

2016 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.

Please only include information on public charter schools, not on schools with a different status, such as an Alternative Learning Environment (ALE). If any data or information is only available in annual format, please separate the data applicable to school(s) during status as (a) public charter school(s); if that is not possible, then indicate that is the case.

Authorizer Name:

Spokane Public Schools

Authorizer Address:

200 N. Bernard

Spokane, WA 99201

Contact for Additional Information:

Name: Dr. Steven Gering

Telephone Number: 509-354-7392

Email Address: steveng@spokaneschools.org

Mailing Address: 200 N. 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, Director of Innovative Programs and Charter Schools

Telephone Number: 509-354-7353

Email Address: jeannettev@spokaneschools.org

Mailing Address: 200 N. 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:

Telephone Number:

Email Address:

Mailing Address:

4. Please provide as an attachment an executive summary of authorizing activity over the 2015-2016 school/fiscal year, including but not limited to the status (RCW 28A.710.100(c)), as well as the academic and financial performance of all charter schools operating under your jurisdiction.

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 charter 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 charter 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 charter school operated during the 2015-2016 school/fiscal 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).

[Click here to enter text.](#)

8. As **Exhibit B**, please provide information on the financial performance of each charter school operated during the 2015-2016 school/fiscal. 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).

[Click here to enter text.](#)

9. As **Exhibit C**, please create a table that provides information on the organizational performance of the governing board of each charter school operated in 2015-2016. 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).

[Click here to enter text.](#)

10. Please provide as an attachment a presentation of operating costs incurred and expenditures made during the 2015-2016 school/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 during the 2015-2016 school/fiscal 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

[Click here to enter text.](#)

12. Please provide any additional information you believe would assist the SBE in its “*assessment of the successes, challenges, and areas for improvement in meeting the purposes of this chapter (RCW 28A.710), including the board’s assessment of the sufficiency of funding for charter schools, the efficacy of the formula for authorizer funding, and any suggested changes in state law or policy necessary to strengthen the state’s charter schools.*” (RCW28A.710.250(2))

Please label the attachment: Additional Information. Q12.

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Spokane Public Schools. Q4

Date	Tasks, Events & Milestones
August 2015	Both SPS authorized charter schools opened their doors to students
September 2015	WA Supreme Court decision determined charter school were not constitutional and the future of charter schools and authorizing was uncertain
October 2015	SPS staff attend the NACSA conference
December 2015	SPS terminated the charter contract with both schools – and both contracted as ALE schools through Mary Walker School District
April 2016	New charter law was passed and SPS worked to revise prior charter contracts to be in compliance with new law
May 2016	SPS re-applied to become a charter authorizer through the SBE
May 2016	SPS re-issued new charter contracts with both schools
June-August 2016	SPS and charter schools began working together once again, with SPS receiving compliance documents necessary for oversight

Spokane Public Schools. Q5

The 2015 Supreme Court decision temporarily halted authorizing efforts while the schools operated as ALE schools overseen by the Mary Walker School District. With the passage of Senate Bill 6194 in April 2016, our district picked up where we left off with our two charter schools and got back to the business of authorizing once their 2015/2016 school year ended. The following outlines our original vision for authorizing and still holds true today.

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 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 current 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 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 offering a number of unique ways to provide fee- based services.

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 have invested in and use a web-based tool which assists 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 a 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 expansions to include K-8 and 7-12 school models, a New Tech Network high school model, a future language immersion program 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 have invested in the 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 fulfill our responsibilities for oversight. 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

Charter schools operating in Spokane

School	Location	Grades Served	2016 Total Enrollment	2016 Enrollment by Grade
Pride Prep	811 E. Sprague Spokane, WA 99202	Grades 6,7,8	241	6 th - 82
				7 th - 80
				8 th - 79
Spokane International Academy	2706 E. Queen Spokane, WA 99217	Grades K,1,2,6,7	263	K - 48
				1st - 48
				2 nd - 48
				6 th - 66
				7 th - 53

Subgroup	Pride Prep	Spokane Int'l
	% of total enrollment	% of total enrollment
White	73.9	73
Black	9	3
Hispanic	2.5	11
American Indian	2.9	1
Asian	.4	2
Pacific Islander	.4	3
Two or more races	10.2	10
Low income	54	40
Transitional Bilingual	0	1
Migrant	0	0
Special Education	19	8.7
Section 504	6	1

Spokane Public Schools. Q7 Exhibit A

Status and Performance of Charter Schools Authorized by Spokane Public Schools

When the Supreme Court's mandate was issued on December 10, 2015, both of the District's authorized and operational charter schools ended their status as charter schools and became public benefit non-profit organizations that operated Alternative Learning Experience contract schools with Mary Walker School District. As a result of these transitions, no performance data exists regarding charter schools for the 2015-16 school-year.

