

2014 Charter Authorizer Annual Report

Please complete the following report and submit via electronic mail to sbe@k12.wa.us. If the information requested for any part of the report is not available, please enter NA in the space provided. Please identify by item number below any attachments provided for purposes of this report.

Authorizer Name:

Spokane Public Schools

Authorizer Address:

200 North Bernard, Spokane, WA 99201

Contact for Additional Information:

Name: Dr. Steven Gering

Telephone Number: 509.354.7396

Email Address: steveng@spokaneschools.org

Mailing Address: 200 North Bernard, Spokane, WA 99201

1. If a school district, date of approval as an authorizer by the SBE.

9/11/2013

2. Names and job titles of personnel having principal authorizing responsibilities, with contact information for each.

Name: Jeannette Vaughn, Department of Innovation

Telephone Number: 509.354.7353

Email Address: jeannettev@spokaneschools.org

Mailing Address: 200 North Bernard, Spokane, WA 99201

3. Names and job titles of any employees or contractors to whom the district has delegated responsibility for the duties of an authorizer as set forth in RCW 28A.710.100, with contact information for each.

Name: N/A

Telephone Number:

Email Address:

Mailing Address:

4. Please provide as an attachment an executive summary of authorizing activity over the last year, including but not limited to the status and performance of the charter schools since becoming an authorizer.

Please title the attachment: Name of Authorizer.Q4

For example: State Board of Education.Q4

5. Please provide as an attachment your strategic vision for chartering, and an assessment of the progress made in achieving that vision since becoming an authorizer.

Please title the attachment: Name of Authorizer.Q5

6. Please provide as an attachment information on the status of your charter school portfolio, identifying each charter school authorized in each of the following categories:

Please title the attachment: Name of Authorizer.Q6

- a) Approved but not yet operating, including, for each for each school:

- i. The targeted student population and the community the school proposes to serve.
- ii. The proposed location of the school or geographic area in which it will be located.
- iii. The projected enrollment at capacity.
- iv. The grades to be operated in each year of the charter contract.
- v. Names and contact information for each member of the governing board.
- vi. Date approved for opening.

- b) Operating, including, for each school:

- i. Location (street address if available).
- ii. Grades operated.
- iii. Enrollment, total and by grade.
- iv. Enrollment, by grade, for each student subgroup as defined in RCW 28A.300.042, in totals and as percentages of enrollment.
- v. If charter has been renewed during the last year, please indicate, with date of renewal.
- vi. If charter has been transferred to another authorizer within the last year, please indicate, with date of transfer.
- vii. If charter was revoked during the last year, please indicate, with date and reasons for revocation.
- viii. If the school delayed its opening by more than one year by a grant of extension by the authorizer, please indicate, with date of approval of request for extension.
- ix. If the school voluntarily closed, please indicate, with date of closing.
- x. If the school never opened, with no planned date for opening, please indicate.

7. As **Exhibit A**, please provide information on the academic performance of each school operated in the prior school year. The information must include:
- a) Student achievement, as applicable by grade, on each of the required indicators enumerated in **RCW 28A.710.100**, as applicable by grade:
 - i. Academic proficiency, for continuously enrolled students, as reported in the Washington Achievement Index.
 - ii. Academic growth, for continuously enrolled students, as reported in the Washington Achievement Index.
 - iii. Achievement gaps, for continuously enrolled students, as reported in the Washington Achievement Index.
 - iv. Attendance
 - v. Recurrent enrollment from the prior school year to the year before.
 - vi. Graduation rates, as reported in the Washington Achievement Index.
 - vii. Postsecondary readiness, at such time as it is reported in the Washington Achievement Index.
 - b) Student achievement, as applicable by grade, on each additional indicator, if any, the authorizer has included in its academic performance framework.
 - For each indicator of academic performance, data must be reported as:
 - 1) Absolute values, and
 - 2) The computed differences between actual performance and the annual performance targets set by the charter school in conjunction with the authorizer under RCW 28A.710.170(3).
 - For each indicator of academic performance, data must be disaggregated by major student subgroup as enumerated in RCW 28A.710.170(5).

