



Charter Schools Accountability and Support
2012-2013

**NEW YORK CENTER FOR AUTISM CHARTER SCHOOL
ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW REPORT**

2012-2013 SCHOOL YEAR

Part 1: School Overview & History

School Overview and History

New York Center for Autism Charter School (NYCACS) is an ungraded school serving approximately 32 students¹ ages 5 to 19 during the 2012-13 school year. It opened in 2005-2006, and is under the terms of its second charter. The school's projected full grade span upon renewal and approval remains ungraded, and it has already reached its authorized capacity of number of students to be served.² The school is located in a public³ facility at 433 East 100th Street in Manhattan within CSD 4.⁴

The school does not receive a NYC DOE Progress Report.⁵

New York Center for Autism Charter School enrolls new students in grade K equivalent (age 5). There were 78 students on the waitlist after the Spring 2012 lottery.⁶

The average attendance rate for the 2012-13 school year to date is 96%.⁷

On the 2011-12 NYC DOE School Survey, the school scored Well Above Average on the Academic Expectation, Communication, Engagement and Safety & Respect sections. In addition, 88.0% of the school's parents and 97.0% of the school's teachers responded to the survey.⁸

The school was given a five-year renewal in 2010 and is under the term of its second charter, which expires on April 14, 2015.

The school's current Executive Director, Julie Fisher, has held this position since the 2008-09 school year.

The school provides a year-round program for students from all five of the city's boroughs, most of whom receive mandated transportation services on their Individualized Education Plans (IEPs). Consequently, the effects of both Hurricane Sandy in October 2012 and the school bus strike of January-February 2013 were very disruptive to the school's schedule and academic program.

¹ Enrollment based on ATS data from 3/8/13.

² NYC DOE internal data.

³ NYC DOE internal data.

⁴ NYC DOE Location Code Generating System database.

⁵ NYC DOE Progress Report – <http://schools.nyc.gov/progressreport>

⁶ Self-reported information from school-submitted Data Collection Form.

⁷ Self-reported information from school-submitted Data Collection Form.

⁸ NYC DOE School Survey – <http://schools.nyc.gov/survey>

Part 2: Annual Review Process Overview

Rating Framework

The New York City Department of Education (NYC DOE) Charter Schools Accountability & Support Team (CSAS) performs a comprehensive review of each NYC DOE-authorized charter school to investigate three primary questions: is the school an academic success; is the school a fiscally sound, viable organization; and is the school in compliance with its charter and all applicable laws and regulations? To ascertain matters of sustainability and strategic planning, CSAS inquires about the school's plans for its next charter term.

This review is conducted by analyzing student performance data and collecting and evaluating school-submitted documents during the 2012-2013 school year. The report outlines evidence found during this review.

As per the school's monitoring plan, CSAS may also conduct a visit to a school. Visits may focus on academic outcomes, governance, organizational structure, operational compliance, fiscal sustainability or any combination of these as necessary.

In addition, a school's charter goals are reviewed. The progress that a school has made towards achieving its goals at this particular point during its charter period is noted. However, as this is an interim review before the end of the charter term, progress towards goals is not used as part of this evaluation.

Essential Questions

Is the school an academic success?

To assess whether a school is an academic success, CSAS considers performance measures, including, but not limited to the following:

- Overall NYC DOE Progress Report score,
- New York State ELA and Math results and/or New York State Regents exams,
- ELA and Math proficiency compared to the district for elementary and middle schools, and graduation rates compared to the city for high schools,
- New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA) or other approved alternate assessments, and
- Performance data pertaining to college and career readiness.

Academic success is rated as **Demonstrated, Partially Demonstrated, or Not Yet Demonstrated**. If a school does not yet have a NYC DOE Progress Report, it is rated as Not Yet Demonstrated.

Is the school a fiscally sound, viable organization?

To assess whether a school is a fiscally sound, viable organization, CSAS focuses on three areas: Governance Structure & Organizational Design, School Climate & Community Engagement, and Financial Health. This includes an analysis of the school's audited financial statements, based on the NACSA (National Association of Charter School Authorizers) Financial Framework⁹.

