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2017 Charter School Renewal Recommendation – Media Arts Collaborative Charter School (MACCS)

PED RECOMMENDATION

The PED recommends a **5-year renewal** term for MACCS with the following conditions, the school must:

- Implement an NMDASH continuous improvement plan that results in raising and maintaining performance such that:
 - The school does not earn an F in any area of the school report card during the term of the contract.
 - The school's 4-year graduation rate is improved and the school exits Comprehensive School Intervention status prior to the next designation period (within 3 years).
- Correct and abstain from noncompliance related to organizational performance framework specifically correcting repeat noncompliance in serving English learners for the term of the renewal contract.
- Provide evidence of implementation of student-focused terms in each year of the renewal contract.

These conditions are recommended based on the school having earned an F in two areas of the report card, having been identified as a school in need of Comprehensive School Intervention because the school has earned a 4-year graduation rate below 66.5% in at least 2 of the last 3 years¹, and continued compliance concerns in organizational performance framework indicators.

The renewal recommendation is based on the school's: (a) letter grade performance, specifically that the school has earned C or better letter grades in three of the last four years; and (b) progress in financial compliance (repeat finding in FY14 and FY15, but no findings in FY16); and (c). MACCS's academic performance as measured through the A-F School Grading System is comparable to nearby schools such as Albuquerque High School, Highland High School, and Digital Arts & Technology Charter. However, the school has continued to trail state benchmarks in a number of indicators (school improvement, improvement of lowest-performing students, and graduation rate) during most of its contract years.

¹ This measure and designation is a requirement of the US Department of Education.

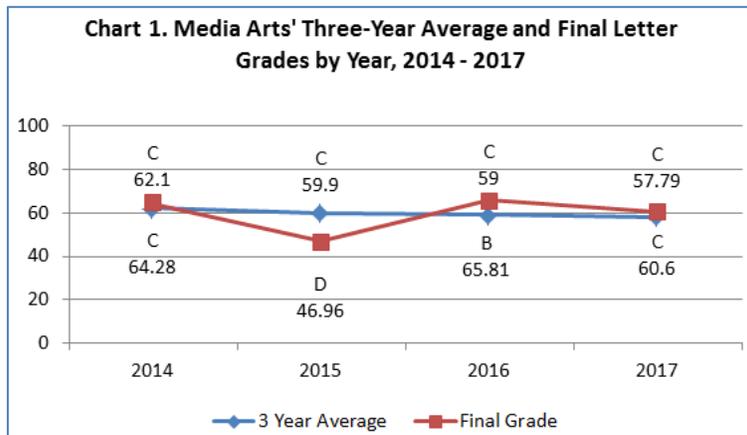
EVALUATION SUMMARY

Section	Indicator	Rating
ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE		
1.a	Department’s Standards of Excellence—A-F Letter Grades	<i>Approaching Progress</i>
1.b	Specific Charter Goals	<i>Approaching Progress</i>
FINANCIAL COMPLIANCE		
2.a	Audit	<i>Approaching Progress</i>
2.b	Financial Performance Framework	<i>Approaching Progress</i>
2.c	Board of Finance	<i>Meets Standard</i>
CONTRACTUAL, ORGANIZATIONAL, AND GOVERNANCE		
3.a	Material Terms	<i>Failing to Demonstrate Progress²</i>
3.b	Organizational Performance Framework	<i>Failing to Demonstrate Progress</i>
3.c	Governance Responsibilities	<i>Meets Standard</i>

SUMMARY EVALUATION OF ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

On the 2014-2017 School Grading Report Cards, MACCS has met the department's standards of excellence and the student performance standards identified in the charter contract in three of the last four years. Chart 1, below, illustrates MACCS three-year average grade and its overall school grade from 2014 through 2017. While the school’s three-year average grade (blue line) has remained a C, final grades have not been consistent, ranging from a B to a D over the last three years (red line). However, in a majority of the last four years, the school has met the department's standards of excellence and the student performance standards identified in the charter contract.

