

## 2023-2024 Charter Renewal Application Packet – North Star Academy

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### RENEWAL RECOMMENDATION:

It is the recommendation of DCSD staff that the charter contract between Douglas County School District (DCSD) and North Star Academy be renewed for a term of **5 years**.

### RENEWAL APPLICATION PROCESS & EVALUATION:

The renewal process provides an opportunity for schools to (1) present any new or supplemental evidence of school performance and (2) articulate school plans and capacities for the next charter term. The charter renewal recommendation to the Board will be based on an array of evidence gathered over the charter term, including data and information collected by Douglas County School District Office of Choice Programming, the Colorado Department of Education, and any supplemental information that the applicant group provides.

The renewal process begins in September when the charter school declares its intent to apply for renewal. No later than September 1, the charter school submits its Renewal Application to the DCSD Office of Choice Programming. All information is presented to the Superintendent's Cabinet through a compilation of evidence collected through the school's site visit, an analysis of the school's educational, operational, and financial health, and any feedback provided to the DCSD Office of Choice Programming by the applicant team upon initial review of this final report.

### SCHOOL OVERVIEW

**Mission:** North Star Academy provides a Core Knowledge education with an integrated Spanish language program that challenges students to meet their highest potential through differentiated academic instruction and rich social and cultural experiences within a safe, orderly and nurturing environment.

**Vision:** The vision of NSA is to prepare students to meet the challenges of a complex social, global, and economic future by offering a research-based educational program with a strong focus on foreign language instruction, service learning, and character education.

### **Key Design Elements:**

- Middle School is ranked in the 96th percentile in the state, and elementary school is in the 94th
- John Irwin School of Excellence, National School of Character
- Core Knowledge education with an integrated Spanish language program
- New teacher induction and orientation where new teachers are paired with mentors in first year
- Since 2018, Full time School Resource Officer, new security upgrades to entryway, additional security cameras
- Added a functional kitchen to accommodate proposition FF and partnership with DCSD Nutrition Services
- No projected increase in enrollment (PK-8) for the next 5 years

**Website:** <https://www.nstaracademy.org/>

**Address:** 16700 Keystone Blvd., Parker, CO 80134

**Year Opened:** 2006

**School Model:** Core Knowledge

**Grades Served:** K-8

**Total Enrollment:** 677



Subgroup	This School (%)	DCSD (%)
FRL	8.86%	16.15%
SPED	9.45%	12.87%
ML	7.53%	4.88%
504	5.61%	4.99%
GT	9.45%	11.48%

### EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM ANALYSIS

***Is the school implementing the material terms of the education program as defined in the current charter contract?***

The school is implementing the essential terms of the education program in all material respects and the educational program in operation reflects the essential terms as defined in the charter, including but not limited to:

- Instructional days or minutes requirements
- Graduation and promotion requirements
- State assessments

Yes

***Is the school protecting the rights of all students?***

The school is protecting student rights pursuant to:

- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act relating to the treatment of students with identified disabilities and those suspected of having a disability, consistent with the school's status and responsibilities as a school in a district LEA
- Title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and US Department of Education authorities relating to English Language Learner requirements
- Law, policies and practices related to admissions, lottery, waiting lists, fair and open recruitment, enrollment, the collection and protection of student information
- Conduct of discipline procedures, including discipline hearings and suspension and expulsion policies and practices, in compliance with CRS 22-33-105 and 22-33-106
- Recognition of due process protections, privacy, civil rights and student liberties requirements, including 1st Amendment protections and the Establishment Clause restrictions prohibiting public schools from engaging in religious instruction

Yes

### **School Performance Framework Ratings (Retrieved from: Colorado Department of Education) North Star Academy**

DCSD Charter School	SY 22-23	SY 21-22	SY 20-21	SY 19-20
North Star Academy Elementary	Performance Plan	Performance Plan	No Score (COVID-19)	Performance Plan
North Star Academy Middle School	Performance Plan	Performance Plan	No Score (COVID-19)	Performance Plan