CSAS also considers a variety of supporting materials and data, including but not limited to the following:

- Board of Trustee bylaws,
- Board of Trustee meeting minutes,
- Annual Reports submitted by schools to New York State Education Department (NYSED),
- NYC DOE School Survey,
- Data collection sheets provided by schools,

⁹http://www.qualitycharters.org/assets/files/images/stories/pdfs/publications/Performance_Framework_Fall_2012_Draft.pdf, page 38-59

- Student, staff, and Board turnover,
- Authorized enrollment numbers, and
- Annual financial audits.

A school's Governance Structure & Organizational Design and Climate & Community Engagement are rated as **Developed, Partially Developed, or Not Yet Developed**. A school's Financial Health is rated to indicate whether there are concerns about the near-term financial obligations and the financial sustainability of the school.

Is the school compliant with its charter and all applicable law and regulations?

As it pertains to compliance, CSAS identifies areas of compliance and noncompliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

Staff Representatives

The following staff representatives participated in the review of this school's documents as detailed above:

- Larios, DOE
- Gabrielle Mosquera, DOE
- Kamilah O'Brien, DOE

Part 3: Findings

Summary of Findings

Based on CSAS review, the following findings are made. To date, the school:

- has demonstrated academic achievement and progress (p. 6).
- has a developed governance structure and organizational design (p. 7).
- has developed a stable school culture (p. 7).
- is in a strong position to meet near-term financial obligations and is financially sustainable based on current practices (p. 8).
- is in compliance with charter laws and regulations (p. 9).
- has plans to plans to incorporate the recommendations of its Adolescent and Young Adult Task Force into its program for the next prospective charter period. (p.10).

This review included a desk audit of public and school submitted documents but did not include a school visit in 2012-13.

Essential Question 1: Is the School an Academic Success?

To date, NYCACS has demonstrated academic achievement and progress.

According to the school's Annual Report to NYSED, in 2011-12:

- Eighty-four percent of the school's students mastered a minimum of 85% of programs that support their IEP goals and objectives. This surpassed the school's charter goal of at least 75% of students mastering a minimum of 85% of their IEP goals and objectives.
- One hundred percent of students demonstrated increased performance on the Verbal Behavior-Milestones Placement Program (VB-MAPP). This surpassed the school's charter goal of 75% of student increasing performance on the VB-MAPP.
- One hundred percent of students for whom assessment was required scored a 4 on the NYS Alternate Assessments (NYSAA) for ELA, Math, and Science.
- Between 2010-11 and 2011-12, 6% of students moved to a less restrictive environment. This surpasses the school's charter goal of moving at least 5% of students from a NYCACS to a less restrictive environment within any five-year period of its current charter.

Progress Toward Attainment of Academic Goals¹⁰

- The school met 5 of 5 of its self-identified academic goals from its charter.

In addition, based on submitted documents the following is noted:

- School leadership reported that as of January 2013, when the school submitted documents to CSAS, the school was on track to meet or exceed its academic goals for the current school year.
- A school goal related to engaging parents in their children's educational program was underway in January 2013 with 88 instructional-focused visits by parents to the school and 78 home and community visits being conducted. The target is 5 of each type of visit per family, and at least 3 of each type per family had taken place before the halfway point of the school year.
- School leadership reported two initiatives to help improve academic performance: an effort to streamline its data collection system to improve capacity for analysis of aggregated data; and the purchase of a teacher evaluation system from the Alpine Learning Group, a leader in autism education, to provide more consistent and targeted feedback to staff.

¹⁰ Goal analysis is considered a neutral point for the purposes of this evaluation.

Essential Question 2: Is the School a Fiscally Sound, Viable Organization?

Governance Structure & Organizational Design

To date, the school's Board of Trustees has a developed governance structure and organizational design.

- The Board has 16 voting members and 2 members serving in an ex-officio capacity in 2012-13 after rotating out of service. One new member was added during 2012-13 to improve capacity. As recorded in meeting minutes, Board votes consistently demonstrate a quorum.
- The officer positions outlined in the Board's bylaws are filled, as recorded in meeting minutes.
- The committees outlined in the Board's bylaws are active, as recorded in meeting minutes.
- There are clear lines of accountability between the Board, school leadership, and school staff as evidenced by the school's organizational chart and school leadership's regular updates on academic, financial, and operation performance to the Board and its committees, as recorded in Board meeting minutes.
- According to its bylaws, the Board is required to have six regular meetings; it has met six times in 2012-13.
- The Board posts meeting minutes and agendas on the school's website for public review.

