



RHODE
ISLAND

Charter School: Renewals

Council on Elementary and Secondary Education

November 18, 2025

Charter School Renewals

Rhode Island General Law 16-77-5.1(b) designates the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education (the Council) as the authorizer for charter schools. In this capacity, the Council is responsible for charter school approval, renewal, and revocation. RIDE is delegated with the authority and responsibility to manage a comprehensive system of charter school accountability, review, and monitoring, and system management. With the support of RIDE's charter team, the Council plays a fundamental role in maintaining and advancing the quality and accountability of the charter sector. Rhode Island is one of only seven states in which the SEA, in conjunction with the State's Board of Education, is the sole authorizer. As the sole authorizer, the Council bears substantial responsibility for balancing the statutory goal of increased autonomy of charter schools against the accountability required by the state and federal authorities.



Charter School Accountability

“The key appeal of the charter school concept is its promise of increased accountability for student achievement in exchange for increased school autonomy.” (R.I.G.L § 16-77-3.1) RIDE's expectations for charter schools are outlined in the charter school [handbook](#).

<p>Primary Indicator</p>	<p>Academic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Performance: What is the Star Rating for the School? • School Comparison: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If under 2-stars, how do they compare to the school districts of the enrolling communities? • How are multilingual learners performing at the schools? • Is the school showing growth in Math and ELA?
<p>Sustainability Indicators</p>	<p>Financial, Organizational, and Compliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial: Is the school financially healthy? • Organizational: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>School Environment</i>- Attendance, Family Engagement, Retention • <i>Equity and Access</i>- Attrition, Recruitment and Lotteries • <i>Dissemination and Practice Sharing</i>- Partnerships in the K-12 Space • <i>Board and Leadership Quality</i>- Accountability, Communication, Strategic and Continuous Improvement Planning • Compliance: Has the school complied with legal and regulatory responsibilities?

Charter terms cannot exceed five years.

Charter Renewal Timeline

Date	Charter Renewal Process
January 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• RIDE releases the charter school renewal application.
January – February 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• RIDE hosts charter school renewal kickoff meetings with each of the 11 schools up for renewal.
February 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The charter school renewal application is due to RIDE.
March – May 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• RIDE conducts site visits, which includes classroom observations, interviews of students, parents, teachers, school leaders, and school board members.
August 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• RIDE provides a first draft of the charter school renewal report to schools.
October 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Charter Schools complete their annual report.
November 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• RIDE meets with all renewal schools and provides a final copy of the charter school renewal report and the Commissioner’s recommendation.



RIDE Renewal Recommendations

RIDE has developed three recommendations for each of the schools up for renewal.

- Five-Year Renewal – Schools will receive a full five-year renewal. This is recommended for schools that have maintained a high level of student outcomes throughout their charter term.
- Three-Year Renewal – This is recommended for schools that have not met RIDE’s expectations for student outcomes throughout their charter. Schools may be identified for conditions if there is an identified area that needs considerable improvement.
- One-Year Renewal – This is recommended for schools that have consistently struggled and have not met RIDE’s academic expectations or demonstrated sufficient academic growth through multiple charter terms.

Additionally, RIDE uses **conditions** when there is a specific area of need for the charter. Conditions are time-bound and involve regular touchpoints to ensure schools are meeting RIDE expectations.



Resubmission of the Charter

A new renewal condition that RIDE is recommending this year is a full resubmission of the charter, for four charters, including charters that:

- Received approval prior to the Council revamping the new seats process in 2016.
- Experienced challenges meeting RIDE's academic expectations.

If a charter fails to submit a resubmission that meets expectations, RIDE will start the charter revocation process in Fall 2026.



Renewal Recommendations

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2025 Charter School Renewal Recommendations

Charter	Location	Enrollment Area	Grades	Recommended Renewal Term
Beacon Charter School	Woonsocket	Statewide	K-12	Five Years (HS); Three Years, with conditions (MS)
Nuestro Mundo Charter School	Providence	Providence	K-8	Three Year
Paul Cuffee Charter School	Providence	Providence	K-12	Three Year
PVD Prep	Providence	Providence	5-8	Three Year
Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts	Providence	Providence	5-12	Three Year
Highlander Charter School	Providence/Warren	Statewide	K-12	Three Year, with conditions
Charette Charter School	Providence	Providence	9-12	One year, with conditions
Village Greene Virtual Charter School	Providence	Statewide	9-12	One year, with conditions

Recommendations: Beacon Charter School

Recommendation: THAT the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education moves to renew the charter of Beacon Charter High School for five-years, and Founders Academy for three-years with conditions.

Charter	Location	Enrollment Area	Grades	Enrollment	2025 Star Rating
Beacon Charter High School	Woonsocket	Statewide	9-12	203	Three-Star
Founders Academy	Woonsocket	Statewide	6-8	158	One-Star

CONDITIONS:

- *Beacon Charter School must resubmit an updated charter for Founders Academy, to RIDE during the 2026 New Seats application process.*

Beacon Charter School

Recommendation: THAT the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education moves to renew the charter of Beacon Charter High School for five-years, and Founders Academy for three-years with conditions.

