



COMMUNITIES OF EXCELLENCE

IDAHO'S CHARTER SCHOOLS PROGRAM GRANT

CHARTER SCHOOL GOVERNANCE: ACADEMIC ACCOUNTABILITY

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CSP Grant Overview



Idaho received \$22,470,000 over 5-years in the 2018 CSP Competition

Idaho's 2018 CSP Grant Objectives

- Increase the number of quality charter school seats by 8,200 students, especially for our most educationally disadvantaged and rural students, through start-up, replication and expansion.
- Support the PCSC in expanding its quality authorizing efforts while disseminating and supporting best practice for other authorizers statewide.
 - At least 7 percent must be utilized for state-level technical assistance activities and program evaluation/research.
- Evaluate and disseminate widely the successes and lessons of high-quality charter schools to impact the broader education system.

Academic Oversight



- The Board's role in contributing to academic excellence is not centered around academic experience. Rather, providing good governance leadership, keeping a data-driven mindset, asking the right questions, and being an effective sounding board.
- The Board supports the School Leader and allocates resources needed to achieve academic goals.
- The Board monitors student performance against rigorous academic goals and raises strategic issues for discussion throughout the year.
- The School Leader's role is to utilize existing data to draft academic achievement goals for the upcoming year. The Board's role is to review those proposed goals, and accompanying timelines, and to ask questions.

Academic Oversight



- Statewide assessment data
 - <https://idahoschools.org/>
 - ISAT and Istation
 - Proficiency, Growth
 - Comparison to District and State
- Literacy / continuous improvement plan
- Achieving your school's mission & delivering on your charter promise
- College and career readiness data
 - PLAN, PSAT, SAT if high school
 - Guidance program 8th+
- Mission specific data
- Benchmark data

Academic Excellence Committee



- The Academic Excellence Committee provides appropriate Board oversight of the academic program by ensuring that the school's educational program is positively impacting student achievement and by raising strategic academic issues for Board discussion.
- The Committee is there to make sure the goals are ambitious and achievable – and to utilize data presented by the academic leadership to monitor progress throughout the year.
- The Committee should review, ask questions, and help the School Leader frame what level of detail will be shared with the full Board at the next meeting.
 - Bring the headlines to the full Board meetings. But don't go into all the micro details at the full Board meetings.

Academic Excellence Committee



- Specific responsibilities of the Academic Excellence Committee include:
 - Assume responsibility for ensuring that students are achieving at the highest levels
 - Agree on a definition of academic excellence for the school
 - Understand how student achievement is measured at the school and build Board-wide understanding of the most critical measures
 - Monitor student achievement by reviewing and analyzing external, standardized tests and internal assessments, deeply understanding the factors affecting performance data and sharing updates with the full Board
 - Verify that School Leaders use student data constructively and routinely to inform decisions
 - Insist on targeted changes to the academic program if student achievement is lagging
 - Identify strategic and long-term challenges to the academic program before they become urgent issues
 - Set annual committee goals and regularly monitor progress against those goals

Academic Excellence Committee



- High-performing Academic Excellence Committees will do the following:
 - If charter school bylaws allow, recruit non-Board members with particular educational expertise related to the school's model
 - Work with staff to develop academic dashboards to help the Board absorb large amounts of complex information and understand patterns and trends.
 - Visit other high-performing schools to inform the Committee's work
 - Attend authorizer trainings on accountability

Activity: PCSC Performance Framework

Each year, Idaho's Public Charter School Commission (PCSC) issues a performance report to every school in its portfolio. The annual report serves several purposes:

- To provide transparent, data-driven information about charter school quality;
- To ensure charter school boards have access to clear expectations and are provided maximum opportunity to correct any deficiencies prior to their renewal year; and,
- To inform mid-term authorizing decisions, such as the evaluation of charter amendment proposals.

This report contains an overview of the school, including its mission, leadership, and demographics. The overview is followed by the school's performance framework, including outcomes for the most recently completed school year.

The performance framework clearly sets forth the academic and operational performance indicators, measures, and metrics that will guide the PCSC's evaluations of the school. It contains indicators, measures, and metrics for student academic proficiency, student academic growth, post-secondary readiness (for high schools), and board performance and stewardship.

Activity:

PCSC Performance Framework



What role does the Board play in ensuring that the school is meeting or exceeding the standards on the PCSC Performance Framework?

- What data is needed to determine where your school stands?
- What data will you look at beyond state assessments to gauge your ongoing progress?
- What data does your Board currently review?
- What data does your Board need to start reviewing?
- What questions would you have for your School Leader if your data indicates that you are not on track to meet or exceed the standards?
- What processes does your Board need to change or adopt to align itself with the Performance Framework?
- What is your process for academic goal setting at the Board level?
- If the PCSC is not your authorizer, are you familiar with your school's performance certificate?

Best Practices



- Define academic excellence and know whether students are on track for high-achievement
- Understand how student achievement is measured at the school
- Assume ultimate responsibility for school and student success
- Focus on outputs – not inputs
- Academic data discussed at EVERY board meeting
- Frame the data with a key set of questions that the Board and School Leader continually discuss. Recommended questions include:
 - Are students making progress toward attaining the highest level of academic achievement?
Look at data like ELA gains, math proficiency, graduation rates, or post-secondary engagement.
 - Have we established a climate and culture in which students can thrive?
Look at data like attendance, on-time arrival, parent satisfaction, student discipline reports.
 - Does our organization recruit, develop, and retain exceptional staff?
Look at data like teacher retention, teacher satisfaction, and teacher turnover.

Resources



- Academic goal data sets
- Academic calendar sample
- Academic Excellence Committee meeting agenda samples (handouts)
- Data dashboard samples (handouts)
- PCSC Performance Framework (handout)

Academic Goal Data Sets



- Operations
 - Enrollment
 - Attendance
 - Graduation / Going-on rate
- Student Demographics
 - Free / reduced lunch eligible
 - Special Education
- School Satisfaction
 - Student retention
 - Teacher retention
- Academic Success
 - ISAT Reading
 - ISAT Math
 - MAP
 - STAR
 - SAT
 - Benchmark assessments

Academic Calendar Sample



- July
 - Strategic planning/goal setting
 - August
 - Review state (i.e., ISAT) results
 - September
 - Review annual academic goals
 - October
 - Review discipline policies
 - November
 - Review benchmark assessment data
 - December
 - Review authorizer annual report
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- January
 - Progress monitoring of administration
 - February
 - Review benchmark assessment data
 - March
 - Strategic planning progress monitoring
 - April
 - Formal evaluation of administration
 - May
 - Review data of special populations
 - June
 - Review preliminary assessment data
- Monthly:
 - Academic dashboard reports

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This learning opportunity brought to you by Idaho' *Communities of Excellence* Federal CSP Grant dollars.