Spokane Public Schools. Q8 Exhibit B

Financial Performance Framework Review 2015-16

PRIDE Prep

Measure	Target Rating	Actual Rating	Difference	Result
Current Ratio	Greater than or equal to 1	11.15	10.15	Meets Standard
Unrestricted Days Cash	30 Days Cash	59	29	Meets Standard
Debt Default	Not reviewed due to no audit notes available yet - only in year 1			
Default	Pre-audit No evidence of default of loan covenant(s) or delinquent with debt services exists			
Total Margin	Total Margin is Positive	24%	23.99%	Meets Standard
Debt to Asset Ratio	Less than .90	0.09	0.81	Meets Standard
Cash Flow	Not reviewed due to lack of multi-year operations - only in year 1			
Enrollment Variance	Equals or Exceeds 95%	109%	14%	Meets Standard

Spokane International Academy

Measure	Target Rating	Actual Rating	Difference	Result
Current Ratio	Greater than or equal to 1	7.57	6.57	Meets Standard
Unrestricted Days Cash	30 Days Cash	31	1	Meets Standard
Debt Default	Not reviewed due to no audit notes available yet - only in year 1			
Default	Pre-audit No evidence of default of loan covenant(s) or delinquent with debt services exists			
Total Margin	Total Margin is Positive	10%	9.99%	Meets Standard
Debt to Asset Ratio	Less than .90	0.13	0.77	Meets Standard
Cash Flow	Not reviewed due to lack of multi-year operations - only in year 1			
Enrollment Variance	Equals or Exceeds 95%	108%	13%	Meets Standard

Spokane Public Schools. Q9 Exhibit C

We have a monitoring tool that requires appropriate financial and operational policies to be submitted and approved by district staff. Prior to the Supreme Court ruling, and later as we re-entered contract status with both schools, we found the schools to be in compliance with our expectations for financial prudence and accounting practices. Accountability audits were conducted for both of our charter schools with no audit findings.

PRIDE Prep

Measure	Meets Standard	Does Not Meet Standard
1. EDUCATION PROGRAM		
1a. Implementation of material terms of the education program as defined in the current charter contract	X	
1b. Compliance with applicable education requirements	X	
1c. Rights of students with disabilities protected	X	
1d. Rights of English Language Learner (ELL) students protected	X	
2. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND OVERSIGHT		
2a. Financial reporting and compliance requirements met	X	
2b. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) are followed	X	
3. GOVERNANCE AND REPORTING		
3a. Compliance with governance requirements by the school governing board	X	
3b. Accountability of the school management team held by the school governing board	X	
3c. Compliance with reporting requirements	X	
4. STUDENTS, PARENTS, AND EMPLOYEES		
4a. Rights of all students are protected	X	
4b. Recurrent enrollment rate indicates equitable access	X	
4c. Teacher and other staff credentialing requirements are met	X	
4d. Employee rights are respected	X	

4e. Required background checks completed	X	
5. SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT		
5a. Compliance with facilities and transportation requirements	X	
5b. Compliance with health and safety requirements	X	
5c. Appropriate handling and maintaining of information	X	
6. ADDITIONAL OBLIGATIONS		
6a. Compliance with all other obligations	X	

Spokane International Academy

Measure	Meets Standard	Does Not Meet Standard
1. EDUCATION PROGRAM		
1a. Implementation of material terms of the education program as defined in the current charter contract	X	
1b. Compliance with applicable education requirements	X	
1c. Rights of students with disabilities protected	X	
1d. Rights of English Language Learner (ELL) students protected	X	
2. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND OVERSIGHT		
2a. Financial reporting and compliance requirements met	X	
2b. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) are followed	X	
3. GOVERNANCE AND REPORTING		
3a. Compliance with governance requirements by the school governing board	X	
3b. Accountability of the school management team held by the school governing board	X	
3c. Compliance with reporting requirements	X	
4. STUDENTS, PARENTS, AND EMPLOYEES		
4a. Rights of all students are protected	X	
4b. Recurrent enrollment rate indicates equitable access	X	