Based on monitoring and document review, the following was noted:

- The Board conducted a self-evaluation in January 2013 to assess strengths, needs and goals. Responses emphasized the need for efficient decision-making as well as for fundraising expertise.
- The Board has joined with school staffers to create an Adolescent and Young Adult Task Force to provide recommendations that address the school's ongoing concerns regarding age compression and the programming needs of aging students. Recommendations will be incorporated into the school's next renewal application.

School Climate & Community Engagement

The school has developed a stable school culture.

- Julie Fisher, the executive director, has been in this role since 2009 and with the school since 2005. She reports that the overall school leadership team has been in place since 2009.
- According to the school's ACR Data Collection Form, 6 of 33 instructional staff from the end of the 2011-12 school year did not return, for an instructional staff attrition rate of 18%.
- According to the school's ACR Data Collection Form, 2 students of approximately 32 enrolled students at the end of the year did not return to the school in 2012-13.
- According to the ACR Data Collection Form, the average daily attendance for 2012-13, is 96%, despite transportation challenges caused by Super Storm Sandy and the school bus strike.
- On its 2011-12 NYC DOE School Survey, NYCACS, compared to elementary schools citywide, earned Well Above Average satisfaction results for Academic Expectations, Communication, Engagement, and Safety & Respect sections.
- NYCACS's NYC DOE School Survey participation results were above citywide averages for both Parents (88% to 53%) and Teachers (97% to 82%).

Progress Toward Attainment of Accountability Goals¹¹

- According to the school's 2011-12 Annual Report to NYSED, the average daily student attendance rate was 96.5%, which represented a met charter school goal. (See above for 2012-13 attendance to date.)
- Based on its Annual Report to NYSED, both Parent and Teacher participation and satisfaction responses represented met charter school goals.

¹¹ Goal analysis is considered a neutral point for the purposes of this evaluation.

Financial Health

Overall, the school is in a strong position to meet near-term financial obligations and is financially sustainable based on current practices.

- The school received a clean audit with no material findings on its most recent audited financial statements.
- The school is in a strong position to meet all of its liabilities in the next 12 months.
- The school is in a position to cover all its future expenses for the next two months without an infusion of cash.
- The school is meeting its enrollment target, indicating a stable budget.
- The school is meeting its debt obligations.
- The school is operating at a 20% surplus indicating an ability to create a strong reserve to support ongoing growth.
- The school has a low debt-to-asset ratio.
- The school's multi-year cumulative cash flow has had some fluctuation, but was positive from FY2011 to FY2012.
- The school has a fully funded escrow account.

Essential Question 3: Compliance with Charter and All Applicable Laws and Regulations

To date, the school is compliant with charter and applicable laws and regulations.

- To date, the Board is in compliance with:
 - The Board's membership size falls within the range outlined in the school's charter and in the Board's bylaws.
 - All Board members have submitted conflict of interest and financial disclosure forms and do not demonstrate conflicts of interest.
 - The Board has held the number of board meetings outlined in its bylaws.

- To date, the school is in compliance with:
 - The school has provided timely submissions of accountability reporting documents to the CSAS team.
 - The school has submitted required documentation indicating that all staff members have appropriate fingerprint clearance.
 - The school has submitted required documentation for teacher certification and is compliant with state requirements for teacher certification.
 - The school has the required number of staff with AED-CPR certification.
 - The school has submitted appropriate insurance documents.
 - The school submitted its required immunization documentation and is in compliance with Department of Health standards of 98.8% for immunization.

Essential Question 4: What are the School's Plans for the Next Charter Term?

As reported by the school's leadership, the following was noted:

- The school plans to incorporate the recommendations of its Adolescent and Young Adult Task Force into its program for the next prospective charter period. These center on four areas:
 - Estimating the capacities of students on a continuum of community integration,
 - Developing programming for students who fall on each part of this continuum,
 - Developing parental involvement strategies around student transition,
 - Determining facility and staffing need for the changing program.

Part 4: Essential Questions and Accountability Framework

The CSAS Accountability Framework

To help NYC DOE authorized charter schools better understand what we mean by success for charter schools, the NYC DOE's Charter Schools Accountability and Support (CSAS) has developed an Accountability Framework build around four essential questions for charter school renewal:

1. Is the school an academic success?
2. Is the school a fiscally sound, viable organization?
3. Is the school compliant with its charter and all applicable law and regulations?
4. What are the school's plans for its next charter term?

