

**SUBJECT**

Falcon Ridge Public Charter School Academic Status Report

**APPLICABLE STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY**

I.C. § 33-5209

**BACKGROUND**

Falcon Ridge Public Charter School (FRPCS) is a public charter school authorized by the Public Charter School Commission (PCSC). Located in Kuna, FRPCS has been operating as a Harbor school since 2005 and serves grades K-8.

In January 2011, FRPCS was issued a notice of defect (NOD) on the grounds of failure to meet the measurable student education standards (MSES) in the approved charter. This report is an update regarding the academic status of the school relative to the corrective action plan (CAP) for the above referenced NOD.

**DISCUSSION**

FRPCS will provide an academic status update. Meeting materials were submitted after the deadline and have therefore been excluded from these materials.

FRPCS's CAP indicates the school's intention to amend its charter to include more attainable MSES. In summer 2011, PCSC staff approved a charter amendment removing the requirement that 100% of FRPCS students score proficient or above on state mandated tests. The new standards require that 91% of students enrolled for two or more consecutive years achieve proficient or above on the ISAT and IRI in reading, 89% in math, and 84% in language arts. The required percentages increase in the 2013-2014 school year and reach 100% by 2014-2015. Although the 100% goal appears unrealistic, the school elected to keep it in order to accommodate AYP targets.

FRPCS reports meeting AYP in spring 2012. Based on preliminary results, ISAT proficiency in reading reached 95%, math 96.5%, and language arts 91.5%, thereby meeting the revised MSES pertaining to ISAT results.

It appears the percentage of students reaching the IRI benchmark in grades K-3 falls short of the required 91%, reaching only 82%.

**IMPACT**

Pursuant to I.C. § 33-5209(2), if the PCSC "has reason to believe that the public charter school has done any of the following, it shall provide the public charter school written notice of the defect and provide a reasonable opportunity to cure the defect...(b) Failed to substantially meet any of the student educational standards identified in the approved charter."

**July 24, 2012**

Pursuant to I.C. § 33-5209(3) and IDAPA 08.02.04.301.04, the public charter school must “comply with the terms and conditions of the corrective action plan and...cure the defect at issue within a reasonable time...” If the public charter school fails to comply with the plan and cure the defect, “the authorized chartering entity may provide notice to the public charter school of its intent to revoke the charter.”

**STAFF COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Staff recommends that the PCSC consider whether FRPCS has failed to cure within a reasonable period of time the identified defect of failure to substantially meet any of the measurable student education standards identified in the approved charter. It should be noted that the IRI is not typically considered an ideal test to reference in MSES.

**COMMISSION ACTION**

Any action would be at the discretion of the PCSC.

July 24, 2012



February 12, 2011

Idaho Public Charter School Commission  
Tamara Baysinger / IPCSC Directors  
PO Box 83720  
Boise, Idaho 83720

Dear IPCSC Board of Directors,

This letter is to acknowledge the notice of defect issued by IPCSC on January 14, 2011 and to serve as the response to this notice.

The notice of defect was issued to FRPCS on grounds that the student educational standards established within the approved charter had not been met. The Dashboard report submitted to the IPCSC was produced by the school administrator. Based on the interpretation provided to the Commission at that time, the notice of defect was understandably appropriate. Retrospect to submitting the Dashboard and receipt of the "notice of defect", it is believed that administration's former interpretation of the "Measurable Students Goals" section of the school's charter was flawed. Interpreted and submitted was that 100% of Falcon Ridge students would score in the proficient range on state required assessments. As noted by commissioners, such a goal would be regularly unreachable and thus consistently place the school as being in defect of the established and approved charter.

It is our current position that due to the obvious unlikelihood of reaching a 100% goal that the charter did not intend this as a goal. The means by which the board and administration intend to cure the defect is to more accurately interpret the current state granted and IPCSC approved charter document. Additionally, subsequent reports submitted to the Commission will better reflect the intended goals of the charter. If necessary, language will be provided in the charter to clarify future understanding. It is the intent of the Falcon Ridge Board and administration to perform and approve the above necessary items by April 12, 2011.

Sincerely,

Mark A Green, Sr. / Administrator  
Falcon Ridge Public Charter School