

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
STATE CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE  
FY 2008-09 JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE HEARING AGENDA**

**Friday, December 14, 2007  
11:00 am – 11:20 am**

**Introductions and Opening Comments**

Institute Goals and Objectives

1. What are your principal goals and objectives? What are the metrics by which you measure success or failure?

**Response:**

The mission of the Charter School Institute is to foster high-quality public school choices offered through Institute charter schools, including particularly, schools for at-risk students.

Our principal goals and objectives derive directly from our mission and authorizing legislation:

- I. Act as a model of best practices in authorizing charter schools;**
- II. Use state and federal systems for ensuring the accountability of each Institute charter school in meeting the obligations and goals set forth in its contract;**
- III. Measure the academic success of each Institute charter school student through longitudinal indices; and**
- IV. Measure the academic success of each Institute charter school through performance-based means and not process-based means.**

The metrics by which we measure our performance include CSAP, ACT, and local assessment data, regular periodic reviews of Institute charter schools financial status, regulatory and contractual compliance, and local school governance, using best practices published by the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) as the benchmark. Academic performance is measured from several different perspectives, including overall achievement, individual longitudinal student growth, progress in closing achievement gaps, and, for secondary schools, measures of student's post-secondary success.

Financial Audits are conducted on an annual basis to support the Automatic Data Exchange submission but in order to ensure all 12 current schools are economical viable we require a quarterly submission and review of all school budgets.

The CFO is developing a system of measures to effect improvement in the areas of governance, budgeting, state and federal grants and categorical funds to improve our reporting in the various areas and use of funds in support of student academic improvement. These will be expanded to include Free and reduced student counts, Exceptional student numbers per school, early

identification of gifted and talented children as well as those with demonstrated areas of deficiencies in the English language programs.

As the Institute has grown and the oversight responsibilities have increased, the staff has instituted an ongoing review of current polices and oversight systems to ensure we garner correct information to allow school to receive timely information and financial appropriations and to hold schools accountable for their performance.

2. Given the change in the Administration, have there been any changes to your principal goals and objectives since last year?

**Response:**

Our principal goals and objectives have not changed, but legislative initiatives such as SB07-061 last year have highlighted the importance of protecting our ability to perform our mission and achieve those goals. The makeup of the Institute board also changed last week, with the appointment of three new board members to replace three members appointed by the previous Governor but not yet confirmed. The impact, if any, of that change remains to be seen.

Due to the greater size of the student's population, testing and reporting requirements the Institute has hired a new Director of Fiscal Services (CFO), Director of Academics. The Institute is in the process of hiring a special assistant to help the CFO and Director of Exceptional Services in the areas of reporting and budget of state and federal categorical funds as well as NCLB funds.

3. What progress did you make during the last year in achieving your goals?

**Response:**

One Institute charter school (Stone Creek School in Avon) was in serious financial difficulty in January of last year. With assistance from the staff and considerable effort by the governing board, school staff, and parents, they survived that crisis and are on a strong path to financial stability. In spite of those difficulties, 100% of the staff and nearly 100% of the students returned to the school this year, and their achievement on CSAP was the highest in the district.

With the addition of a CFO and Director of Academics to the Institute staff, we are able to provide more oversight and assistance to Institute charter schools in the areas of governance, finance, and academic achievement. Since achievement growth is a long term effort, and our oldest schools are only in their third year, progress to date is difficult to determine, but we are seeing noticeable improvements in financial procedures and accountability and academic instruction, and expect to start seeing improvements in achievement beginning with next years test scores.

4. How is the additional money provided to you in FY 2007-08 being used to achieve your goals? What improvements are you making in your outputs?

