

Annual Charter Evaluation 2023-24

User Guide

OVERVIEW

The Annual Charter Evaluation User Guide was developed by the Charter Schools Office (CSO) to provide detailed information on the various components that make up the Annual Charter Evaluation Report (ACE) and the Annual Charter Evaluation Renewal Report (ACE-R). This User Guide includes overview information of the Charter School Law and charter school governance to provide context. This guide was designed to assist charter school leaders, parents and families, students, and the community at large to understand charter school accountability in Philadelphia by identifying and explaining the components of charter school evaluation.

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Charter Schools and Pennsylvania Law

Charter schools are public schools that operate independently of local school districts. Instead of receiving direction and supervision from a local Superintendent, charter schools are managed by Boards of Trustees.

In Pennsylvania, charter schools operate with a high level of autonomy. Within the requirements of the Pennsylvania Public School Code, charter schools may design their own academic program, hire their own teachers, select textbooks and other materials, determine the length of the school day and school year, determine their own budget, and create their own governance structures. In exchange for this high level of autonomy, charter schools are held accountable to high standards.

All charter schools are public schools, which means that they are funded by taxpayers and charter schools cannot charge tuition. They must also follow the PA Charter School Law, parts of the PA Public School Code, certain federal laws, including the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and other policies and regulations. A copy of the law that applies to charter schools can be found on the [Pennsylvania Department of Education website](#).

Charter School Leadership

Each charter school's Board of Trustees is a group of unpaid volunteers responsible for evaluating the school's leader or principal, approving school policies, managing the school's finances, and ensuring that the charter school is compliant with applicable state and federal laws. Charter school Boards must hold public meetings to discuss and vote on issues related to the school.

Charter School Oversight in Philadelphia

As the authorizer of charter schools in Philadelphia, the Board of Education ("Board") holds charter schools accountable for meeting high and measurable academic, operational, and financial standards within established accountability systems and for providing access to all students in accordance with applicable laws. Charter schools must follow the terms of a contract, known as a charter agreement, which can last up to five years.

As the authorizer, the Board is responsible for:

- establishing performance expectations and other requirements in a charter school's contract;
- reviewing a charter school's performance at the end of its contract and determining whether its charter should be renewed; and
- providing ongoing monitoring and oversight of a charter school's performance, including ensuring accountability with the school's charter agreement and state and federal laws.

The School District of Philadelphia's Charter Schools Office (CSO) supports the Board's charter authorizing responsibilities and duties.

Annual Charter Evaluation Overview

In order to conduct monitoring of charter schools in Philadelphia, the CSO developed a Charter School Performance Framework that describes the areas of oversight the District will prioritize and the frequency of the reviews in each of these areas. The areas evaluated in the ACE align with the Charter School Performance Framework, which is available on our website.

During a charter school's renewal year, the CSO conducts a comprehensive evaluation of performance (ACE-R) that includes an audit of school records, a site visit with interviews and classroom observations, and a longitudinal review of the charter school's performance. This evaluation and accompanying Renewal Recommendation Report includes all the same areas evaluated in the ACE in addition to supplemental standards, which are outlined in the Charter School Performance Framework.

The Annual Charter Evaluation, launched for the first time in April 2016, is produced for charter schools every year leading up to the comprehensive evaluation of school performance, known as the Annual Charter Evaluation-Renewal Report, that occurs during the renewal year. The ACE and ACE-R include three domains of performance evaluation: academic success, organizational compliance and viability, and financial health and sustainability. The ACE and ACE-R also include a section on equity and an executive summary page with performance trends in the last three academic years. Additional information on each component of the ACE and ACE-R can be found in the pages that follow.

SCHOOL OVERVIEW

The School Overview section of the ACE and ACE-R provides background information on the charter school that is the subject of the evaluation including school leadership, school mission, admissions type, and contact information. Student enrollment is provided for the school overall and is also disaggregated by race, gender, and historically underserved categories including students living in poverty, English Learners, and students with disabilities.

Metric Name	Source	Definition
General Information	Charter Schools	The location of the school building, phone number, and website address.
Network	Charter Schools	If applicable, the school's overseeing Charter Management Organization.
History	Charter Agreement	The year the charter school opened. For Renaissance schools, this is the year a school was first operated by the charter operator.
Current Term	Charter Agreement	The years the charter is operating under its most recent signed charter agreement. In some situations, a school is operating under an expired charter agreement. In that case, the next renewal cycle will be listed.
Admission	Charter Agreement	The students who can enroll or are given preference at a school. Citywide means that a student living anywhere in Philadelphia can attend a school. Neighborhood means a school enrolls students living in its catchment area. Schools may give preference to siblings, children of staff members, etc.
Mission	Charter Schools	The school's mission, as reported by the school.
School Leader	Charter Schools	The school leader(s) of a school in the current and past four academic years.
Grades Served	Charter Schools	The grades served by a school in the current and past four academic years.
Total Enrollment	Infinite Campus & Charter Schools	The number of students enrolled in the school as of October 1 in the current and past four academic years.
Authorized Enrollment	Charter Agreement	The maximum number of students a school can enroll in the current and past four academic years as stated in the charter agreement.
Pennsylvania School Performance Profile Scores	Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE)	The Act 13 Building Level Score, and formerly the School Performance Profile, is a component of the Educator Effectiveness System. The profile provides a school level academic score for public schools, charter and cyber charter schools, and full-time comprehensive career and technical centers. Scores are provided for the past four academic years.
Similar Schools Groups	Infinite Campus, Charter Schools, PEARS Site Eligibility Report	Similar Schools Groups are comprised of District and charter schools that are the same school type (ES, MS, K8, HS) and serve similar populations of students based on poverty, special education status, and limited English proficiency status.

