

MEMORANDUM

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 Academic/Education Criteria for School Expansion by Umbrella Organizations
date: June 21, 2012

The Children's Research Center (CRC) recommends that the Charter School Review Committee (CSRC) adopt the following academic criteria and timelines to guide its decision in determining if an umbrella organization is eligible to make an application to open an additional school.

1. Umbrella organizations are allowed to make an application to open an additional school during the September cycle after its first school chartered by the City of Milwaukee has received its annual report in August; and
2. All of the schools operated by an umbrella organization that are chartered by the City of Milwaukee have obtained a scorecard total of 70% or more during the previous school year;¹ or
3. If a city-chartered school operated by an umbrella organization fails to meet the 70% status threshold, the CSRC could consider recommending expansion based on the following criteria:
 - a. The most recently opened school earned a total score of at least 70% on the scorecard; and
 - b. For students at the school with a scorecard total below 70%, the average ACT composite score OR the percentage of students at the proficient/advanced levels in reading and math on the state of Wisconsin's standardized test (currently the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examination [WKCE]) exceeds the rates of a comparable group served by Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS). For example, if the school's student population was 99% African American, the school's student performance would be compared to the MPS African American students.

¹ Timeline:

- 2011–12 school year: August scorecard totals \geq 70%
- September 2012: Application for new school
- September 2013: New school opens

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CRC has revised this policy memo to reflect revisions suggested by members of the CSRC at its most recent meeting. Please carefully review these revised policies related to allowing umbrella organizations to operate more than one school as a city-chartered school prior to formally adopting them for use in further CSRC deliberations on this issue. Clearly, the CSRC will also want to adopt policies related to the financial status of individual schools and perhaps the overall umbrella organization. However, CRC suggests that the committee work with its fiscal monitors and staff from the comptroller's office to obtain recommendations in the fiscal area of a school's operation.

We look forward to discussing these and any other further revisions you might want to suggest.