CSI Annual Review of Schools (CARS)

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The Annual Performance Report

The annual performance report will summarize the school's cumulative performance data and compliance information from the Performance Frameworks, as collected by the Institute since the inception of the school's charter. These quantitative and qualitative analyses will provide guidance and direction for the school throughout its life span.

CSI Performance Frameworks 2012-2013

Quality Indicator: Academic Performance
1. Academic Achievement
2. Academic Growth
3. Growth Gaps
4. Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness (PSWR) - For High Schools Only
5. Mission-Specific Measures

Quality Indicator: Financial Performance
1. Near Term Measures
2. Sustainability Measures

Quality Indicator: Organizational Performance
1. Students and the Education Program
2. Governance and Financial Management
3. Health, Safety, and The School Environment
4. Additional Obligations

As evaluation ratings and tools may often be criticized for sterility and reductionism, it is the goal of the Institute to utilize the APR as a means for providing schools with in-depth explanation and analysis surrounding performance. For example, statistical analyses are conducted on multiple years of assessment data, as well as interim data (if possible, linking the two through alignment studies). This helps schools identify truly significant trends, as opposed to those that may be the result of sample size, mediating/moderating variables, or those that have a small effect size. For schools with limited resources, this helps prioritize the allocation of attention and resources throughout their improvement planning process.

The Performance Frameworks

The CSI Performance Frameworks have been developed in the areas of Academics, Finance, and Organization. They span all primary areas of performance and compliance, detailing the measures and metrics by which CSI holds schools accountable. These documents should serve as a guide to schools.

It is the intention of the Institute to build upon the evaluation lens utilized by the State to include measures that may provide a more detailed and comprehensive summary of charter school performance. The distinguishing features between the CDE School Performance Framework report and the CSI Academic framework is the incorporation of trend and comparison data.

These additional measures are coupled with the application of sensitive weighting so that the overall rating reflects the variation of importance these measures have upon high stakes decision-making around charter renewal or development, as well as to ensure preservation of alignment with the State.

The Performance Calculator

This calculator is aligned to the Colorado system of accreditation, sharing the state assessment cut points, as well as the output of a rating along the same 4-tier performance continuum. The Performance Calculator also presents historical achievement and growth targets for schools utilizing their historical performance on the state assessment to project realistic and rigorous objectives. In the future, the tool will allow for the incorporation of interim assessment results or primary grade data from measures that share a strong predictive validity with the CSAP/TCAP (such as NWEA), as well as mission-specific measures that evaluate school attainment along measures that may be used to determine the success of unique programmatic features at each school. The target methodology incorporates historical trends in order to determine aggressive and realistic targets, rather than arbitrary selection: 2012: growth over time + 1%; 2013: growth over time + 2%. To combat negative trends or stagnation, more aggressive targets can be implemented.

However, in some circumstances, this Academic rating may be modified by information or outcomes collected via the Financial and/or Organizational Performance Frameworks, as set forth in the CSI Accreditation Policy. As reflected in the Dashboard, if a school receives a “Does Not Meet” rating on items 1D or 1E of the Educational Performance Framework OR if a school is placed into Level 2 on the CSI Ladder of Compliance and has not made reasonable efforts to rectify the concerns, staff may recommend to the CSI Board that the school’s Accreditation rating be lowered to Priority Improvement.

In all cases, the ratings presented on the CSI Dashboard are proposed ratings and are always subject to final approval by the CSI Board. Further, staff will implement appeal procedures, similar to those in place with CDE, for schools wishing to contest any proposed rating.

Annual Accreditation: The Dashboard

The Dashboard serves as a way for the Institute to integrate selected information from the Performance Frameworks into a unified display. It aims to serve as a snapshot of overall school performance from year-to-year. This single rating will be based upon the output from the Performance Calculator, which utilizes all measures and metrics contained in the Academic Performance Framework and is aligned with the CDE SPF calculations where possible.