



Charter School Renewal Recommendation	
Charter School	Honey Creek Continuous Progress School
Date of Site Visit	November 11, 2019

The renewal recommendation is based on a thorough review and analysis of information and data from the following:

- Charter School Performance Summary
- Application for Renewal
- School Site Visit

Charter School Performance Summary		
Rating:	Met the Standard	Did Not Meet the Standard
Educational Performance	X	
Financial Performance	X	
Organizational Performance	X	
Summary Comments:		
<p>Honey Creek Charter School is committed to educating all students for success in higher education, careers, and responsible citizenship. Honey Creek Charter School envisions that students are academically prepared to meet the challenges of higher education and will become socially responsible citizens. As indicated in the Charter School Performance Summary, the Pupil Academic Achievement Report and the evidence provided by the school, Honey Creek has consistently met its educational, financial and organizational performance standards.</p> <p>Educational Performance: Honey Creek has consistently met its educational performance standard as outlined in its contract. The school has a high attendance and stability rate as well as a low mobility rate. Honey Creek has well surpassed the district in proficiency on the Wisconsin Student Assessment System (WSAS) in all tested areas: English Language Arts, math, science and social studies.</p> <p>Financial Performance: Honey Creek has been fiscally responsible and has maintained a balanced budget.</p> <p>Organizational Performance: Honey Creek has implemented its educational program with fidelity. There is a strong governance council that meets regularly as well as a parental advisory committee. The parent satisfaction survey demonstrated that parents agree that the school has high expectations, students are progressing, parents are given the opportunity to be included in the decision-making process, and the school communicates effectively.</p>		

Application for Renewal

Met the Standard	Did Not Meet the Standard
<p>The Application for Renewal provides <i>clear, concise and compelling information</i> in the areas of Educational, Financial and Organizational Performance. The school has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Included ample evidence of increased student achievement or shown continuous improvement; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provided credible examples and documented evidence of its financial performance; and <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illustrated sufficiently and convincingly that it is organizationally sound. <input type="checkbox"/> The school's plans for continued success are clearly and effectively outlined with full details, descriptions, and explanations. 	<p>The Application for Renewal <i>does not provide clear, concise and compelling information</i> in the areas of Educational, Financial and Organizational Performance. The school did not satisfactorily address application components. Responses lack details. Descriptions and/or examples are underdeveloped. The school provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient evidence of increased student achievement or continuous improvement; <input type="checkbox"/> Unclear examples and evidence of its financial performance; and <input type="checkbox"/> Inadequate evidence that it is organizationally sound. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The school's plans for continued success are unclear and not fully described or developed.
X	

Summary Comments:

Honey Creek has met the standard in their application for renewal based on inclusion of educational and behavioral data, as well as sufficient demonstration of organizational soundness in terms of cultivating and retaining talented staff. Honey Creek's application provided a clear explanation of its plans to continue its ability to maintain its high performance. Honey Creek will continue to provide its Direct Instruction program, which has shown proven evidence of positive learning outcomes.

Honey Creek supplied ample evidence to support the work they are doing for their students, staff and families. They clearly articulated the curriculum focus at their school.

Honey Creek's plan for continued success seemed unclear in terms of recruiting, mentoring, and contributing to the district's production of excellent teachers and leaders. For example, in the application materials it indicates a commitment to supporting pre-service teachers, but this was not mentioned or illuminated in the materials or at the site visit.

Honey Creek's application for renewal provided adequate evidence demonstrating continuous academic, financial and organizational success; however, the application could have provided more. While the school has been successful, there is still room for growth in all areas and it would have been beneficial to provide evidence of plans to grow (and not only maintain) moving forward. For example, more evidence could have been provided as to parental involvement, governing body autonomy and school partnerships. While WSAS rates have been above the district's, there has been a decline in some areas and inconsistent results in other areas. There is also evidence regarding performance disparities with students with disabilities. More evidence could have been provided relative to what is being done to address these issues.

School Site Visit

Met the Standard	Did Not Meet the Standard
<p>Charter school site visit provided excellent further evidence that the school is meeting performance standards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> School presentations clearly and effectively communicated information from its Application for Renewal. 	<p>Charter school site visit did not provide compelling evidence that the school is meeting performance standards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> School presentations insufficiently communicated information from its Application for Renewal. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> School did not adequately address issues/ concerns raised by the MPS Charter School Contract Review Team members.

<input type="checkbox"/> School sufficiently addressed any issues/concerns raised by the MPS Charter School Contract Review Team members. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> School (if appropriate) provided sufficient supplementary information to further clarify performance results and ratings. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Samples of student work and classroom visits reflect strongly and positively the school's teaching and learning practices.	<input type="checkbox"/> School did not provide ample supplementary information to clarify performance results and ratings. <input type="checkbox"/> Samples of student work and classroom visits did not necessarily positively reflect the school's teaching and learning practices.
X	

Summary Comments:

A school site visit and classroom observations provided reliable and credible evidence as to why Honey Creek is a successful school. The school has strong leadership, experienced staff and dedicated and respectful students. Strong evidence of a variety of extracurricular activities and special classes (such as art and music), as well as examples of student work products are present and highly visible throughout the building.