Metric Name	Source	Definition
Student Demographics	Infinite Campus	The percentage of students by race/ethnicity on October 1 in the current and past four academic years. Current year rates for all Philadelphia District schools (excluding alternative schools) and all Philadelphia brick and mortar charter schools is provided for comparison.
Economically Disadvantaged Students	PEARS Site Eligibility Report	The Identified Student Percentage (ISP) identified on the Food Research & Action Center's community eligibility database. Identified students include children directly certified for free meals through data matching because their households receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), or, in some states and areas, Medicaid benefits. Identified students also include children who are certified for free meals without an application because they are homeless, migrant, enrolled in head start, or in foster care. Data is reported for the prior three years. Current year rates for all Philadelphia District schools (excluding alternative schools) and all Philadelphia brick and mortar charter schools is provided for comparison.
Students with Disabilities	Infinite Campus	The percentage of students enrolled on October 1st for the current and previous four academic years who had a non-gifted IEP. Current year rates for all Philadelphia District schools (excluding alternative schools) and all Philadelphia brick and mortar charter schools is provided for comparison.
English Learners	Charter Schools	The percentage of students enrolled on October 1st for the previous four academic years who were English Language Learners through the end of the school year as indicated in the data packet submitted by charter schools for the SPREE. Current year rates for all Philadelphia District schools (excluding alternative schools) and all Philadelphia brick and mortar charter schools is provided for comparison.
District Average	Charter School Performance Framework	The District Average is the average score of a metric for all District schools that serve the same grade span of the School under assessment. Alternative schools and Charter schools are excluded from the District average.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Executive Summary section of the ACE and ACE-R provides an overview of key indicators for a charter school that ultimately inform a renewal recommendation. A charter school is evaluated for renewal in the last year of a charter term. School performance information for the most recent four years is presented for the three domains of the charter school performance framework – academic success, organizational compliance and viability, and financial health and sustainability. During the renewal process, charter schools are evaluated for performance during the current charter term only. The Charter Schools Office's charter school performance framework, including information on point calculations, is presented in detail on the CSO website.

The tables summarize whether the Charter School meets the standard (▲), approaches the standard (■), or does not meet the standard (▼) during the charter term. If the metric was not calculated or does not apply to the school, the standard will list N/A. The Charter School Performance Framework outlines the point allocation for the standards and categories evaluated within each domain.

Metric Name	Source	Definition
Renewal Recommendation (ACE-R Report Only)	The Charter School Office	The recommendation to renew or not renew a charter for a subsequent charter term based on a comprehensive review of the school's performance during the current charter term across three domains: Academic Success, Organizational Compliance and Viability, and Financial Health and Sustainability. A recommendation is provided only if a school has no domains scoring "Does Not Meet."
Academic Success Domain Rating (ACE-R Report Only)	Charter School Performance Framework	A Charter School meets the standard by earning 75% or more of points possible, approaches the standard by earning 45%-75% of points possible, and it does not meet the standard if it earns less than 45% of points possible.
Proficiency (Summary of Historic Performance Ratings)	School Progress Report on Education and Equity (SPREE)	Proficiency rates are compared to the same grades served by the Charter School in two comparison groups: Similar Schools (charter and District Schools with similar demographics) and District Schools. Schools meet the standard if their proficiency rate meets or exceeds both Similar Schools and District Schools and they approach the standard if they meet or exceed one comparison group. Schools with rates below both comparison groups do not meet the standard.
Growth (Summary of Historic Performance Ratings)	Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE)	The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) sets the Average Growth Indexes (AGI) standard for all schools (see chart below). Schools meet the standard for overall and lowest performing AGIs at or above -1, the minimum score reflecting evidence that the school met the growth standard, and they do not meet the standard for AGIs below -1, which indicates that there was evidence that the school did not meet the growth standard.