Key Recommendation Drivers:

- Beacon Charter High School earned a three-star rating in SY 22–23 and SY 24–25.
- In SY 23–24 Beacon Charter High School approached expectations with a two-star rating, and below state average Math SAT scores.
- Over the charter term, Beacon High School saw continued growth in SAT proficiency, surpassing the state average in most years.
- In SY 23–24 and SY 24–25, Founders Academy middle school did not meet expectations on all academic indicators, including school performance and school comparison data.
- In SY 24–25, 6.8% of students were proficient in ELA and <5% of students were proficient in Math on RICAS.
- A majority of students at Founders Academy matriculate into Beacon High School.



Nuestro Mundo Charter School

THAT the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education moves to renew the charter of Nuestro Mundo Charter School for three years.

Charter	Location	Enrollment Area	Grades	Enrollment	2025 Star Rating
Nuestro Mundo Charter School	Providence	Providence	K-8	292	Three-Star

Nuestro Mundo Charter School

THAT the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education moves to renew the charter of Nuestro Mundo Charter School for three years.

Key Recommendation Drivers:

- The school approached expectations in SY 21–22 and SY 22–23 due to the school’s two-star rating. The school met expectations in SY 24–25 and SY 23–24 as the school was rated as a three-star school.
 - In SY 24–25, the school outperformed PPSD as a district in ELA on RICAS. Students in grades 6,7, and 8 outperformed PPSD students by double digits.
 - Math proficiency decreased 12.7 percentage points from 22.8% in SY 23–24 to 12.1% in SY 24–25.
 - In SY 23–24, the school was in the 74th percentile on math growth. In SY 24–25 the school dropped to the 44th percentile.
- The charter provided assurances and descriptions of work related to sharing resources and practices. The charter collaborated with PPSD dual language schools and the University of Rhode Island to write an MLL Success Grant that was awarded at the end of the school year.



Paul Cuffee Charter School

THAT the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education moves to renew the charter of Paul Cuffee Charter School for three years.

Charter	Location	Enrollment Area	Grades	Enrollment	2025 Star Rating
Paul Cuffee Lower School	Providence	Providence	K-5	358	Two-Star
Paul Cuffee Upper School	Providence	Providence	6-8	189	Two-Star
Paul Cuffee High School	Providence	Providence	9-12	243	Two-Star



Paul Cuffee Charter School

THAT the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education moves to renew the charter of Paul Cuffee Charter School for three years.

Key Recommendation Drivers:

- From SY 22–23 to SY 24–25, all Paul Cuffee schools received two-star ratings and were ranked as "approaches expectations" on the school performance indicator, with the exception in SY 23–24 the lower school did not meet expectations as a one-star school.
- All Paul Cuffee schools approached expectations on the school comparison indicator in SY 22–23, SY 23–24, and SY 24–25 due to the weighted average proficiency rate of PPSD in ELA and Math being greater than the percentage of students proficient at the charter school plus the error value.
- During the renewal site visit, Paul Cuffee staff emphasized a focus on academic growth. The Upper School saw significant growth on the SAT Math exam, with average growth in the 71st percentile.
- In SY 24–25, the school did not meet expectations on the financial indicator due to the current ratio falling below 0.9 and having less than 15 days of unrestricted cash on hand. The school provided a response to this indicator, which is found in the Financial section of the renewal memo provided.



PVD Prep

THAT the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education moves to renew the charter of PVD Prep for three years.

Charter	Location	Enrollment Area	Grades	Enrollment	2025 Star Rating
PVD Prep	Providence	Providence	5-8	244	One-Star

THAT the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education moves to renew the charter of PVD Prep for three years.

Key Recommendation Drivers:

- In SY 24–25, PVD Prep was rated as "Does Not Meet Expectations" on the school performance indicator as they received a one-star rating.
- In SY 21–22 and SY 23–24 PVD Prep met expectations as a three-star school on the school performance indicator and approached expectations in SY 22–23.
- In SY 24–25, PVD Prep approached expectations on the school comparison indicator with Math RICAS scores lower than Providence Public School District middle schools.
- PVD Prep's SY 24–25 RICAS scores demonstrated 16.5% proficiency in ELA, as compared to PPSD at 15.4%.
- PVD Prep's SY 24–25 RICAS scores demonstrated 10.9% proficiency in Math, as compared to PPSD at 11.3%.
- In SY 22–23, PVD Prep saw high rates of achievement and growth. However, In the past three years of their charter term, both proficiency rates and growth in Math declined. Growth in ELA also declined consistently during this time.

Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts

THAT the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education moves to renew the charter of TAPA for three years.

Charter	Location	Enrollment Area	Grades	Enrollment	2025 Star Rating
TAPA	Providence	Providence	5-12	234	Two-Star



Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts

THAT the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education moves to renew the charter of Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts for three years.