1. Is the School an Academic Success?

1a. High Academic Attainment and Improvement

Schools that are academic successes have many of the characteristics below:

- Meet absolute performance goals
- Meet student progress goals
- Are closing the achievement gap for at risk students, including special needs and ELL students
- Are surpassing performance of DOE identified peer-schools
- Are surpassing performance district and city proficiency or better averages
- Are meeting other rigorous academic and non-academic goals as stated in school's charter

Evidence for success might include, but not be limited to, the following depending on school configurations:

- Grades 3-8 NYS ELA Results (absolute performance, individual student progress, comparative performance to similar schools, home district or city averages, progress for at-risk populations)
- Grades 3-8 NYS Math Results (absolute performance, individual student progress, comparative performance to similar schools, home district or city averages, progress for at-risk populations)
- Grades 4 and 8 NYS Science Results (absolute performance, individual student progress, comparative performance to similar schools, home district or city averages, progress for at-risk populations)
- Grades 8-12 NYS Regent Exam Results
- When applicable, NYSAA or other approved alternate assessments results
- HS 4- and 6-Year Graduation Rates (absolute and progress, overall, for at-risk student populations)
- Grades 8-12 College Readiness Credit Accumulation
- Percentage of Students Applying to and Being Admitted to College
- Percentage of Students Taking AP Courses and/or Percentage of Students Passing AP Courses
- Results on state accountability measures
- Charter School Academic and Non-Academic Goals
- NYC Progress Reports

1b. Mission and Academic Goals

Schools with successful missions and goals have many of the characteristics below:

- Have an animating mission statement that staff, students and community embrace
- Set ambitious academic and non-academic goals that entire school community knows and embraces
- Have processes for regular monitoring and reporting on progress toward school goals
- Have processes for adjusting strategies in support of goals as appropriate in response to monitoring data

Evidence for successful missions and goals might include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Mission statement, charter, external documents (parent and family handbooks, school website, etc.)
- Annual reports, school improvement plans, leadership board reports
- Board agendas and minutes
- Parent, student, and teacher satisfaction surveys
- Participation at parent-teacher conferences, school advocacy events, participation in academic goal related programs

1c. Responsive Education Program

Schools with successful education programs have many of the characteristics below:

- Are self-reflective and examine practice based on outcomes against goals
- Have well-thought out curricular programs that are aligned with NYS learning outcomes as described by state standards and the new Common Core Curriculum.
- Use instructional models and resources consistent with school mission and that are flexible in addressing the needs of all learners
- Have defined strategies that they can measure and monitor for closing the achievement gap
- Offer defined opportunities for remediation and acceleration
- Implement a coherent and effective interim assessment system (e.g., use of formative, interim, and summative assessment data) for monitoring progress, predicting performance, and adjusting instruction
- Have an effective process for supporting improved classroom instruction, including frequent observation and feedback
- Have effective strategies and quality instructional programs for addressing students with special needs and ELLs
- Use a defined process for evaluating curricular tasks, programs and resources for effectiveness and fit with school mission and goals

Evidence for successful education programs, in addition to positive results, may include, but not be limited to, many of the following:

- Instructional planning documents (alignments, scope and sequences, curriculum maps, unit and lesson plans, etc.)
- Student/teacher schedules
- Classroom observations
- Student Intervention / Response to Intervention program description and resources
- Interim assessment results
- Student and teacher portfolios
- Data findings; adjusted lesson plans
- Self-assessment documentation
- Professional development plans and resources

1d. Learning Environment

Schools with successful learning environments have many of the characteristics below:

- Have a strong culture that connects high academic and behavioral expectations in a way that motivates students to give their best effort academically and socially
- Use a comprehensive approach to student management, including positive behavioral expectations and a clear discipline policy to build and sustain a safe, orderly, and supportive classroom environment
- Provide for safe, respectful, efficient transitions, hallways, cafeteria, yard, etc.
- Have classrooms where academic risk-taking and student participation is encouraged and supported
- Provide opportunities for students to actively engage in their own learning and in the life of the school

- Have a formal or informal character education, social development, or citizenship program that provides opportunities to develop as individuals and citizens

Evidence for successful learning environments may include, but not be limited to, many of the following:

- School mission and articulated values
- Student management plan (code of conduct, school values, discipline policy, positive incentive system, etc.)
- Student attendance and retention rates
- Student discipline data
- DOE School Survey student results
- DOE School Survey parent and teacher safety and respect results
- Self-administered satisfaction survey results
- Leadership, staff, and, if appropriate, student interviews
- Classroom observations
- Scheduled student engagement opportunities (e.g., student advisory, internships, student government, student led conferences, peer tutoring, peer mediation, etc.)