Honey Creek takes advantage of all space available using the gymnasium and a hallway for music and language and takes full advantage of the computer lab and a beautiful library where we were able to see a young group of students listening and actively participating in a reading lesson with the librarian. The walls of the school were covered in art, writing, projects and other indications that the school is a community with many members who are all supporting each other in succeeding. In every classroom that was visited teachers used materials and engaging activities that promotes student reading and math instruction.

Use of the direct instruction curriculum, as outlined in the educational program, as well as differentiated instruction was clearly evident in the classrooms with samples utilized in instruction and posted in numerous classrooms. The direct instruction curriculum has a heavy emphasis on phonetic awareness to assist in building fluency in reading. Whether the students were being instructed one-on-one, in small groups, or as a full class, they were engaged and focused on learning. The students understood their work and asked appropriate questions when help was needed. The students were respectful and well-behaved, regardless of grade level. The Team witnessed examples of students learning through projects, drawing, reading and writing. The students appeared to enjoy learning in these different ways. Equally of interest was that every class had set aside dedicated time each day for interventions.

The culture of the school is safe, nurturing to student needs, and supportive of their unique approach to learning. It was evident that flexible seating was offered for students to accommodate their needs and learning styles. Each student had a Chromebook that they could access throughout the day. Most classrooms were arranged in table groups to accommodate student discourse. Students received "brain breaks" and stimulation devices to address the variety of social-emotional needs of the students.

Honey Creek staff were able to answer questions that were presented by the Team. The school was able to articulate plans for the future. A few concerns were raised by the Team. One of the concerns related to the succession plan for school leadership to ensure that the school continues to provide quality services to students. The other concern was related to a decline in student data, specifically for students with disabilities. The school was able to identify a strategy and plan for future goals and continued to increase in student performance.

The Team conducted student focus groups where students stated the following about what they like about Honey Creek:

"Honey Creek has different festivals and we get to do fun stuff, like the color run."

"We get to have time to do art, gym, music and other specials."

Charter School Review Team Renewal Recommendation

X	Full-Term Term of 5 Years	<p>To be eligible, schools must be in the last year of the contract term and have achieved the following: <i>There is a strong and compelling record of evidence that the school met or exceeded the performance standards in the areas of Educational Performance, Financial Performance, and Organizational Performance.</i></p> <p><u>Guidelines for Recommending Five-Year Renewal:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Team determines that a school primarily merits <i>Met the Standard</i> ratings in the performance areas. • A school that receives mixed ratings may be recommended for a full five-year renewal term if sufficient additional evidence obtained from the school's Application for Renewal and School Site Visit make this a credible recommendation.
	Short-Term Term of 3 Years	<p>To be eligible, schools must be in the last year of the contract term and have achieved the following: <i>There is a strong and compelling record of evidence that the school met or exceeded a considerable number of the performance standards in the areas of Educational Performance, Financial Performance, and Organizational Performance and/or shows continuous, meaningful improvement toward meeting the performance standards.</i></p> <p><u>Guidelines for Recommending Three-Year Renewal:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Team determines that a school primarily merits <i>Met the Standard</i> ratings or demonstrates continuous and meaningful improvement in the performance areas. • A school that receives mixed ratings may be recommended for a three-year renewal term if evidence obtained from the school's Application for Renewal and School Site Visit make this a credible recommendation.
	Non-Renewal/Revocation	<p><i>The school does not apply for renewal or the school's educational, financial, and/or organizational performance results do not meet defined standards and are deemed unsatisfactory. This would result in a recommendation for non-renewal/revocation.</i></p> <p><u>Guidelines for Recommending Non-Renewal/Revocation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school receives a <i>Did Not Meet the Standard</i> in all three areas of performance. • A school that receives mixed ratings may be recommended for non-renewal/revocation if evidence obtained from the school's Performance Summary, Application for Renewal, and School Site Visit make this a credible recommendation.

Summary Comments:

While there may have been shortcomings in the school's application for renewal and there is evidence of decline in growth and inconsistent growth over the years and some disparity over the years, there is strong evidence of continued academic, financial and organizational success over the years as an instrumentality charter school that merits a full-term contract renewal.

Honey Creek has been recognized as a Wisconsin School of Promise for five consecutive years for beating the odds. It was evident that Honey Creek prepares students for academic success and has clear expectations. The culture of the school is safe and supportive.

Classroom schedules, goals and expectations are visible in classrooms. Many classrooms highlight performance incentives for goals such as Accelerated Reading and 100 Days of School, giving students something to work towards. Technology was used and/or available in all classrooms though clearly more prevalent as grade levels increased. Nearly all classrooms had more than one staff member present, and all staff members in the classrooms were actively engaged in working with students. In several classrooms, science was the focus and teachers were doing the important work of integrating literacy and math seamlessly into this learning.

Based on the evidence provided in the Charter School Application for Renewal; Performance Summary; Site Visit (which included classroom visits, testimony from students, staff and parents); along with additional data and artifacts, the Charter School Review Team recommends a full-term charter school contract renewal.

MPS Charter School Review Team Members

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Signature: *Bridget Schock* Date: November 11, 2019
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