Metric Name	Source	Definition
Attendance: 95%+ (Summary of Historic Performance Ratings)	School Progress Report on Education and Equity (SPREE)	Attendance rates are compared to the same grades served by the Charter School in two comparison groups: Similar Schools (charter and District schools with similar demographics) and District Schools. Schools meet the standard if their 95%+ attendance rate (the percentage of students attending 95% or more instructional days) meets or exceeds both Similar Schools and District Schools and they approach the standard if they meet or exceed one comparison groups. Schools with rates below both comparison groups do not meet the standard.
Attendance: Chronic Absenteeism (Summary of Historic Performance Ratings)	School Progress Report on Education and Equity (SPREE)	Chronic Absenteeism rates are compared to the same grades served by the Charter School in two comparison groups: Similar Schools (charter and District schools with similar demographics) and District Schools. Schools meet the standard if their chronic absenteeism rate (the percentage of students attending fewer than 90% of instructional days) is lower than both Similar Schools and District Schools and they approach the standard if it is lower than only one of the comparison groups. Schools with rates above both comparison groups do not meet the standard.
Postsecondary Readiness (Summary of Historic Performance Ratings)	School Progress Report on Education and Equity (SPREE)	Postsecondary Readiness measures (Graduation, SAT/ACT College Ready Rates, and First-Fall College Matriculation Rates) are compared to two comparison groups: Similar Schools (charter and District schools with similar demographics) and District Schools. Schools meet the standard if their proficiency rate meets or exceeds both Similar Schools and District Schools and they approach the standard if they meet or exceed one comparison group. Schools with rates below both comparison groups do not meet the standard.
Points Earned by Category and School Year	Charter School Performance Framework	The points earned in each category: proficiency, growth, attendance, and postsecondary readiness. The Charter School Performance Framework outlines the point allocation for the standards and categories evaluated within each domain.
Organizational Compliance and Viability Domain Rating (ACE-R Report Only)	Charter School Performance Framework	A Charter School meets the standard by earning 75% or more of points possible, approaches the standard by earning 45%-75% of points possible, and it does not meet the standard if it earns less than 45% of points possible.
Organizational Compliance and Viability (Category Ratings)	Charter School Performance Framework	Points earned, points available, and ratings for the categories and the standards within the Organizational Compliance and Viability Domain. Detailed Descriptions are contained in the Charter School Performance Framework as well as the Organizational Compliance and Viability section of this document.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Financial Health and Sustainability Domain Rating (ACE-R Report Only)	Charter School Performance Framework	The fiscal management category is evaluated as Meets Standard, Approaches Standard or Does Not Meet Standard based on how many standards are flagged as a concern and if those concerns are minor or major. The overall domain rating in Financial Health and Sustainability is determined by combining the ratings of these two categories. In the case where one category meets standard and one approaches standard or one approaches standard and one does not meet standard, the substance of the individual standards are reviewed to determine the overall domain rating.
Financial Health and Sustainability (Category Ratings)	Charter School Performance Framework	Ratings for the categories and the standards within the Financial Health and Sustainability Domain. Detailed descriptions are contained in the Charter School Performance Framework as well as the Financial Health and Sustainability section of this document.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

The Academic Success section provides information on achievement and growth within the charter school. This information is presented at the school level. Data presented in the Academic Success section of the report is related to student performance in SY 2019-20, SY 2020-21, SY 2021-22, SY 2022-23. The ACE and ACE-R analyze student performance and outcomes on:

- Student attendance for all schools regardless of grade;
- The Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) exam for schools with grades 3-8;
- Keystone Exams for schools with grades 9-12;
- College and career preparation and college entrance exams for schools with grades 9-12; and
- High school graduation and college matriculation rates for schools with grade 12.

The ACE and ACE-R compare the school's overall performance to:

- students in Philadelphia public schools with similar demographic profiles (Similar Schools); and
- students in School District of Philadelphia schools (District Schools)

The percent of points possible are listed for the following metrics in ACE-R reports: PSSA Proficiency; Keystone Proficiency; PSSA Growth; Keystone Growth; Attendance for Grades K-8 and 9-12; and Postsecondary Readiness.

Please note the following for the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years:

State tests were not administered during the 2019-20 school year and participation was limited during the 2020-21 school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

AP/IB/NOCTI is not included for the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

2019-20 attendance and suspension data reflects data through March 13, 2020.

Starting with the 2019-20 school year, the SPR no longer includes out of city students attending charter schools. These individuals are still included in the ACE and Renewal reports.

Metric Name	Source	Definition
PSSA Exam Proficiency Rates	Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE)	The percentage of students scoring proficient or advanced on the PSSA or the PASA (Pennsylvania Alternative System of Assessment). Results are calculated by subject (Mathematics, Reading / English Language Arts, and Science). A student must be continuously enrolled for a full academic year - from at least October 1st to the last day of the PDE-established testing window - to count towards a school's score. The similar schools proficiency rate is the percentage of students attending schools in the similar schools group scoring proficient or advanced on the PSSA or PASA. Similar schools have similar demographics based on the poverty rate, the percentage of students with an IEP, and the percentage of students who are ELL. The list of schools in each group can be found on page 4 of a school's ACE or ACE-R report. The District schools proficiency rate is the percentage of students enrolled in District schools scoring proficient or advanced on the PSSA or PASA. The District schools proficiency rate does not include alternative schools.

