



COLORADO LEAGUE of CHARTER SCHOOLS

Member Quality Standards & Supports Process & Evaluation Overview Memo

OVERVIEW & SUMMARY

The League is launching **Member Quality Standards & Supports in the next school year (2023-24)** to address **chronically underperforming charter schools in Colorado**. The program creates standards against which we measure ourselves, while offering additional support services to help improve chronically underperforming charter schools. The core idea behind the program is to work proactively with these schools over a four-year timeline through intensive support and accountability, thereby increasing the value to students and the charter ecosystem overall. Current data indicates that less than ten percent of schools will be impacted by this program.

The four components of the program include:

- Performance Standards,
- Enhanced Support,
- Accountability for All Schools, and
- The Importance of Quality for the Entire Sector.

Please see the [Summary Memo](#) for more details.

PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Academic Review Process

- **State SPF Plan:** All schools that are rated as Priority Improvement or Turnaround on the Colorado School Performance Framework (SPF) will be progressed to the next stage of League review – the Academic Watch List (Watch List).
 - CDE gave 10 charter schools a Priority Improvement or Turnaround rating in 2022.¹
- **Multiple Measure Review:** Schools that are placed on the Watch List will be allowed to submit additional data and information related to **academic student outcomes** in order to demonstrate academic and community value. This is a voluntary process; League staff will review and analyze any

¹ In 2019, 30 charter schools received a Priority Improvement or Turnaround rating.

data and information that meets our submission criteria and directly relates to academic student outcomes.² This data and information will be analyzed and synthesized and presented to the League's Member Council who will make the ultimate determinations regarding Watch List status.

- As part of the Multiple Measure Review process schools will be asked to provide a one page data summary and a one-page written summary (and the underlying data, reports, and/or documents that support these materials).³
- For Priority Improvement or Turnaround schools, one potential option regarding multiple measures could be to have the League staff review the school's academic performance on the League's Similar Schools Model (SSM) and the state growth model.⁴

Watch List Schools

- **League Membership:** Schools that are on the Watch List will still be eligible for League Membership; however, they will be encouraged to commit to a school improvement process in year one and required starting in year two. As a part of this process, schools on the Watch List would be able to participate in a low- or no-cost [School Quality Review](#) (SQR) conducted by League staff and external experts or submit their own school improvement plan.⁵ We understand and acknowledge that school improvement efforts take time and schools on the Watch List will be given time to enact new policies and practices before any ultimate assessments regarding membership eligibility.⁶
 - Specifically, schools that are participating in school improvement efforts in good faith – but ultimately fail to meet the League's Quality Standards regarding student outcomes – will not be deemed ineligible for membership until at least their fourth year on the Watch List.⁷
 - Leaders from schools that are currently on the Watch List would not be eligible to join the Member Council (additional discussion of network staff below).⁸
- **Ineligible Schools:** Schools that are deemed ineligible for League membership will also be ineligible for League services and supports and will not be listed in our statewide charter school directory as long as the ineligibility persists.

² The League is still in the process of developing our rubric and data submission criteria for the Multiple Measure Review process. However, our process will likely be similar in spirit to a [guiding framework](#) developed by the California Charter Schools Association (CCSA). This framework emphasizes data related to student outcomes rather than input or process related metrics. However, there may still be an opportunity for schools to submit input and process related data and information for the purposes of measuring year-over-year fidelity to school improvement efforts and recommendations.

³ The League reserves the right to ask for additional supporting materials if necessary.

⁴ The League's Similar Schools Model allows for comparisons across all public schools statewide that have similar grade configurations and similar student demographics. The academic input variable is aggregate CMAS proficiency rates for schools serving students in grades 3-8 and SAT scores for schools serving HS students. The state's student growth model reports Median Growth Percentiles in regards to both CMAS scores and PSAT/SAT scores.

⁵ SQRs are an existing service that are already available to all League member schools; however, we currently anticipate reduced fees for watch list schools to participate in the process. Our ultimate goal is to have additional funder resources to help support the costs associated with these school improvement efforts. League staff estimate that they have capacity for up to five SQRs per year.

⁶ However, we will continue to measure and monitor school improvement efforts and interim results along the way.

⁷ The Member Council may grant temporary annual extensions to any school's Watch List status if they feel that school improvement efforts are heading in a promising direction. If a school shows sufficient improvement to meet our Qualified Membership Criteria one year after they are placed on the Watch List - then they will be removed from the Watch List. However, if they fail to meet these criteria in subsequent years, then they will remain on the Watch List for a full four years while implementing school improvement efforts in parallel.

⁸ If a school leader was already serving on the member council when their school is placed onto the Watch List for the first time they will be allowed to finish the elected term.

- **Networks & CMOs:** All schools that meet the League’s Quality Standards will be eligible for League membership – regardless of the performance of other schools in their network or CMO. However, network and CMO level staff will only be eligible for leadership positions on the League’s Board, Member Council, Governmental Affairs Committee, and other formal and informal bodies if their network has a majority of schools in good academic standing.
 - Networks and CMOs that want to be League members will be billed based on the enrollment of their fully-qualified and Watch List schools (they will not be billed for the enrollment of any ineligible schools).
- **Annual Timeline:** Final SPF ratings are typically released in December; however preliminary SPF ratings are released months earlier. The League plans to notify schools that they are on the preliminary Watch List by November and the final Watch List in early January.
 - EASI grant applications are due in mid-December and the League will encourage schools that are on the preliminary Watch List to apply for this funding stream.

ENHANCED SUPPORT SERVICES

- Grant application support for EASI funding for those who qualify.
- [School Quality Reviews](#): A comprehensive review conducted by League staff and expert consultants.
- Improvement planning and implementation support based on recommendations from the School Quality Review. Supports may include:
 - Student and staff culture setting;
 - Instructional training and strategies for improvement;
 - Data collection and analysis;
 - Goal planning and board training;
 - HR Audits, recommendations, and policy revisions;
 - Finance and operations consultations;
 - Facility analysis and referrals; and/or
 - SPED support services and enrollment reviews.
- Ongoing coaching and consulting with League staff and/or experts (and technical support).

Note: Additional details on our school services offerings can be found [here](#). Please contact Teresa Tate, VP of School Services (schoolservices@coloradoleague.org), regarding any additional questions.

2023

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