**Response:**

We received no additional funds outside the increase in Per Pupil revenue based upon increases in the student population of schools belonging to the Institute. The growth in students, and the distribution of grant funds, has revealed a problem in the way our funds are appropriated and we are authorized to spend them. We have had to approach the JBC for a supplemental appropriation for the authority to spend the additional PPR and grant funds that exceeded what was originally appropriated. We have also requested changes in line items to reflect these changes in student numbers on a normal basis because of contracting requirements to support special education requirements and the mandated statutory spending limits. Providing the Institute with continuous spending authority for funds in its accounts, as is done for state agencies with similar funding streams, would alleviate this problem and reduce the workload on the JBC and their staff.

Other

5. Please provide information about the charter schools that have been authorized by the State Charter School Institute to date, as well as those schools you anticipate joining the Institute beginning in FY 2008-09. Include information about the school location, student enrollment, and the amounts that are being withheld from state equalization payments to the accounting district for each authorized school in FY 2007-08.

**Response:**

Please see the chart #1 on page 4.

Chart #1

School Code	School	District	Type	New/Xfer /Existing	Grades		FTE 07-08+	PPR (07-08)	State Equalization Share
8929	21st Century	Colorado Springs D-11	Brick and Mortar	Xfer	K-12		211.00	\$6,501	\$1,367,024
0655	Academy at High Point	Brighton 27J	Brick and Mortar	Existing	K-8		253.00	\$6,429	\$1,627,627
1279	Caprock Academy	Mesa Valley 51	Brick and Mortar	New	K-8		261.00	\$6,275	\$1,638,809
TBD	CCSN Colorado Springs South	Colorado Springs D-11	Brick and Mortar	New (Fall 08)	k-8		82.50	\$6,501	\$537,045
0656	CO Distance & Electronic Learning Academy (CDELA)	Brighton 27J	On-line	Existing	K-12		284.50	\$6,135	\$1,712,109
1791	Colorado Springs Charter Academy	Colorado Springs D-11	Brick and Mortar	Existing	K-8		289.00	\$6,501	\$1,881,286
1795	Colorado Springs Early Colleges	Colorado Springs D-11	Brick and Mortar	New	9-12		340.00	\$6,501	\$2,206,768
0657	Northern Colorado Academy of Arts and Knowledge	Poudre	Brick and Mortar	Existing	k-8		357.50	\$6,275	\$2,244,728
0654 6913 6914	Pinnacle	Adams 12	Brick and Mortar	Existing	K-12		1552.50	\$6,508	\$10,095,952
7278	Ricardo Flores Magón Academy	Adams 50	Brick and Mortar	New	k-8		68.50	\$6,873	\$471,365
7512	Ross Montessori School	Roaring Fork	Brick and Mortar	Existing	K-8		172.00	\$6,873	\$1,180,066
0653	Stone Creek Elementary	Eagle County	Brick and Mortar	Existing	k-8		195.00	\$6,941	\$1,344,794
	Total CSI Students						<b>4066.50</b>		<b>\$26,307,574</b>
	Approved Opening 2008								
	Animas High School	Durango 9-R	Brick and Mortar	New 2008	9-12	*	200.00	\$6,560	\$1,312,022
	Westminster Early Colleges	Adams 12	Brick and Mortar	New 2008	9-12	*	100.00	\$6,508	\$650,828
1370	CCSN Colorado Springs Central	Colorado Springs D-11	Brick and Mortar	New	k-8	*	150.00	\$6,501	\$975,162
	Total New 2008						<b>450.00</b>	<b>\$19,569</b>	<b>\$2,938,012</b>
	Pending Applications								
	CCSN-GOAL	Falcon	On-line	Proposed 2008	9-12	*	180.00	\$6,277	\$1,129,819
	Milestone-	Adams 12	Brick and Mortar	Proposed 2008	k-12	*	420.00	\$6,508	\$2,733,478
	Premier	Adams 12	On-line	Proposed 2008	k-12	*	263.00	\$6,508	\$1,711,678
	Total Proposed						863.00		<b>\$5,574,974</b>
	Total Estimate 2008-09						4929.50		<b>\$34,820,560</b>

This estimate was calculated using 2007/8 Estimate PPR rates for the home districts.