Metric Name	Source	Definition
Keystone Exam Proficiency Rates	Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE)	The percentage of students scoring proficient or advanced on the Keystone Exams. Results are calculated by subject (Algebra I, Biology, and Literature). For students who took the exam twice, their best score by 11th grade is used. The similar schools proficiency rate is the percentage of students attending schools in the school's similar schools group scoring proficient or advanced on the Keystone exam. Similar schools have similar demographics based on the poverty rate, the percentage of students with an IEP, and the percentage of students who are ELL. The list of schools in each group can be found on page 4 of a school's ACE or ACE-R report. The similar schools proficiency rate is the percentage of students enrolled in the similar school group schools scoring proficient or advanced on the Keystone exam. Students in cyber charter schools are excluded. The District schools proficiency rate is the percentage of students enrolled in District schools scoring proficient or advanced on the Keystone exam. The District schools proficiency rate does not include alternative schools.
Average Growth Index (AGI)	Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE)	A measure of student growth across tested grade levels in a school. For PSSA Exams, AGI is calculated by subject (Mathematics, English Language Arts, and Science). AGI score for Science is calculated separately for the 4th and 8th grades. For Keystone Exams, AGI is calculated by subject (Algebra I, Biology, Literature). A student must be enrolled for a full academic year at the school to be counted towards the school's AGI. Also presented is a measure of student growth for the lowest performing 33% of students across tested grade levels in a school. For PSSA, AGI for this subgroup is calculated by subject for Mathematics and ELA only. A student must be enrolled for a full academic year and have at least two years of data to count towards a school's score. The lowest performing 33% of students is identified separately for each subject area test.
Attendance Rate	School Progress Report on Education and Equity (SPREE)	The percentage of students that attended 95%+ of enrolled days. Students must be enrolled for more than 10 days to count for this metric.
Chronic Absenteeism	School Progress Report on Education and Equity (SPREE)	The percentage of students who miss 10% or more of scheduled school days. Students must be enrolled for more than 10 days to count for this metric.

Metric Name	Source	Definition
High School Graduation Rates	Infinite Campus & Charter Schools	The percentage of students in a first-time, ninth-grade (beginning ninth grade SY 2019-20) cohort who graduate within four years (excluding students including, but not limited to, those who moved out of the state, are displaced, are placed in long-term hospital care, or transferred to private or cyber schools). Students are attributed to the last school they attend in the four-year window, which ended on September 30, 2023. The comparative similar schools, and District rates do not include students attending alternative or cyber schools.
SAT & ACT College Ready Rates	School Progress Report on Education and Equity (SPREE)	SAT/ACT college readiness is defined as the percentage of 12th graders who have met the ACT College Readiness Benchmark (18 or higher on English, 22 or higher on Mathematics, 22 or higher on Reading, and 23 or higher on Science) or the SAT College and Career Readiness Benchmark (1550 or higher prior to March 2017; 530 or higher in Math and 480 or higher in Evidence-Based Reading and Writing beginning in March 2017). A student must be enrolled for a minimum of 165 days to count towards a school's score; all 12th graders who qualify are included in this metric even if they did not take an exam.
First-Fall College Matriculation	National Student Clearinghouse	The percentage of annual graduates who enroll in any post-secondary college or university in the first fall following their graduation date. The comparative similar schools, and District rates do not include students attending alternative or cyber schools.
AP, IB, and NOCTI Participation and Performance	School Progress Report on Education and Equity (SPREE)	Participation Rate - The percentage of 12th grade students participating in at least one of the following end of course exams: Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), or National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI). A student must be enrolled for a minimum of 165 days to count towards a school's score.
		Performance Rate - The percentage of 12th grade students scoring a 3 or above on an AP exam, a 4 or above on an IB exam, or a proficient or advanced on a NOCTI exam. A student must be enrolled for a minimum of 165 days to count towards a school's score.
College Matriculation by Institution Type	School Progress Report on Education and Equity (SPREE)	The type of post-secondary institution in which graduates enrolled in the first fall following their graduation date.

ORGANIZATIONAL COMPLIANCE AND VIABILITY

The Organizational Compliance section provides information on a school's policies and practices to indicate whether a charter school is compliant with the local, state and federal laws which are applicable, abiding by their charter agreements, serving the student's interest, and using best practices. The areas of analysis in the ACE and ACE-R include special education, English Learners, enrollment, student discipline, personnel, food, health, and safety, Board governance, and timely reporting. In each area, the CSO analyzed compliance requirements established in the PA Charter Law, PA Public School Code, Pennsylvania Department of Education regulations, and a school's charter agreement.

The ACE-R includes a renewal site visit to evaluate the alignment and execution of the school's mission and educational program and to gather additional evidence to evaluate the standards in the Organizational Compliance and Viability domain. The Charter Schools Office reviews schools' records and compiles data from prior ACE reports to evaluate standards for Special Education, English Learners, Student Discipline, Enrollment Personnel, Timely Reporting, Food, Health and Safety, and Board Governance. The tables summarize whether the Charter School meets the standard (▲), approaches the standard (■), or does not meet the standard (▼) for the 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 ACE report or renewal review. If the metric was not calculated or does not apply to the school, the standard will list N/A. The Charter School Performance Framework outlines the point allocation for the standards and categories evaluated within each domain.

Metric Name	Source	Definition
Organizational Compliance and Viability Domain Rating	Charter School Performance Framework	The Charter School Performance Framework outlines the point allocation for each of the categories evaluated within each domain.
Mission and Educational Programming Category Rating	Site Visit Observations	Rating and points earned for the category.