2. Is the School a Fiscally Sound, Viable Organization?

2a. Governance Structure and Organizational Design

Schools with successful governance and organizational design structures have many of the characteristics below:

- Operate with a clearly articulated governance structure, compliant with its charter and all applicable laws and regulations
- Have a capable Board of Trustees with appropriate blend of skills and experiences to provide oversight and strategic direction to fulfill the mission and goals of its charter
- Have a Board that is fully compliant with all applicable laws and regulations, particularly but not limited to open-meeting laws and conflict of interest regulations
- Have developed a succession plan for board and school leadership, consistent with the charter and Board by-laws, to ensure continuity of direction and leadership over time and despite circumstance
- Implements a school leadership structure that is aligned with charter and that is sufficient to fulfill school's mission and achieve its accountability goals; it also has clear lines of accountability for leadership roles, accountability to Board, and, if applicable, relationship with a charter management organization
- Have timely and appropriate access to legal counsel
- Implemented a process for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the school's organization and leadership structure
- Have instructional leadership staffing and support structures that holds staff accountable for student learning outcomes and provide regular feedback on instruction to teachers

Evidence for school governance and organizational design may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- School charter
- Board by-laws, roster, trustee resumes, meeting agenda and minutes
- Annual conflict of interest forms
- Staff roster, job descriptions, staff handbook, operations manual
- School calendar, professional development plan

2b. School Climate and Community Engagement

Schools with a sustaining school climate and engaged parent and community support have many of the characteristics below:

- A healthy professional school climate that is collaborative, student centered, and open to parents and community support
- An effective process for recruiting, hiring, supporting, and evaluating leadership and staff
- A flexible, data-driven approach to professional development for all staff
- An effective way of measuring and monitoring core constituency satisfaction (parent, staff, and, when age appropriate, student), including the DOE School Survey
- Effective home-school communication practices to ensure meaningful parent involvement in the learning of their children
- Strong community-based partnerships and advocacy for the school

Evidence for school climate and community engagement may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- DOE School Survey satisfaction parent, teacher, and, if appropriate student results
- Student retention and wait list data
- Staff retention data
- Leadership, staff, parent, student interviews
- Student and staff attendance rates
- Parent attendance at parent-teacher conferences
- Parent association meeting calendar and minutes
- Community partnerships and sponsored programs

2c. Financial and Operational Health

Schools that are responsible stewards of public funds and effective, sustaining organizations have many of the characteristics below:

- Consistently meet its student enrollment and retention targets
- Annual budgets that meets all short- and long-term financial responsibilities with available revenues
- School leadership and Board that oversee financial and operational responsibilities in a manner that keeps the school's mission and academic goals central to decision-making
- Boards and school leadership that maintain effective internal controls of finances to ensure integrity of financial management and a proactive approach to mitigating risk
- Consistently clean financial audits
- If applicable, strong, accountable partnerships with management organizations and other partners and significant vendors to support delivery of chartered school design and academic program
- A safe, clean and appropriately resourced educational facility with all appropriate services specified in charter and mandated by appropriate law and regulations

Evidence for a financially sound, viable organization may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- School budget, P&Ls, and monthly/quarterly cash-flow reports
- Appropriate insurance documents
- Required facility documents (lease, certificate of occupancy, fire and safety inspections, etc.)
- Financial audits
- Financial leader(s) resume and accountability documents
- Operational policies and procedures
- Operational org chart
- Secure storage areas for student and staff records
- Policies/protocols for maintaining secure records
- School safety plan

3. Is the School in Compliance with its Charter and All Applicable Law and Regulations?

3a. Approved Charter and Agreement

Schools in substantial compliance with their charter and agreement have:

- Implemented the key features of their charter as described in the original charter and as modified in approved revisions to their charter, including but not limited to mission, academic program, school organization, grade configuration, enrollment, goals, etc.
- Ensure that update-to-date charter is publicly available to staff, parents, and school community
- Implemented comprehensive academic, behavioral, oversight, management, and operational policies and procedures that are substantially aligned with the charter and the school's stated mission and vision

