



## **Renewal Report**

### **337 Afya Public Charter School**

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## **REPORT INTRODUCTION**

### ***Purpose of the Report***

The Renewal Report is a summary of the evidence collected by Baltimore City Schools (City Schools) through its analysis of documentation, onsite School Effectiveness Review (SER), review of the school's Renewal Application along with an evaluation of the Renewal Rubric and consideration of all relevant information.

The criteria for renewal is built on criteria established in Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners policy *IHB*, state law (§ 9-101, *et seq.*, MD. CODE ANN., EDUC.), and the Chief Executive Officer's administrative regulations (*IHB-RA* and *JFA-RA*). Board policy for renewal establishes that through renewal, the school will be evaluated on multiple measures including but not limited to:

- a. **Student Achievement** (performance on state assessments, growth measures/value added measures, unique indicators, and fidelity to charter). Student achievement measures will be at least 50% of the renewal score;
- b. **School Climate** (attendance, suspensions, enrollment, graduation and dropout rate, student choice data, parent/teacher/student climate surveys);
- c. **Financial Management and Governance** (annual audits, budget submission, grants management, and board documentation); and
- d. **Effective Management** (academic programming for special student populations, compliance with laws, rules, policies, and regulations).

### ***Revising and Improving the Process***

In order to improve the Renewal process, City Schools formed a Renewal Stakeholders Working Group composed of school operators from a range of school types, City Schools' staff, staff from Supporting Public Schools of Choice and representatives of the Maryland Charter School Network. The working group met regularly from November 2011 through June 2012 to provide advice on the development of a methodology for evaluating school performance. During this time, City Schools, the Renewal Stakeholders Working group and Supporting Public Schools of Choice have worked diligently to develop a fair, transparent and rigorous process for evaluating schools that reflects the unique nature and innovative contributions of these independently operated schools.

### ***The Process***

The process has been constructed with following components:

- Renewal Rubric (including data gathered from assessments, climate surveys and the Chicago 5 Essentials survey)
- Application for Renewal
- Data Tables prepared by City Schools
- School Effectiveness Review

The New and Charter School Advisory Board (NCSAB) reviews the applications, data tables, rubric and results of the School Effectiveness Review (SER) to assess the sufficiency of each school’s case for Renewal and makes a recommendation for each school to the CEO of City Schools.

Renewal decisions are ultimately voted on by the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners. According to Board policy, City Schools may determine that a public charter school is eligible for a full renewal (another five year contract term), a partial renewal (a three year period) or non-renewal.

<b>Actions:</b>	<b>Timeline:</b>
Renewal applications submitted by schools	September 21, 2012
The New and Charter School Advisory Board review the Renewal materials and applications and make recommendations to the CEO	October 2012 – December 2012
Recommendations presented to Board at public meeting	January 2013
Special Board session to allow for public comment from school communities	January 2013
Board votes on renewal recommendation	February 2013

**RECOMMENDATION, SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION**

School: **Afya Public Charter School**

Grade Configuration: **Middle (6-8)**

Type of School: **Charter School**

**Recommendation:**

**Five Year Renewal**

	Category	Finding
<b>1</b>	Is the school an academic success? (min. 50% weight)	<b>Effective</b>
<b>2</b>	Does the school have a strong school climate?	<b>Highly Effective</b>
<b>3</b>	Has the school followed sufficient financial management and governance practices?	<b>Highly Effective</b>

**Discussion:**

Afya Public Charter School is operated by Afya Baltimore Inc. It is the recommendation of the New and Charter School Advisory Board that Afya Public Charter School (Afya) receive a five year renewal. Afya has received strong ratings in each section of the renewal rubric—academic success, climate and financial management and governance. Notably the school received a rating of highly effective in the progress measure, the percent of students who improved or maintained their performance across the contract term, 79.4% in reading and 67.7% in math. Afya received a rating of highly effective in parent, student, and teacher satisfaction as evidenced by the Chicago 5 Essentials and City Schools’ Climate surveys. The school received a rating of highly effective in the Talented People category which in part evaluates the systems in place to retain effective teachers and staff. The school received an overall rating of highly effective in the management and governance measure.

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

	<b>Category</b>	<b>Finding</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Is the school an academic success? (min 50% weight)</b>	<b>Effective</b>
1.1	Student Performance on MSA/HAS	
	• Absolute 2012 Reading (6-8)	<b>Effective</b>
	• Absolute 2012 Math (6-8)	<b>Developing</b>
	• Trend Reading (6-8)	<b>n/a</b>
	• Trend Math (6-8)	<b>n/a</b>
1.2	Progress on MSA/HAS	
	• Reading (6-8)	<b>Highly Effective</b>
	• Math (6-8)	<b>Highly Effective</b>
1.3	Progress on NWEA assessment (Optional and in Lieu of Progress on MSA)	<b>n/a</b>
1.4	Fidelity to Charter/Application Overall	<b>Highly Effective</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Does the school have a strong school climate?</b>	<b>Highly Effective</b>
2.1	Highly Effective Instruction – SER	<b>Effective</b>
2.2	Talented People – SER	<b>Highly Effective</b>
2.3	Engaged Families and Community – SER	<b>Highly Effective</b>
2.4	Teacher and Student Satisfaction – 5 Essentials	<b>Highly Effective</b>
	Parent Satisfaction – Climate Survey	<b>Highly Effective</b>
2.5	Cohort Retention	<b>Highly Effective</b>
2.6	Student Attendance: chronic absence	<b>Effective</b>
2.7	Suspensions	<b>Effective</b>
2.8	Effective Academic Programming for Students with Disabilities	<b>Effective</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Has the school followed sufficient financial management and governance practices?</b>	<b>Highly Effective</b>
3.1	Audit Submission	<b>Highly Effective</b>
3.2	Audit Content, Internal Controls	<b>Effective</b>
3.3	State/Federal Charter Grant Money	<b>Highly Effective</b>
3.4	Budget Submission and Monitoring	<b>Highly Effective</b>
3.5	Strategic Leadership/Governance – SER	<b>Highly Effective</b>

**ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

Data Tables Prepared by City Schools  
School Effectiveness Review  
Chicago 5 Essentials Report