Metric Name	Source	Definition
Special Education Category Rating	Charter School Performance Framework	The Charter School Performance Framework outlines the point allocation for each of the categories evaluated within each domain.
Child Find Notice	School Website	The school's website has a child find policy that incorporates requirements in Chapter 711 of the Pennsylvania Public School Code, including information on program availability, screening activities, and how parents can request special education services.
Manifestation Determination	Charter Schools	The school's student Code of Conduct references manifestation determination or due process in disciplinary hearings for special education students as required by Pennsylvania Public School Code.
Manifestation Determination Practice	Renewal Application & Supplemental Artifacts	The school implements a compliant manifestation determination process for students with disabilities when it considers a change in placement because of a discipline incident. The standard shifted from a renewal standard to an annual standard in 2020.
Screening (ACE-R Report Only)	Renewal Application & Supplemental Artifacts	The school implements and provides evidence of universal screening, initial assessments and/or referral system to determine academic and behavior levels.
Monitoring (ACE-R Report Only)	Renewal Application & Supplemental Artifacts	The school implements and provides evidence of ongoing assessment and progress monitoring to provide information on student progress and behavioral outcomes.
Tiered Instruction (ACE-R Report Only)	Renewal Application & Supplemental Artifacts	The school implements and provides evidence of a multi-tier approach to differentiate instruction and implement academic and behavior interventions.
IEP Progress Monitoring (ACE-R Report Only)	Pennsylvania Bureau of Special Education (BSE)	The school provides evidence of tracking students' progress toward meeting annual goals.
Secondary Transition (ACE-R Report Only)	Pennsylvania Bureau of Special Education (BSE)	IEPs include transitional services for all students ages 14-21, if applicable.
IEP Timeliness (ACE-R Report Only)	Pennsylvania Bureau of Special Education (BSE)	Valid IEPs are in place with evidence of required signatures and parent participation.
BSE Findings (ACE-R Report Only)	Pennsylvania Bureau of Special Education (BSE)	The PA Bureau of Special Education found no significant areas of noncompliance in their most recent review.

Metric Name	Source	Definition
English Learner Category Rating	Charter School Performance Framework	The Charter School Performance Framework outlines the point allocation for each of the categories evaluated within each domain.
ESL Policy	Charter Schools	School's policy provides timely notification to families of the process for identifying their children as English Learners, the results of that process, the recommended Language Instructional Education Program (LIEP) placement, and other required information.
LIEP Notification	Charter Schools	The school informed parents/guardians of the process for identifying their child[ren] as ELs, their current language proficiency, and the criteria for reclassification. The notification letter also provides a program description and explains the parent/guardian's right to refuse part or all placement.
EL Timely Evaluation	Charter Schools	The school identified English Learners in a timely fashion (within the first thirty days of school or if transferred, within fourteen days of enrollment).
ESL ACCESS	Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE)	The school administered the ACCESS for ELs evaluation to each student identified as needing English Language support in a school year. Schools without an EL student for a given school year receive an "N/A".
EL Identification (ACE-R Report Only)	Document Review	School implements a compliant process for identifying English Learners.
EL Notification (ACE-R Report Only)	Document Review	School notifies parents/guardians in writing of placement in ESL program and assessment results in preferred language.
EL Exiting (ACE-R Report Only)	Document Review	School exits students from the ESL program when they meet appropriate exit criteria.

Metric Name	Source	Definition
Enrollment Category Rating	Charter School Performance Framework	The Charter School Performance Framework outlines the point allocation for each of the categories evaluated within each domain.
Enrollment Policy	Charter Schools	The school's enrollment policy complies with requirements in Pennsylvania Charter Law and regulations issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, including no additional mandatory paperwork or steps for families beyond what can be required, recognition of a lottery process if needed, and no noncompliant lottery preferences.
Student Application	Charter Schools	The school's application for enrollment requires only the following fields: student name, address, DOB and/or age, gender, grade applying for, current school and grade; parent or legal guardian name, relationship to student, relationship to school if applicable, contact information; sibling name(s), school, grade; and specific admissions criteria questions, if outlined in charter.
Enrollment Materials	Charter Schools	The school's enrollment materials only require proof of age and address, home language survey, immunization record and parent registration statements to enroll in alignment with Pennsylvania Charter School Law and regulations issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. No prohibited items as defined by PDE are included.
Lottery Process (ACE-R Report Only)	Charter Schools	The school selects students at random except that it may give preference in enrollment consistent with the school's charter agreement and charter school law.
Waitlist Process (ACE-R Report Only)	Charter Schools	The school maintains a waitlist of eligible applicants if there are more applicants than available seats and must give any additional preference to applicants on the waitlist, if stated in the charter agreement.
Enrollment Process (ACE-R Report Only)	Charter Schools	Only proof of age and address, home language survey, immunization record, and parent registration statement are required to enroll officially.
Geographic Preference Alignment (ACE-R Report Only)	Charter Schools	When applicable, the school adheres to geographic enrollment preferences outlined in its charter agreement.