## OPERATIONAL ANALYSIS

<p><b><i>Is the school complying with governance requirements?</i></b></p> <p>The school complies with applicable laws, rules, regulations and provisions of the charter relating to governance by its board including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board policies</li> <li>• Board bylaws</li> <li>• Conflicts of interest</li> <li>• Board composition and membership requirements, if applicable</li> </ul>	<b>Yes</b>
<p><b><i>Is the school holding management accountable?</i></b></p> <p>The school complies with applicable laws, rules, regulations and provisions of the charter relating to oversight and evaluation of school leadership.</p>	<b>Yes</b>
<p><b><i>Is the school complying with reporting requirements?</i></b></p> <p>The school complies with applicable laws, rules, regulations and provisions of the charter relating to relevant reporting requirements to the authorizer, CDE, and/or federal authorities.</p>	<b>Yes</b>
<p><b><i>Is the school meeting teacher and other staff credentialing requirements?</i></b></p> <p>The school complies with applicable laws, rules, regulations and provisions of the charter relating to state certification requirements and background checks.</p>	<b>Yes</b>
<p><b><i>Is the school complying with facilities and transportation requirements?</i></b></p> <p>The school complies with applicable laws, rules, regulations and provisions of the charter relating to the school facilities, grounds, and transportation, including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire inspections and related records</li> <li>• Certificate of occupancy</li> <li>• Documentation of insurance coverage</li> <li>• Student transportation</li> </ul>	<b>Yes</b>
<p><b><i>Is the school complying with health and safety requirements?</i></b></p> <p>The school complies with applicable laws, rules, regulations and provisions of the charter relating to governance by its board including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate nursing services</li> <li>• Food services requirements, if applicable</li> <li>• Emergency management plan</li> </ul>	<b>Yes</b>

**FINANCIAL ANALYSIS** A review of the past three years shows North Star Academy has met many of the benchmarks set forth by Douglas County School District, showing good fiscal health. The school is below the Operating Margin Ratio benchmark the last three years. Operating Margin Ratio indicates the amount added to reserves for every \$1 in total general fund gross revenue. Operating Margin has a benchmark of  $\geq .01$ , North Star Academy has fluctuated over the years from below the benchmark in 2021 with -0.02, to a .00 in 2022 and 2023. The school missed the Change in Fund Balance ratio in 2021, this ratio indicates the change in the general fund balance and a consistent decline is not sustainable. North Star Academy has fluctuated over the past five years from .53 in 2020 to a -0.04 in 2021, while 2022 and 2023 was at .00 indicating no change to fund balance. North Star Academy shows overall good fiscal health and meets all financial deadlines.

### FY 2022-2023 DISTRICT AND CHARTER FINANCIAL HEALTH ANALYSIS

Asset Sufficiency Ratio (ASR) Benchmark $\geq 1$			Operating Reserve Ratio (ORR) Benchmark $\geq .0192$			Operating Margin Ratio (OMR) Benchmark $\geq .01$			Change in Fund Balance Ratio (CFBR) Benchmark $> 0$			Default of loan covenant or delinquent on payment	Accreditation Issues Current Year	Accreditation Issues Prior Year	CDE Comment 21-22
2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022		2023	2022	2022
8.87	9.06	8.72	0.36	0.40	0.40	0.00	0.00	-0.02	0.01	0.00	-0.04	No	None	None	None

### COLORADO LAW - GROUNDS FOR NONRENEWAL

Colorado law (C.R.S. 22-30.5-110) specifies the grounds for revoking or not renewing a charter. A charter may be revoked or not renewed by the chartering local board of education if it determines that the charter school did any of the following:

A. Committed a material violation of any of the conditions, standards, or procedures set forth in the charter contract;	No
B. Failed to meet or make reasonable progress toward achievement of the goals, objectives, content standards, pupil performance standards, targets for the measures used to determine the levels of attainment of the performance indicators, applicable federal requirements, or other terms identified in the charter contract;	No
C. Failed to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management;	No
D. Violated any provision of law from which the charter school was not specifically exempted.	No

**Conditions Placed on the School:** None