Over its contract, MACCS has made some improvements since 2015 when it earned a D letter grade. However, the school has implemented “general improvement actions” that are no different than the typical activities the school would have been required to do regardless of A-F School Letter Grade performance since such activities are specified in its charter contract and performance framework (e.g., use of 21st century digital media technologies, integrate all core subject areas with media courses, provide media literacy instruction to incoming students, and offering advanced placement, dual-credit, and internship programs) (Renewal Application Rubric, p. 15). The school has not identified specific root causes that can be connected to adult actions taken by the school to improve student outcomes.



² In Part B analysis by the PED, the Organizational Performance Framework, Subsection 3.a rating should indicate *Failing to Demonstrate Progress* based on evidence gathered at the renewal site visit held October 24, 2017.

The cluster of schools³ to which MACCS was compared in 2017 totaled 36 schools (see Table 1). Among the similar schools to which it was compared, MACCS ranked in the bottom half on all indicators, including Opportunity to Learn (OTL), and College and Career Readiness (CCR). Furthermore, MACCS ranked in the bottom quartile for school growth and second to last in graduation.

Table 1. MACCS's Percentile Rank and Rank Order by School Grade Indicator, 2017							
	Current Standing	School Growth	Highest-Performing	Lowest-Performing	OTL	Graduation	CCR
Percentile Rank	31 st	25 th	31 st	42 nd	44 th	3 rd	31 st
Rank Order (Out of 36 schools)	26 th	28 th	26 th	22 th	19 th	35 th	24 th

SUMMARY EVALUATION OF FINANCIAL COMPLIANCE

Audit. MACCS received no findings in FY16 and it had one repeat finding in FY15 from FY14 for mileage reimbursement.

SUMMARY EVALUATION OF ORGANIZATIONAL PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

Education Plan, Management Accountability, and Employees. During the renewal site visit held October 24, 2017, the PED team observed limited integration of media literacy instruction and project-based learning particularly in core subject areas. The PED team did not observe implementation of advanced placement (AP) courses and internship opportunities for all students as part of the school's material terms which was identified as a compliance concern 2 years earlier in 2014-2015. MACCS also failed to address compliance concerns identified during the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 as required in the renewal application (rights of English learners and homeless students, recurrent enrollment, management accountability, staff credentialing, and graduation verification). The school received ratings below *Meets Standard* on 2 indicators during the 2015-2016 school year and on 7 indicators during the 2016-2017 school year, one of which was a repeat concern since the 2014-2015 school year pertaining to rights of English learners. MACCS did not provide evidence that it follows the state's process for identifying, screening, instructing, and monitoring English learners, a federally-protected class of students.

PROPOSED MOTION

Move to **approve the renewal application** presented by Media Arts Collaborative Charter School for a **term of 5 years** because the school has earned "C" letter grades in three of the last four years on the state's A-F School Grading Report over the term of its current contract, however because the school has not demonstrated compliance with all organizational requirements, has been designated a school in need of Comprehensive School Intervention, and has earned an F in more than one area of the report card, without being able to demonstrate substantial progress on that measure, the renewal is granted with the following conditions, the school must:

- Implement an NMDASH continuous improvement plan that results in raising and maintaining performance such that:
 - The school does not earn an F in any area of the school report card during the term of the contract.

³ Similar schools are determined based on the demographics of the schools. The analysis uses the percentage of students that are mobile, English learners, students with disabilities, economically disadvantaged, African Americans, Hispanic, and Native Americans. School clusters also include only school that serve the same grades. SAM schools are also evaluated separately.

- The school's 4-year graduation rate is improved and the school exits Comprehensive School Intervention status prior to the next designation period (within 3 years).
- Correct and abstain from noncompliance related to organizational performance framework specifically correcting repeat noncompliance in serving English learners for the term of the renewal contract.
- Provide evidence of implementation of student-focused terms in each year of the renewal contract.