4c. Teacher and other staff credentialing requirements are met	X	
4d. Employee rights are respected	X	
4e. Required background checks completed	X	
5. SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT		
5a. Compliance with facilities and transportation requirements	X	
5b. Compliance with health and safety requirements	X	
5c. Appropriate handling and maintaining of information	X	
6. ADDITIONAL OBLIGATIONS		
6a. Compliance with all other obligations	X	

Spokane Public Schools. Q10

Spokane Public Schools had previously received a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to conduct the work of authorizing charter schools and adopting the Portfolio Strategy model for district/charter collaboration. This grant continued to support much of our work in addition to the charter authorizer fees collected in the beginning of the 2015/2016 school year.

Revenue Source	Expenditure	Cost	Notes
Charter Authorizer Fees	Online monitoring software annual fee	\$1,954	Web-based monitoring tool used for oversight
Charter Authorizer Fees	Fiscal Project Manager	\$19,398	.2 FTE for fiscal support of authorizing responsibilities
Gates Foundation/NACSA	Professional Development	\$3,772	NACSA conference for staff
Gates Foundation/NACSA	Fiscal Project Manager	\$7,759	.08 FTE for fiscal support of authorizing responsibilities
Gates Foundation	Director	\$43,048	.25 FTE Director overseeing authorizing activities
	Total Expenditures	\$75,931	

Spokane Public Schools. Q11

a. Revenue from student lunches prepared by Spokane Public Schools, provided to PRIDE Prep Charter School

Key	Object	Post Date	Amount	PO No/Ref	Description	Job Number
145899400	4220	11/4/2015	-1,926.76	AR120688	PRIDE PREP SCHO SEPT 2015/1276	2470507
145899400	4220	11/4/2015	-4,066.36	AR120688	PRIDE PREP SCHO SEPT 2015/1468	2470507
145899400	4220	11/5/2015	4,066.36	JE041815	AR120688 CORR 145>210	2485193
145899400	4220	11/5/2015	1,926.76	JE041815	AR120688 CORR 145>210	2485193
210899400	4220	11/5/2015	-4,066.36	JE041815	AR120688 CORR 145>210	2485193
210899400	4220	11/5/2015	-1,926.76	JE041815	AR120688 CORR 145>210	2485193
210899400	4220	11/20/2015	-1,898.07	AR120739	PRIDE PREP SCHO OCT 2014/1257	2484950
210899400	4220	11/20/2015	-4,379.37	AR120739	PRIDE PREP SCHO OCT 2014/1581	2484950
210899400	4220	12/21/2015	-2,420.98	AR120790	PRIDE PREP SCHO NOV 2015 874 L	2509889
210899400	4220	12/21/2015	-1,118.91	AR120790	PRIDE PREP SCHO NOV 2015 741 B	2509889
210899400	4220	1/19/2016	-2,589.95	AR120907	PRIDE PREP SCHO DEC 2015 935 L	2525078
210899400	4220	1/19/2016	-1,081.16	AR120907	PRIDE PREP SCHO DEC 2015 716 B	2525078
			19,481.56			

b. Estimate of actual costs to the provider of providing these services

MENU SERVICES: Breakfast, lunch, milk and snack programs can be provided by the SPS Nutrition Services. Menus generally follow the cycle menu for the specific meal program and age group that are currently served to SPS students. Menus can be customized to meet the individual needs of student groups, however products must fit within the production and pricing structure currently used by SPS.

Services can be provided as long as the production and service of the meals can be cost effectively provided by a district kitchen staff.

PRICING:

Our pricing structure follows the reimbursement amounts that we receive for the normal free reimbursement level (excluding the severe need rates). Discounts are based on meals being picked up at the production site. Each organization contracting with SPS is responsible for:

- Serving meals and providing staff to serve meals
- Picking up food
- Processing all paperwork associated with their USDA school meal program agreement.

Pricing for 2015-16:

Lunch: \$2.77

Breakfast: \$1.51

Snacks: \$.75

Meal pricing is based on the USDA free reimbursement rate with the contracted discount amount applied.