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July 26, 2010

Idaho Public Charter School Commission
650 W. State Street
Boise, ID 83720-0037

RE: Corrective Action Plan

Dear PCSC:

Idaho Science and Technology Charter School respectfully submits the following Corrective Action Plan in response to the Notice of Defect issued June 24, 2010. This notice lists the following defects:

1. The PCSC has reason to believe that ISTCS has failed to demonstrate fiscal soundness as defined by I.C. 33-5209(2)(d).
2. The PCSC has reason to believe that ISTCS has failed to substantially meet any of the student educational standards identified in the approved charter, specifically, goal 1 and the schools' general commitment to excellence in science and technology education.

**IDAHO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CHARTER SCHOOL
CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN FOR
FAILURE TO DEMONSTRATE FISCAL SOUNDNESS
AS DEFINED BY I.C. 33-5209(2)(d)**

Introduction:

In an effort to ensure that ISTCS fully meets all aspects of I.C. 33-5209(2)(d), the school has developed the following Corrective Action plan. This code specifies that the public charter school must be:

- (i) Fiscally stable on a short-term basis, that is, able to service all upcoming obligations; and
- (ii) Fiscally sustainable as a going concern, that is, able to reasonably demonstrate its ability to service any debt and meet its financial obligations for the next fiscal year.

To ensure that ISTCS accomplishes these, the ISTCS Board of Directors will implement the following:

1. Develop and approve a balanced yearly budget that reflects true projected revenues and expenditures

ISTCS is an equal opportunity educational provider

The budget for Idaho Science and Technology Charter School will be prepared in compliance with section 33-801, Idaho Statutes and policy of the State Board of Education, will be presented at a public hearing in June of the year the school will open, and will be delivered to the State Department of Education as required on or before July 15 prior to the start of the school year. Copies of the budget will be provided to the Idaho State Charter Commission. The budget will be prepared, approved and filed using the Idaho Financial Accounting Reporting Management System (IFARMS) format.

2. Carefully review all revenues at monthly board meetings.
3. Carefully review all expenditures at monthly board meetings.
4. Review all contracts; discuss and approve before signing is authorized.
5. The board will establish a policy specifying that the school maintain a minimum 10% reserve as a carry-over. The proposed goal to establish this goal will be to generate this reserve as follows:
 - 2010-2011 4.5% (\$45,680)
 - 2011-2012 7.5% (\$76, 147)
 - 2012-2013 10% (\$101,530)
6. Board Approval will be required to spend any of the reserve dollars.
7. Develop a yearly Document Submission Schedule: ISTCS Board of Directors believes that they can better monitor progress and ensure timely submission of all required documents by identifying due dates well in advance. This procedure will help ISTCS identify specific dates documents are due and successfully ensure that information is submitted within the appropriate time frame.
8. An independent financial audit will be performed each year by an outside auditor (not affiliated with ISTCS).The annual financial audit will be carefully reviewed by the board and submitted to The Idaho Public Charter School Commission by October 15th for the previous year ending June 30th.
9. Auditors hired hold appropriate credentials and will be required to demonstrate detailed knowledge of Idaho Educational fiscal procedures before selection.
10. The ISTCS Business Manager and Director will receive yearly, ongoing training to remain current and ensure competence.
11. The board will schedule and receive annual fiscal/budgetary training.
12. ISTCS Board of Directors will join the Idaho School Board Association and tap into the broad range of services they offer to enhance success.
13. Provisions of this plan will be incorporated into the ISTCS Board Members Handbook and reviewed on an annual basis.

IDAHO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CHARTER SCHOOL
CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN FOR
FAILURE TO SUBSTANTIALLY MEET ANY OF THE STUDENT EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS
IDENTIFIED IN THE APPROVED CHARTER,
SPECIFICALLY, GOAL 1
AND THE SCHOOLS' GENERAL COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION.

Idaho Science and Technology Charter School (ISTCS) Charter specifies that by the 2012-2013 school year, students will be meeting specific educational standards (Tab 4 page 30, last paragraph). The following matrices contain the goals, where the school is currently, and how each specific target will be reached. For each goal, the percentage listed for the 2009-10 year is the actual number which was determined by the students' classroom performance.

It should be noted that in its pre-opening advertising and recruiting, ISTCS highlighted its emphasized on science and technology. As the school year began, we found that many of our students (25% special needs) enrolled because of a negative experience and they were looking for an alternate to the traditional public school program. Now that we have completed a year, we have a baseline to measure future student growth.

MEASUREABLE STUDENT EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS

Goal 1. In the core subject areas of Math, Language Arts, and Science 80% of the students will earn a grade of satisfactory or above as calculated by classroom assessments and recorded on quarterly and semester report cards.

