth year of operation under its current contract; or
3. Allow an umbrella organization to apply in September to open an additional school in the school year starting in the subsequent September.³

¹ CRC and the CSRC have previously engaged in conversations that indicated these categories would apply to schools at the end of their second or third year of operation under the City of Milwaukee's charter authorization.

² The 70% threshold criteria should only be applied to a new school not operated by an umbrella organization at the end of its third year of operation.

³ For example, if a new school operated by an umbrella organization obtained a scorecard total of 72% at the end of the 2011–12 school year, in September 2012, the umbrella organization could make an application for the CSRC to consider to open its next school in the 2013–14 school year.

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The CSRC should carefully review any school that falls into the problematic/struggling or poor/failing school status levels to determine if it is appropriate to develop a probationary plan for the school. If the school is considered for probation, CRC will prepare a draft probationary plan letter for the CSRC's review. Based on the information from the school's most recent annual school report, the letter will identify:

1. The specific academic outcomes that led to the CSRC decision to place the school on probation;
2. The specific academic achievement expectations the school must achieve to return to a non-probationary status; and
3. The timeframe within which the school will be expected to meet the CSRC's expectations.