

HCSD B.E.S.T. Academy Charter Renewal Application Review Select Committee 2023 Overview

On October 13, 2022, a Charter School Renewal letter for B.E.S.T. Academy was received by the Supervisor of School Choice. The Supervisor of School Choice provided B.E.S.T. Academy with HCSD Charter Renewal Application with a due date for completion on December 9, 2022. B.E.S.T. was also provided a copy of the HCSD Evaluation Renewal tool that would be used to evaluate their renewal application.

The Renewal Application focused on four (4) specific areas:

1. Has the School Been Successful in Increasing Student Achievement?
2. Is the School an Effective, Viable Organization?
3. Compliance and Faithfulness to the Terms of the Contract and of Applicable Law
4. Legal Actions

The completed application was received on December 13, 2022. On December 14, 2022, the Supervisor of School Choice sent out an email to a select committee of eight (8) members to evaluate their portion of the renewal application.

The members that evaluated Section 1 are:

Sonsee Sanders, Director of Research and Accountability, Jennifer Merschbach, Coordinator of Assessment and Accountability – Indicators 1.a – 1.e

Dawn Williams, Supervisor of School Choice – Indicator 1.f

The members that evaluated Section 2 are:

Joyce McIntyre, Director of Finance, Julie Hansen, Accountant – Indicators 2.a – 2.e

and Dawn Williams, Supervisor of School Choice – Indicator 2.f

The members that evaluated Section 3 are:

Dawn Williams, Supervisor of School Choice – Indicator 3.a

Jill Kolasa, Director of Student Services, Anna Jensen, Director of Exceptional Student Education, and Tiffany Howard Director of Elementary Programs – Indicator 3.b

Angela Kennedy, Director of Federal Programs – Indicator Question 3.c

Jill Kolasa, Director of Student Services – Indicator Question 3.d

Tiffany Howard Director of Elementary Programs – Indicator 3.e

Paula Clark, Supervisor of Professional Development – Indicator 3.f

There were no members assigned to Section 4 as there is not any pending or threatened legal actions.

The select committee evaluated the renewal application using the HCSD Evaluation Tool via a Google document that was shared with B.E.S.T. so they could reply to concerns and/or recommendations made by the committee.

The deadline for completion of the evaluation and B.E.S.T. response was January 5, 2023.

Once the document was completed, the Supervisor of School Choice tallied the number of “Meets the Standard,” “Partially Meets the Standard,” and “Does Not Meet the Standard.” B.E.S.T. met nine (9) of the standards, partially met eleven (11) of the standards, did not meet one (1) of the standards, and one (1) standard did not apply.

There is no set number of sections that must be rated “Meets the Standard,” “Partially Meets the Standard,” or “Does Not Meet the Standard” to qualify for recommendation for approval, nor is there a set number of “Does Not Meet the Standard” to qualify for recommendation for denial.

Overall, the summary of the evaluation indicators reflects that the B.E.S.T. has partially met the standard. We arrived at Partially Meets the Standard because the majority of the indicators were only partially met.

Based on evidence provided by B.E.S.T. and state statute 1002.33, the overall recommendation is to approve the renewal of the charter for a term of 15 years.