

SUBJECT

The Village Charter School Proposed Performance Certificate Amendment

APPLICABLE STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY

I.C. §33-5206(8)
IDAPA 08.02.04.302

BACKGROUND

The Village Charter School (TVCS) is a public charter school authorized by the Public Charter School Commission (PCSC) and located in Boise since 2011. TVCS currently enrolls approximately 275 students in grades K-8.

DISCUSSION

TVCS will present a proposed amendment to the school's performance certificate.

As currently approved, TVCS's performance certificate allows the school to offer two kindergarten and two 1st grade classes in its first year of operation (2011-2012), then expand by one additional classroom per year. Accordingly, TVCS is presently authorized to double grades K-4 for the 2014-2015 school year.

The proposed amendment would increase TVCS's rate of expansion. If the amendment were approved, the school would have the option of offering two classes per grade for kindergarten through 8th grade beginning in 2014-2015, adding as many as 132 students more than were originally approved for next year. The school's overall enrollment caps would not change.

IMPACT

If the PCSC approves the proposed amendments, TVCS will immediately begin operating under the amended performance certificate. If the PCSC denies the amendments, TVCS could appeal this decision to the State Board of Education, or could decide not to proceed any further.

STAFF COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

As part of the performance certificate development process, the PCSC approved a general standard that schools whose accountability designation falls below "good standing" will not be eligible for expansion.

TVCS has not yet received a performance framework evaluation and therefore does not have a formal accountability designation. However, if the school were to be evaluated with the performance framework using 2012-2013 school year data, it is likely that TVCS would earn either a "remediation" or "good standing" status. TVCS received a 2 Star Rating

February 13, 2014

for 2011-2012 and a 3 Star Rating for 2012-2013. TVCS's 2012-2013 rating fell on the low end of the 3-star point range.

Staff recommends that the PCSC consider whether it wishes to approve TVCS's proposed amendments in light of the school's academic outcomes to date.

COMMISSION ACTION

A motion to approve the proposed performance certificate amendment as submitted by The Village Charter School.

OR

A motion to deny the proposed performance certificate amendment as submitted by The Village Charter School on the following grounds:

_____.

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____ Carried Yes _____ No _____

February 13, 2014



Dear Commissioners,

The Village Charter School is requesting this change to our Performance Certificate to make it align to our charter. Our Charter states that the expansion of the school will be at the discretion of the Board, and the Commission as required, and will be based on enrollment demand and adequate finances.

The value of a sound education today cannot be overstated, especially as we move into a phase of scientific and economic competition in which our children will go head to head with the best and brightest from nations around the globe. Our current traditional format for promoting education advancement for all children is insufficient to meet the growing public demand for diversity of instructional practice. Fortunately we are a nation that prizes innovation and hard work, and so we have a growing interest in how to improve on all cultural fronts, with educational theory and delivery being at the forefront of change within the charter school movement.

The present community from which The Village Charter School draws enrollment is comprised of single family and multi-family housing. Many of the families in the area are of moderate means, and there are limited options for parents to select where their child or children will attend school. The community understands how critical education is to the future well-being of their children and our families want a supportive learning environment in which class sizes are not excessively large. TVCS is known in the community as having caring and talented instructors, a positive school environment, and moderate class sizes. As such, the current waiting list for enrollment in the school is in excess of two hundred students in grades K-6 with the demand for enrollment continuing to expand. While we are requesting to increase the 7th and 8th grades to two classrooms each we will only have one class for 7th and 8th due to the lack of a waiting list. Our budgets reflects one class for 7th and 8th. If the demand for the 7th and 8th grades increases in the future our Performance Certificate will allow the increase of those two grades.

In hopes of accommodating more students at the school, current negotiations are in progress to build a larger school in hopes of meeting the growing interest by the community in TVCS. It is also anticipated that a larger facility will enable TVCS to expand support programs for students with special needs, incorporate programs such as the Six In Four Program associated with the College of Western Idaho, and make it possible for students to more easily participate in after school electives and sports. In addition, the school will benefit from increased enrollment, as more students will generate greater revenue and thereby create the opportunity to expand cash reserves beyond what is currently held in account by the school.

Ultimately TVCS is committed to being able to embrace the need of every child interested in attending the school. We are a leadership school cultivating critical thinkers who will become the leaders for a better tomorrow. Any action that can be taken by the commission to support us in our mission to educate children can only bring about a beneficial long-term outcome for the community and our nation

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lealan Miller".

Lealan Miller
TVCS Board Chairman

CHARTER SCHOOL PERFORMANCE CERTIFICATE

SECTION 5: SCHOOL OPERATIONS

A. In General. The School and the Charter Board shall operate at all times in accordance with all federal and state laws, local ordinances, regulations and Authorizer policies applicable to charter schools. Authorizer policies in effect for the duration of this Certificate are attached as Appendix G.

B. Maximum Enrollment. The maximum number of students who may be enrolled in the school shall be 550 students. The maximum number of students who may be enrolled per class/grade level shall be as follows:

25 students per class in kindergarten and grade 1

30 students per class in grades 2 and 3

33 students per class in grades 4 – 8

~~TVCS may offer up to two kindergarten and two first grade classrooms in its first year of operation per grade in kindergarten through eighth grade. The school may expand by one classroom per grade, per school year, up to two classrooms per grade in K-8. If enrollment is inadequate in two (2) adjacent grades, classes may be combined as needed.~~

C. Enrollment Policy. The School shall make student recruitment, admissions, enrollment and retention decisions in a nondiscriminatory manner and without regard to race, color, creed, national origin, sex, marital status, religion, ancestry, disability or need for special education services. In no event may the School limit admission based on race, ethnicity, national origin, disability, gender, income level, athletic ability, or proficiency in the English language. If there are more applications to enroll in the charter school than there are spaces available, the charter school shall select students to attend using a random selection process that shall be publicly noticed and open to the public. The School shall follow the enrollment policy approved by the Authorizer and incorporated into this agreement as Appendix H.

D. School Facilities. 219 N. Roosevelt, Boise, ID 83706. The School shall provide reasonable notification to the Authorizer of any change in the location of its facilities.

E. Attendance Area. The School's primary attendance area is described in Appendix J.

F. Staff. Instructional staff shall be certified teachers as provided by rule of the state board of education. All full-time staff members of the School will be covered by the public employee retirement system, federal social security, unemployment insurance, worker's compensation insurance, and health insurance.

G. Alignment with All Applicable Law. The School shall comply with all applicable federal and state laws, rules, and regulations. In the event any such laws, rules, or