Evidence for a school's compliance with the terms of its charter and charter agreement may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Authorized charter and signed agreement
- Charter revision request approval and documentation
- School mission
- School policies and procedures
- Site visits
- Board meetings, agendas and minutes
- Leadership/board interviews

3b. Applicable Federal and State Law

Schools in substantial compliance with federal and state law have:

- Met all legal requirements for Title I and IDEA regulations and reporting
- Comparable enrollment of FRL, ELL and Special Education students to those of their district of location *or* are making documented good faith efforts to reach comparable percentages
- Implemented school policies related to student discipline and promotion and retention that are fully compliant with laws and regulations related to students with disabilities and due process regulations
- Conducted independently verified fair and open lottery and manage with integrity enrollment process and annual waiting lists
- Employed instructional staff with appropriate security clearances and certification requirements

Evidence for compliance with applicable federal and state law may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- School reporting documents
- School's Annual Report
- Student recruitment plan and resources
- Student management policies and promotion and retention policies
- Student discipline records
- Lottery policy, resources, and records; enrollment procedures and records
- Staff roster, fingerprint clearance for all staff, certification status of all instructional staff

3c. Applicable Regulations

Schools in substantial compliance with applicable regulations have:

- Safe and secure facilities with no significant compliance concerns with applicable regulations
- Consistently clean annual audits, up-to-date escrow accounts, and have completed all other financial reporting as required
- Boards that meet requirements for size, meeting frequency, public notice, applicable open-meeting and conflict of interest regulations, as well as complying with NYC DOE CSO's requirements for reporting changes in board membership and securing approval for new board members.
- Informed NYCDOE CSO, and where required, received CSO approval for changes in significant partnerships, such as dropping/replacing a management organization
- Effectively engaged parent associations

Evidence for compliance with applicable regulations may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- School or building safety plan; appropriate inspection documents
- Annual audits, escrow accounts, other financial reporting documents
- Board roster, calendar, agenda and minutes, conflict of interest documents, notification of changes/approval of new member request documents
- Charter revision requests, revised or new contracts
- Parent association calendar of meetings, identified officers, parent association agenda and minutes, parent satisfaction survey results
- Interviews

4. What Are the School's Plans for its Next Charter Term?

4a. School Expansion or Model Replication

In anticipation of a new charter term schools may be considering various growth options: replication, expansion to new grades or increased enrollment or altering their model in some significant way.

Successful schools generally have processes for:

- Conducting needs/opportunity assessments
- Forming Board and leadership committees or subcommittees to investigate options, develop action plans, ensure capacity and resources are aligned, etc.
- Engaging school community in articulating charter revisions (or a new charter in cases of replication) to address the proposed growth plans
- Ensuring that the final proposal is ambitious but realistic in its plans
- Creating a well-reasoned and documented prospective for the school's new charter term and, if applicable, a new charter proposal (for replication)

Evidence for likely success in planning for school growth in a new charter term may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Application Part I: Retroactive Analysis, including performance results and analyses of the current charter term
- Application Part II: Prospective Analysis, including mission, program description, governance, organization, budget, etc. for new term
- Leadership and Board interviews

4b. Organizational Sustainability

Successful schools consistently perform despite change. While there is no single path for ensuring sustainability, successful schools often have the following features:

- School anticipates organizational opportunities/needs and plans for resource development (human resource policies for growing your own talent, for example, or fundraising or budget management to take care of anticipated capital needs and to mitigate risks for the unexpected, or board development to bring new talent or specific needs-based expertise to the school)

Evidence for organizational sustainability may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Board roster and resumes
- Board committees and minutes
- School organization chart
- Staff rosters
- Staff handbook
- Leadership and staff interviews
- Budget

4c. School or Model Improvements

Successful schools are thoughtful about the continued appropriateness of school design features and elements of their models. They:

- Review performance carefully and even if they don't make major changes through expansion or replication, they are careful to adjust elements to ensure continued and improved success.
- Develop plans to improve the school learning environment, including improving their facilities to expand program offerings and/or developing new partnerships to further the school's mission.

Evidence for successful improvements to a school's program or model may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Application Part I: Retroactive Analysis, including performance results and analyses of the current charter term
- Application Part II: Prospective Analysis, including mission, program description, governance, organization, budget, etc. for new term
- Leadership and board interviews
- MOUs or contracts with partners