Student Averages	2009-10	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013
Math	72%	78%	83%	88%
Language Arts	85%	86%	87%	88%
Science	82%	84%	86%	88%

ISTCS has defined "satisfactory" as C or above. The spring ISAT scores are very similar to our student's classroom assessments which helps validate our scoring system.

ISTCS currently uses a student information system that allows parents to access their student's grades, assignments, attendance and discipline on-line. Those parents who do not have access receive bi-monthly notification if their student is failing to meet in-class assessments of "C" or higher.

Goal 2. 85% of students will demonstrate technological competency by scoring at least 80% on the end of year technology competency examination or receiving a score of at least 80% on their technology portfolio.

Grade Level	Assessment Tool	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013
6 th	Portfolio & Classroom Work	96%*	80%	85%	90%
7 th	STEM Project	96%*	80%	85%	90%
8 th	STEM Project	96%*	80%	85%	90%

* All students participated in technology classes which were geared towards the appropriate grade level standards.

Because technology education is relatively new we needed to establish a baseline for student work. After reviewing the students' performance of 96% competency in the first year, the Board of Directors has informed the administration to implement more rigorous standards for technology competency.

7th & 8th Graders will be focusing on an integrative STEM education where programs within the school work together. A STEM or science project will be required of each student in the spring of the year to demonstrate a concept from a related field of study. The project will have a Language Arts component in which the write-up of the project will also be graded for language arts classes.

The 7th & 8th grade technology education curriculum will be reviewed and revised to accomplish ore goals. A discussion was held between the science teacher and the technology education teacher after the ISAT scores were presented. This is to ensure the science topics taught in the new technology education curriculum support the science program in areas that need improvement. Physical Science, Life Science, and Earth Science are integrated into each grade level as required in the science standards.

Goal 3. 90% of sixth graders will achieve satisfactory or above on their career exploration project.

Assessment Rubric	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013
Each student prepares and gives Power Point presentation on a career of their choice. They also write a 5 paragraph essay for language arts.	100%	90%	92%	95%

After reviewing these results, the Board has directed the administration to make the standards for 6th grade career exploration projects more rigorous.

The goal for the 6th grade Technology Education program was to develop a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) lab. Pitsco Education outlines the four areas of STEM a project fulfills which meets Idaho STEM related curriculum standards.

As this program evolves, the level of presentation will increase which accounts for slightly lower numbers in subsequent years.

Goal 4. 90% of seventh graders will achieve a score of satisfactory or above on their career internship project.

Assessment	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013
A STEM rubric is used to determine how successful students are in their career component	100%*	90%	92%	95%

*Upgraded standards and more rigorous assessments will track student progress more definitively. Current score is based on classroom curriculum and rubrics.

Students completed a variety of projects selected by the teacher to help them understand how the four areas of STEM are interconnected.

Goal 5. 90% of eighth graders will achieve a score of satisfactory or above on their career internship project.

Assessment	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013
Shadowing and reporting	93%	90%	92%	95%

After reviewing these results, the Board has directed the administration to make the standards for 8th grade career internship projects more rigorous.

The Technology Education programs at ISCTS use the Standards for Technology Literacy created by the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association. There are 20 standards for K-12 education. However grade levels are grouped together and benchmarks are set for those groupings. The goal for the 6th grade program was to meet the first 13 standards of the 6-8 groups. The actual standards met were 1-13, 16, 17, and 20. In the 7th & 8th grade Module systems all 20 standards will be met.

6. Students continuously enrolled at ISTCS from the beginning of each academic year will demonstrate academic improvement through the following:

80% of all students will earn a score of proficient or advanced in each subject area of the Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT).

ISTCS does not want to fall into the trap of attempting to teach to the test. Academic progress as measured on the ISAT will be monitored each year after testing, and staff will analyze results, adjust course content, and reexamine instructions processes. The school is on track to receive Title I funding for the 2010-2011 year and believes this will help remediate individual needs and be reflected in future ISAT scores.

Included as attachments are comparison charts that shows actual student growth. Of the 95 students tested, we did not receive last year's results from previous schools for 9 individuals, leaving a total of 86 we could use to make valid comparisons in growth. Of these, in reading, 12 grew less than one year (13.9%), and 42 (48.8%) gained one or more year's growth with 24 (28%) gaining 2 or more years in skill development.

In math, 15 (17.4%) made less than one year's growth and 59 (68.6%) made more than one year's growth with 28 (33%) making 2 or more years of expected growth.

In Language Usage, 16 (18.6%) made less than one year's growth, 38 (44.2%) made more that one year, with 12 (14%) making 2 or more years of expected growth.

In summary for this Corrective Action Plan, we have a lot of things to work on for the coming year. We will be able to do it because we have a highly qualified staff that wants to help students learn. Also in our weekly meetings, we have the time and the willingness to focus on the areas identified in this plan.

Thank you,

Rich Dodds, Chair

Fred Ball, Director

Gary Larsen, Principal