Key Recommendation Drivers:

- In all three years of its charter term, Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts (TAPA) was rated "approaches expectations" on the school performance indicator.
- On their first state assessments, fifth graders outperformed PPSD peers in every subject area tested.
 - TAPA ELA: 26.3% vs. PPSD ELA 16.7% (+9.6)
 - TAPA Math: 18.9% vs. PPSD Math 17.2% (+1.7)
 - TAPA Science: 30.6% vs. PPSD Science 15.5% (+15.1)
- TAPA saw an increase in Math SAT proficiency from SY 23-24 to SY 24-25, but a decrease in ELA proficiency.
 - SAT ELA: 53.8% SY 23-24 to 41.2% SY 24-25 (-12.6)
 - SAT Math: <5% SY 23-24 to 11.8% SY 24-25 (+ at least 6.8%)
- The school met expectations on financial indicators across the charter term with the exception of SY 23-24 due to the school having between 15 and 30 days of unrestricted cash on hand. In addition, the school's total margin for SY 23-24 was negative.



Highlander Charter School

THAT the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education moves to renew the charter of Highlander Charter School for three years, with conditions

Charter	Location	Enrollment Area	Grades	Enrollment	2025 Star Rating
Highlander Charter School – Elementary	Providence	Statewide	K–6	269	Two-Star
Highlander Charter School – Secondary	Warren	Statewide	7–12	340	Two-Star

CONDITIONS:

- Highlander Charter School must resubmit an updated charter, to RIDE during the 2026 New Seats application process.

Highlander Charter School

THAT the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education moves to renew the charter of Highlander Charter School for three years, with conditions.

Key Recommendation Drivers:

- In SY 22–23 the Secondary School was identified for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) due to low graduation rates (67.3%). In SY23–24, the graduation rate rose to 82.8%.
- In SY 24–25, the school approached expectations as a two-star school on the school performance indicator:
 - RICAS scores for SY 24–25 demonstrated 14.2% proficiency in ELA and 6.8% proficiency in Math.
 - SAT proficiency for ELA is 33.9% and Math is 5.1%
- The Elementary School approached expectations in SY 22–23 and SY 24–25 as a two-star school and met expectations in SY 23–24 as a three-star school.
 - The Middle/High School approached expectations in SY 22–23, SY 23–24, and SY 24–25 as a two-star school.
- Highlander Charter School opened in 1998 under a charter drafted by Big Picture Learning that no longer aligns with their desired school model. Furthermore, the outdated charter reflects a relationship with Big Picture Learning that no longer exists between the school and the nonprofit. As a condition of renewal, Highlander is required to resubmit their charter by summer 2026.



Charette Charter School

THAT the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education moves to renew the charter of Charette Charter School for one year, with conditions

Charter	Location	Enrollment Area	Grades	Enrollment	2025 Star Rating
Charette Charter School	Providence	Providence	9-12	168	Two-Star

CONDITIONS:

- *Charette Charter School must resubmit an updated charter, to RIDE during the 2026 New Seats application process.*

Charette Charter School

THAT the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education moves to renew the charter of Charette Charter School for one year, with conditions

Key Recommendation Drivers:

- Charette Charter School received a one-star rating in SY 23–24, and a two-star rating in SY 24–25.
- During all three years of the charter term, Charette did not meet expectations on School Comparison data, with ELA and Math SAT scores below the Providence Public School District average.
- During the renewal visit in spring 2025, the Charette board spoke about a plan to replace the school leader who retired in June 2025. The plan was not sufficient, given the current level of performance.
 - The school is operating with an interim head of school who was initially hired to shepherd the school renewal process and whose contract was extended through June 2026.
- Classroom observations demonstrated a low level of instructional quality and student engagement across the school.



Village Green Virtual Charter School

THAT the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education moves to renew the charter of Village Green Virtual Charter School for one year, with conditions

Charter	Location	Enrollment Area	Grades	Enrollment	2025 Star Rating
VGV	Providence	Statewide	9-12	203	One-Star

CONDITIONS:

- Village Green Virtual Charter School must resubmit an updated charter, to RIDE during the 2026 New Seats application process.

Village Green Virtual Charter School

THAT the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education moves to renew the charter of Village Green Virtual Charter School for one year, with conditions.

Key Recommendation Drivers:

- In SY 22–23 and SY 23–24 the school approached expectations as a two-star school. In SY24–25, the charter did not meet expectations on the school performance indicator due to its one-star rating.
 - SAT ELA proficiency was 21.2%, as compared to the state average of 51.6% (+30.4%)
 - SAT Math proficiency was <5%, as compared to the state average of 23.3% (+ at least 18.3%)
- In SY 24–25, the school earned only one growth point for ELA, Math, and English Language Proficiency.
- In the previous renewal cycle, Village Green was awarded a three-year renewal.
- Village Green opened in 2013 with a model dependent on Edgenuity, a curriculum that no longer meets Rhode Island's standards for high-quality instructional materials.
- The school's focus since shifted to dual and concurrent enrollment which is not supported or sustained by the original charter.





Questions?