Metric Name	Source	Definition
Climate and Culture Category Rating	Charter School Performance Framework	The Charter School Performance Framework outlines the point allocation for each of the categories evaluated within each domain.
Code Due Process	Charter Schools	The school's student Code of Conduct identifies student due process rights for long-term suspensions and expulsions as codified in Chapter 12 of the Pennsylvania Public School Code, including formal and informal hearing rights.
Truancy Policy	Charter Schools	The school's truancy policy and student Code of Conduct require an attendance conference before referral of truancy matters to a legal entity and prohibits suspension, expulsion or transfer due to truant behavior.
Renaissance-District Alignment (Renaissance Only)	SDP Code of Conduct	The school's student Code of Conduct is aligned in intent with District code of conduct for out-of-school suspension and expulsion including policy on suspensions by grade level, as required by charter.
Student Expression	Charter Schools	The school's dress code does not restrict students' clothing or appearance on the basis of gender. Students are permitted to dress in uniforms that correspond to their gender identity, including maintaining a gender-neutral appearance.
Expulsion Process	Renewal Application & Supplemental Artifacts	The school implemented compliant due process procedures for students recommended for expulsion.

Metric Name	Source	Definition
Personnel Category Rating	Charter School Performance Framework	The Charter School Performance Framework outlines the point allocation for each of the categories evaluated within each domain.
Certified ESL Teachers	Charter Schools	For schools educating at least one EL student, all ESL teachers were appropriately certified in a school year.
Certified SPED Teachers	PDE Annual Report	All of the school's special education teachers were certified in a school year, as required by Pennsylvania Charter School Law and the Pennsylvania Public School Code.
Certified Instructional Leader	PDE Annual Report	The school employed at least one certified instructional leader in a school year.
Certified School Nurse (ACE-R Report Only)	Charter Schools	A certified school nurse is available for an appropriate number of students at the school.
Checks and Clearances (ACE-R Reports Only)	Renewal Application & Supplemental Artifacts	Appropriate, valid employee checks and clearances are in place for staff based on sample file review.

Metric Name	Source	Definition
Health and Safety Category Rating	Charter School Performance Framework	The Charter School Performance Framework outlines the point allocation for each of the categories evaluated within each domain.
Health Services Policy	Charter Schools	School's Health Services Policy outlines mandated student health services and processes for compliance with student immunizations.
Food Safety	City of Philadelphia Department of Public Health and Office of Food Protection	The school received at least one inspection between July 1st and June 30th of each school year and was not found to be in satisfactory compliance by an inspector from the Office of Food Protection.
Emergency Preparedness	L&I Report	The school had a complete and up-to-date fire safety and evacuation plan, completed all the required emergency evacuation drills in a timely manner and had no violations related to portable fire extinguishers during a school year.
Water Quality	Charter Schools	The school complies with applicable water quality requirements of the Pennsylvania Board of Health, and the school posted its most recent water quality testing results on its publicly available website.
Mandated Health Services (ACE-R Report Only)	Renewal Application & Supplemental Artifacts	The school ensures all required student health exams and screenings occur annually in the appropriate grades.
Food Service Program (ACE-R Report Only)	Philadelphia Department of Education (PDE)	The school meets requirements under the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs as evaluated by PDE.

Metric Name	Source	Definition
Board Oversight Category Rating	Charter School Performance Framework	The Charter School Performance Framework outlines the point allocation for each of the categories evaluated within each domain.
Board Accessibility	Charter Schools	The school's website shows the Board roster, the Board schedule, and an invitation for public participation.
Board Contact Information	Charter Schools	The school's website lists email addresses for every individual serving on the Board of Trustees.
Sunshine Act	Charter Schools	The school's approved Board minutes for each Board meeting occurring during the school year A) notes the time, place, and date of the Board meeting B) identifies Board members in attendance, C) records public citizens and their subject of their testimony, and D) appropriately identifies use of executive session (where applicable).
Board Oversight	School Website	The school's approved minutes for Board meetings occurring during the school year indicate votes on the school's budget, personnel salaries, and the school calendar, as required by charter agreement.
Board Member Training	Charter Schools	The school's Board members receive required training on the skills and knowledge necessary for individuals to serve successfully on the governing bodies of public schools.
Statements of Financial Interest	Charter Schools	Statements are completed accurately and timely for all Board members and school administrators. Statements were submitted by May 1st of each year.
Ethics Act (ACE-R Report Only)	Renewal Application & Supplemental Artifacts	Board members comply with PA Public Official and Employee Ethics Act including, but not limited to, conflicts of interest.
Board Structure (ACE-R Report Only)	Renewal Application & Supplemental Artifacts	The school's board implements structure, including the number of members, officers and terms of service, consistent with its Bylaws.

Metric Name	Source	Definition
Timely Reporting Category Rating	Charter School Performance Framework	The Charter School Performance Framework outlines the point allocation for each of the categories evaluated within each domain.
Timely Annual Report	PDE Annual Report	The school submitted its annual report by August 1st of each year to the Pennsylvania Department of Education
Timely Financial Audit	Charter Schools	The school submitted its audited financial statements by December 31st of each year, the deadline established by the Pennsylvania Public

FINANCIAL HEALTH AND SUSTAINABILITY

The Financial Health and Sustainability section of the ACE and ACE-R provides information about a charter school's short-term financial health, long-term financial sustainability, and fiscal management. Under PA law, charter schools have an obligation to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management and audit requirements. All financial data evaluated by the CSO is from the charter school's annual audited financials submitted by the school and information received from PSERS. Financial information and metrics for the four most recent fiscal years (July 1-June 30) are included in the ACE and ACE-R.