If this information is not yet available, please enter "Not Available" in the box below:

N/A

8. As **Exhibit B**, please provide information on the financial performance over the last year of each charter school operated. The information must include performance on each of the indicators and measures of financial performance and sustainability included in the authorizer's performance framework under RCW 28A.710.170(2)(g).
- For each indicator of financial performance, data must be reported as:
 - (1) Absolute values, and
 - (2) The computed differences between actual performance and the annual performance targets set by the charter school in conjunction with the authorizer under RCW 28A.710.170(3).

If this information is not yet available, please enter "Not Available" in the box below:

N/A

9. In the table in **Exhibit C**, please provide information on the organizational performance over the last year of the governing board of each school operated. Performance reported must be based on the indicators and measures of organizational performance in the authorizer's performance framework, including but not limited to compliance with all applicable laws, rules and terms of the charter contract.
- Where applicable, please compute and report the differences between actual performance on the indicators and the annual targets set by the charter school in conjunction with the authorizer under RCW 28A.710.170(3).

If this information is not yet available, please enter "Not Available" in the box below:

N/A

10. Please provide as an attachment a presentation of operating costs incurred and expenditures made in the prior fiscal year that are specifically attributable to fulfilling the responsibilities of a charter authorizer under RCW 28A.710.100, as reported in annual financial statements that conform with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and under any applicable reporting and accounting requirements of the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Please label the attachment: Name of Authorizer.Q10

11. Please provide as an attachment a list of any contracted, fee-based services purchased in the prior year by the charter schools in the authorizer's portfolio. Please include for each:
- a) An itemized accounting of the revenue received from the schools from the services provided;
 - b) An estimate of the actual costs to the provider of providing these services.

Please label the attachment: Name of Authorizer.Q11

If this information is not yet available, please enter "Not Available" in the box below:

N/A

Spokane Public Schools. Q4

Date	Tasks, Events & Milestones
Dec. 2012	Spokane Board resolution to explore becoming a district authorizer
April 2013	Visit to Spring Branch, TX to visit how their district partners with the charter schools they authorize
June 2013	Application to become a district authorizer
Sept. 2013	Approval of application
Sept. 2013	Issuance of first RFP
Oct. 2013	Hiring of department staff – 2 fulltime staff (most duties related to work in district schools, approximate 25% spent on charter authorization)
Oct. 2013	Staff attendance at NACSA Annual Leadership Conference
Nov./Dec. 2013	Review of (3) applications
Dec. 2013	Visitation to Denver Public Schools
Jan. 2014	Charter applicant interviews, public forum, recommendation reports
Jan. 2014	Board approval of PRIDE Prep
March 2014	Finalization of charter collaboration compact
April 2014	Signing of charter contract with PRIDE Prep
April 2014	Issuance of second RFP
July 2014	Review of (3) applications
Aug./Sept. 2014	Charter applicant interviews, public forum, recommendation reports
Sept. 2014	Board action to approve Spokane International Academy
Oct. 2014	Staff attendance at NACSA Annual Leadership Conference
Dec. 2014	Signing of charter contract with Spokane International Academy

Spokane Public School. Q5

According to Article IX, section 1 of the state constitution, "it is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provisions for the education of all children residing within its borders, without distinction or preference on account of race, color, caste, or sex." And RCW28A.710.005 (Findings for Initiative Measure No. 1240) declared that all students deserve excellent educational opportunities and the highest quality standard of public education available. With these as the back drop, Washington State voters passed Initiative Measure 1240 to approve charter schools as options for the State of Washington.

Once voters approved this as a viable option, our superintendent was clear that Spokane should use this as an option to help move Spokane Public Schools forward on our academic mission. Additionally, our board of directors unanimously passed a resolution approving our school district to move forward with a charter school authorization application.

