

AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- I. **Public Education Commission Meeting Date:** January 15, 2016
- II. **Item Title:** Discussion And Possible Action On Policy Recommendation For Improvement Plan And Definition Of Substantial Progress
- III. **Executive Summary and Proposed Motions:**

- A. **2016 New Application**

Over the summer, CSD staff was tasked with evaluating the implementation of Improvement Plans submitted by schools under a Performance Contract that had earned a letter grade of a C or lower in 2014.

CSD staff found that it was impossible to evaluate the implementation of these plans because there were no established, consistent standards for what must be contained in an improvement plan. Additionally, there were no clear expectations for reporting or documentation.

At the August PEC meeting, CSD made the recommendation all improvement plans that had been assigned previously be closed out and that those schools be informed that that assignment of an improvement plan in the future will be based on their academic performance when new academic data is available. CSD also recommended a work session be held with the Commissioners in November to establish clear guidelines for what an improvement plan should include, how it will be evaluated, and how it will be monitored.

CSD has been working with the Priority Schools Bureau to determine the protocols used by the PSB and adapt those materials as appropriate. CSD has also looked to materials available from other states. CSD is presenting the attached draft materials which include an improvement plan guide with evaluation criteria, an improvement plan template, and reflection worksheet to help guide charter schools in developing an improvement plan. This proposed improvement plan template would guide schools in implementing data driven systems to improve curriculum and instruction in order to improve student achievement.

These materials would provide substantially more transparency to charter schools that are assigned an improvement plan than has been available in the past. These materials would also provide consistent standards for the PEC to evaluate whether a school that doesn't meet the department's standards of excellence or student performance standards identified in the charter contract is making substantial progress, as is required in the Charter School Act.

CSD presented these materials to to the charter school community for public

comment. CSD has included the public comment in today's materials.

Proposed Motions:

- Move to adopt the policy and improvement plan documents provided in today's materials.

- Move to adopt the policy and improvement plan documents provided in today's materials, with the changes discussed on the record today.

- Move to convene a subcommittee to work on the development of an improvement plan policy and protocol, including evaluation criteria and a definition of substantial progress, and present that protocol to the entire commission.

- Tak no action.