The tables summarize whether the Charter School meets the standard (▲), approaches the standard (■), or does not meet the standard (▼) for the 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 ACE report or renewal review. If the metric was not calculated or does not apply to the school, the standard will list N/A. The Charter School Performance Framework outlines the point allocation for the standards and categories evaluated within each domain.

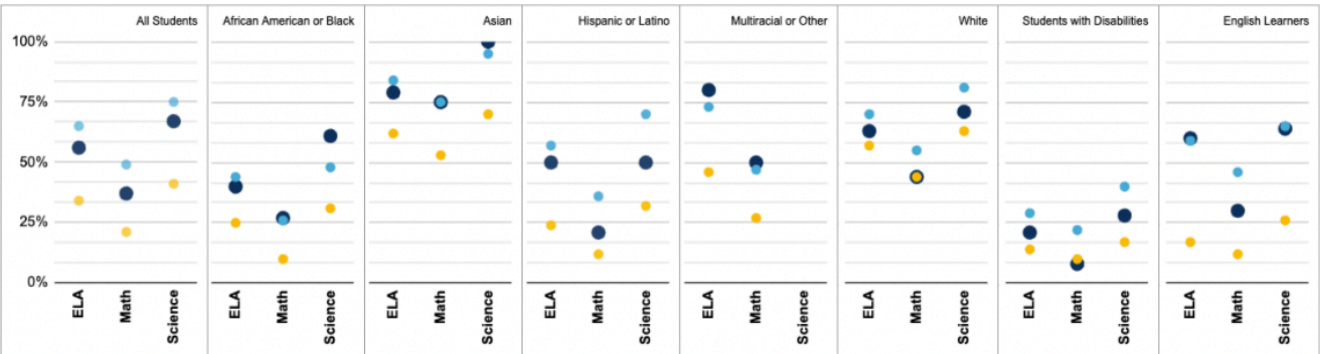
Metric Name	Source	Definition
Financial Health Category Rating	Charter School Performance Framework	The Charter School Performance Framework outlines the point allocation for each of the categories evaluated within each domain.
Total Margin (% of Revenue)	Financial Audit	The percentage of a school's total annual revenue not spent, calculated as a change in net position divided by total revenue. A school meets the standard if the total margin is greater than or equal to 0%. A school does not meet standards if the total margin is less than -10%.
Current Ratio	Financial Audit	The ratio of short-term assets to short-term liabilities, which measures if a school has enough resources to pay its debt and obligations over the next year. A school meets the standard if the current ratio is at least 1.1. A school is significantly below standard if the current ratio is less than 1.
Average Days Cash on Hand	Financial Audit	The number of days a school could operate without receiving additional money, calculated as a school's total unrestricted cash divided by the average daily operating expense adjusted to remove non-cash expenses such as depreciation and bad debt. A school meets the standard if the average days cash on hand is at least 45 days. A school is significantly below standard if the average days cash on hand is fewer than 30 days.
Net Position (% of Revenue)	Financial Audit	How much a school is worth as a percentage of their total annual revenue, calculated as net position divided by total revenue. A school meets the standard if the net position as a percentage of revenue is at least 16%. A school is significantly below standard if the net position as a percentage of revenue is less than 0%.
Non-Restricted Fund Balance (% of Revenue)	Financial Audit	How much a school is worth as a percentage of their total annual revenue after removing certain items such as property, equipment, and long-term debt, calculated as total non-restricted fund balance divided by total revenue. A school meets the standard if the non-restricted fund balance as a percentage of revenue is at least 16%. A school is significantly below standard if the non-restricted fund balance as a percentage of revenue is less than 0%.

Metric Name	Source	Definition
Debt Ratio	Financial Audit	The percentage of a school's total assets that are owed to other individuals or businesses, calculated as total liabilities divided by total assets. A school meets the standard if the debt ratio is at most 0.85. A school is significantly below standard if the debt ratio is more than 0.92.
Debt Service Coverage	Financial Audit	A school's ability to meet its debt obligations in the coming year, calculated as net income divided by annual principal, interest and lease payments. A school meets the standard if the debt ratio is at least 1.1. A school does not meet standard if the debt ratio is less than 1.05.
Audit Findings	Financial Audit	No material audit findings, deficiencies, or weaknesses identified in the annual audit.
Debt Delinquency and Default	Financial Audit	The school is meeting its debt obligations and covenants.
PSERS	Financial Audit	The schools has no missed payments to PSERS that exceed the lower of 1% of revenues or \$100,000.
Financial Transactions (ACE-R Report Only)	Financial Audit	The school has no major findings related to accounting practices.
Related Parties (ACE-R Report Only)	Financial Audit	The school's transactions between related parties are limited to those that support school operations, are formalized with appropriate contracts, and are free of apparent conflicts of interest.
Payroll (ACE-R Report Only)	Financial Audit	The school has no significant findings related to payroll transactions.
Additional Notes from the Charter Schools Office	Financial Audit; PSERS Office of Financial Management	This section lists additional information that the Charter School Office felt the need to highlight including (but not limited to): If a school received payments from the state because of disagreements over enrollment between the District and a school. This information comes from the Office of Finance within the School District of Philadelphia. If a school failed to pay its mandatory PSERS contributions in a timely fashion. The Office of financial Management of PSERS provides this information to the Charter School's Office. If a school has a component unit as stated in the financial audit. If a school is owed or owes money to related parties or component units. This information is taken from a school's financial audit.