Spokane and the statutory language in RCW 28A.710.005 have similar views about the potential of charter schools. The promise of charter schools for Spokane, therefore, is to help serve as a catalyst for school improvement, to provide new techniques and strategies to reach at-risk students, and to add choices to the portfolio of options available in Spokane Public Schools (all explicitly mentioned in RCW 28A.710.005). Spokane Public Schools applied to be a charter school authorizer as it aligns with our mission and vision. By being an authorizer, and ensuring that we actively cultivate the types of charters that align our district to our vision statement of Excellence for Everyone, we strive to close the achievement gap and ensure that all students are prepared for a variety of post-secondary pursuits.

As part of our strategic planning efforts, Spokane Public Schools has identified the following as its education mission:

“The mission of Spokane Public Schools is to develop the skills and talents of all students through rigorous learning experiences, relevant real-life applications, and supportive relationships.”

Towards this end, we have examined a range of data from across our school system to track school progress and performance. For example, using the Washington State Achievement Index, it is possible to see a number of schools that are underperforming and are falling short in one or more areas of academic performance. It is clear that there are particular region(s) of our city in which underserved students reside. Consequently, we will have worked diligently to recruit charter schools that meet our academic and citizenship goals and that are targeted towards at-risk students, particularly in the Northeast and Northwest sections of the school district.

In addition to our comprehensive review of our data, we also conducted a large number of surveys and focus groups as part of our strategic planning initiatives. The community feedback showed that they want additional choice and options for their students. We have been researching, proposing and implementing new school program options within our district schools, and have been thoughtful about authorizing charters that fit with community demand and that add to our currently portfolio of options.

Serving At-Risk Students

Spokane Public Schools gives priority to charter schools that serve at-risk students as defined in RCW 28A.710.010 (2) in a number of ways. First and foremost, we explicitly have this in our charter school application materials. All charter school applicants must address recruitment of at-risk students in their application and this will be part of our consideration in the authorization process.

Secondly, we have published specific request for proposals and applications that

Spokane Public Schools Charter School Authorizer Application Overview 20

outline the types of schools and locations of the schools where we find the greatest need (based on at-risk student data). Our intent is that through our request for proposal process that we will provide tremendous clarity about regions of the city we are most interested in serving; types of schools and curriculum programs we are interested in offering; and our clear intent of providing priority for at-risk students.

Respecting and Protecting Charter School Autonomy

Spokane Public Schools is committed to following the charter school renewal, revocation, and non-renewal process. Successful charter school applicants enter into a five year agreement with Spokane Public Schools to run the school as outlined in their charter application. As the charter authorizer, we engage with charter operators in our regular review and evaluation process. In all other respects, the charter will have autonomy unless specific agreements have been established in the charter contract.

Since charter schools authorization is part of our strategic plan and vision, Spokane Public Schools is interested in a number of unique ways such as facilities and/or other fee-based services. However, Spokane Public Schools does not require this and for any fee-based services we may agree to provide schools are voluntary for schools.

Promoting and Ensuring Charter School Accountability

Along with a commitment to ensuring charter school accountability, we also have a plan for ensuring that charter schools authorized by Spokane Public Schools will be held accountable for their performance. Spokane will follow all of the criteria outlined in RCW28A.710.170. We are in the process of refining our performance framework now that we have two authorized schools and we have gained more knowledge about our charter oversight responsibilities. In addition, we are investing in a web-based tool which will assist both our district and the charter schools that we authorize in meeting targeted benchmarks and compliance deadlines.

Spokane views charters as one potential tool to assist us with our overall academic mission. Consequently, if a charter school is underperforming and is not meeting expectations as outlined in our performance agreements, then it will be imperative that we use the

revocation and/or non-renewal process accordingly as part of our accountability efforts. Although we anticipate that this process would be tremendously difficult, we also view this as strength of charter schools. With increased autonomy comes an increased level of accountability. Both of these tools (autonomy and accountability) are part of the package that comes with charters, and they need to be embraced.

Progress Made Toward Achieving the Vision

As far as creating additional education choices, we have added a handful of new programs (dedicated Montessori school, school expansion to include K-8 and 7-12 school models, potential International Baccalaureate and immersion programs and inclusion of two charter schools) to offer a portfolio of options to the families of Spokane. We've strengthened our understanding of quality charter authorizing by participating in professional development trainings, and by partnering with NACSA and WA Charters to create a collaborative spirit with charter operators. We are investing in Charter Tools management system as a method for monitoring the progress of each of our charter schools. Our district has utilized grant and district funds to support the authorization process and will continue to do so as we begin our responsibilities for oversight once the charters become operational. One future goal is to recruit a high-quality Charter Management Organization (CMO) to Spokane to expand our range of charter school options.

In summary, we believe that we have made great process toward our goals in a relatively short period of time. While we still have much to learn about high quality charter authorizing, we are committed to learning and leading the state as a district authorizer. We are committed to only authorizing schools which we believe will uphold our vision for excellence and have every intention of following proven and best practices for quality authorizing.

Spokane Public Schools. Q6



Pride Prep Schools

Targeted student population and the community they propose to serve	Pride Prep will serve students in grades 6-12 who seek a personalized educational environment. They plan to attract students who will be the first in their family to college, who will benefit from mentors and internships, and who accept the challenge of a rigorous and supportive environment to help them achieve post-secondary success.
Location of the school	811 E Sprague Avenue, Suite B Spokane, WA 99202
Projected enrollment at capacity	540
Grades to be operated in each year of the charter contract	2015/16 grades 6,7 2016/17 grades 6,7,8 2017/18 grades 6,7,8,9 2018/19 grades 6,7,8,9,10 2019/2020 grades 6,7,8,9,10,11
Names and contact information for each member of the governing board	Bob McNeil- bobscoaching@gmail.com (509) 220-2607 Christine Varela- christinev@desautelhege.com (509) 444-2350 Brian Coddington- bcoddington@spokanecity.org (509) 625-6740 Emilia Espinoza- eespinoza@zagmail.gonzaga.edu (509) 714-7358 Ryan Yahne- ryan@pyklawyers.com (509) 321-5930 Lu Eagle- lu@empirehealthfoundation.org (509) 218-1164
Date approved for opening	January 22, 2014

Spokane International Academy



Targeted student population and the community they propose to serve	Spokane International Academy will serve students in grades K-8 who seek a school with an internationally-focused curriculum and learning environment that is supported by strong university and community partnerships, and provides learning to prepare them for advanced high school classes. An intentional recruitment effort is made to the refugee families of Spokane.
Location of the school	5021 N Nelson Street, Spokane, WA 99217
Projected enrollment at capacity	480
Grades to be operated in each year of the charter contract	2015/16 grades K,1,6 2016/17 grades K,1,2,6,7 2017/18 grades K,1,2,3,6,7,8 2018/19 grades K,1,2,3,4,6,7,8 2019/2020 grades K-8
Names and contact information for each member of the governing board	Travis Franklin - (509) 993-6892 Stacy Hill - (509) 465-4494 Vincent Alfonso - (509) 474-9022 Joe Poss - (509) 879-2181 Andrea Simpson - (208) 640-6230 Deborah Tully - (509) 954-7761 Kammi Mencke Smith - (509) 838-6131
Date approved for opening	September 24, 2014

Spokane Public Schools. Q10

It must be noted that Spokane Public Schools was fortunate to receive a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to conduct the work of authorizing charters and adopting the Portfolio Strategy model for district/charter collaboration. The grant has supported much of our work and will continue to do so into the next round of charter authorization. One FTE is covered in the grant, and the Director of Innovative Programs is paid for within the district's budget. For the purposes of this budget, only one FTE will be counted toward charter authorization.

Expenditure	Approximate Cost	Notes
Two FTE to work in the Dept. of Innovation on both charter authorizing and assisting district school development	\$115,000	Approximately 25% of each person's work load is related to charter authorizing, as opposed to working with district schools. This percentage will increase as our charter schools open.
Professional development to learn about charter authorizing practices	\$5,000	Attendance at two NACSA conferences, one Portfolio Networking meeting, and one national charter school conference.
Travel costs	\$10,000	Travel to both conferences and other districts for one-on-one coaching.
Materials (brochures, videos, etc.)	\$2,500	Created a video with FAQ on charter schools and SPS' commitment to authorizing.
Total expenditures	\$132,500	