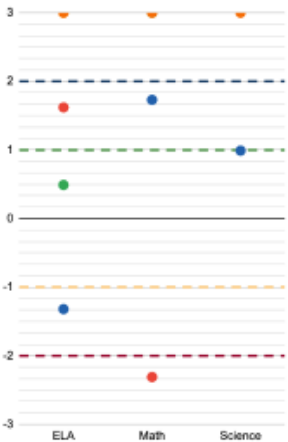
EQUITY AND CLIMATE OVERVIEW

The Charter Schools Office reports additional indicators of Equity and School Climate for informational purposes. When possible, graphs present information disaggregated by student group and grade level to reflect students' experiences throughout their tenure at the school. Similar School and District School rates provide context. The CSO recognizes that there are multiple dimensions to both equity and climate, many of which are not captured in this report. The CSO encourages stakeholders to use this data, along with other resources, to gain insights into students' experiences, assess the school environment's fairness, and, if necessary, to make adjustments that promote positive experiences and successful outcomes for all students.

The following metrics are displayed in charts and compare outcomes with similar schools and District schools: proficiency, attendance, chronic absenteeism, graduation, suspension, and student retention. An example of a chart displaying PSSA proficiency rates by student group is below. The school's metric is the dark blue circle. The average of similar schools is displayed with a light blue circle. The District average is displayed with a yellow circle.



The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) sets Average Growth Indexes for all schools. An example of PSSA AGI by grade level is displayed below. A school's AGI is plotted on the graph and shows the corresponding growth measure.



PA Department of Education Growth Measure				
< -2.0	-2.0 to -1.01	-1.0 to 1.0	1.01 to 2.0	> 2.0
Significant evidence that the school did not meet the standard for PA Academic Growth	Moderate evidence that the school did not meet the standard for PA Academic Growth	Evidence that the school met the standard for PA Academic Growth	Moderate evidence that the school exceeded the standard for PA Academic Growth	Significant evidence that the school exceeded the standard for PA Academic Growth

Metric Name	Source	Definition
PSSA Proficiency	Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE)	The percentage of students enrolled for a full academic year (enrolled by October 1st through the end of the Spring testing window) scoring proficient or advanced on the PSSA or the PASA (Pennsylvania Alternative System of Assessment). Results are calculated by subject: Mathematics, English Language Arts (ELA), and Science. Mathematics and English Language Arts are administered to students in grades 3 through 8. Science is administered in grades 4 and 8.
Keystone Proficiency	Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE)	The percentage of students enrolled for a full academic year (enrolled by October 1st through the end of the Spring testing window) scoring proficient or advanced on the PSSA or the PASA (Pennsylvania Alternative System of Assessment). Results are calculated by subject: Mathematics, English Language Arts (ELA), and Science. Mathematics and English Language Arts are administered to students in grades 3 through 8. Science is administered in grades 4 and 8.
Average Growth Index	Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE)	A measure of student growth across tested grade levels in a school. For PSSA Exams, AGI is calculated by subject (Mathematics, English Language Arts, and Science). AGI score for Science is calculated separate for the 4th and 8th grades. For Keystone Exams, AGI is calculated by subject (Algebra I, Biology, Literature). To count towards a school's AGI, a student must be enrolled for a full academic year (enrolled by October 1st through the end of the Spring testing window) and must have at least two years of data.
Regular Attendance	School Progress Report on Education and Equity (SPREE)	The percentage of students that attended 95%+ of enrolled days. Students must be enrolled for more than 10 days to count for this metric.
Chronic Absenteeism	School Progress Report on Education and Equity (SPREE)	The percentage of students that were not present for 10% of more school days. Students must be enrolled for more than 10 days to count for this metric.
Graduation Rates	Infinite Campus & Charter Schools	The percentage of students in a first-time, ninth-grade (beginning ninth grade SY 2019-20) cohort who graduate within four years (excluding students including, but not limited to, those who moved out of the state, are displaced, are placed in long-term hospital care, or transferred to private or cyber schools). Students are attributed to the last school they attend in the four-year window, which ended on September 30, 2023. The comparative similar schools, and District rates do not include students attending alternative or cyber schools.
Suspension Rates	School Progress Report on Education and Equity (SPREE)	The percentage of the school's students who received at least one out-of-school suspension in SY 2022-23.
Teacher Retention Rate	Pennsylvania Department of Education	The percentage of teachers who were employed by the charter school at the beginning of the school year and remained employed through the beginning of the following year.
Teacher Tenure	Pennsylvania Department of Education	Average teacher tenure in LEA is the average number of years teachers have worked at the Local Education Agency or LEA. In Philadelphia, each charter school is its own LEA. Average teacher tenure in education is the average number of years teachers have worked as educators at any school. For comparison, the median average teacher tenure in LEA is provided for District schools.