



2024-2025 Charter Renewal Application Packet – Platte River 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 Platte River 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: To provide a content-rich academically rigorous education with a well-defined, sequential curriculum in a safe, orderly and caring environment

Vision: Platte River Academy’s vision is to empower students and educators to be lifelong learners, thinkers and leaders.

Key Design Elements:

- **PRA is a *Leader in Me* School.** The *Leader in Me* framework closely aligns with PRA’s mission, core values, and academic programming. PRA became a *Leader in Me* school in 2023.
- **PRA facilitates learning beyond the classroom.** As extensions to classroom lessons, PRA believes that experiences outside of the classroom enhance student learning; PRA facilitates experiential & field experiences that have become cherished traditions for students (and their families) at all grade levels
- **PRA offers homeschooling families an opportunity for enrichment and community.** The PRA Classical Academy for Homeschoolers runs two 2-day enrichment programs for students in 3rd-8th grades and one-day programs for younger (K-2) students.

Information Since Last Renewal

- Full-time School Resource Officer employed by PRA
- Leader in Me school designation added in 2023 based on feedback to parents and faculty

- State of the Art Secure Front Entry remodel and security system upgrades – funded in part by the 2018 DCSD Bond
- Watch D.O.G.S. Dads program implemented in school year 2024-25
- Implemented “7 Habits of Highly Effective People” for staff based on survey needs. Grew perception of “highly effective” in staff from 54% in 21-22 to 94% in 22-23
- Transition from SAXON Math based on analysis of CMAS and student needs
- New Director of Academics, Ms. Keri Pratt, joined the school in 2024-25 when former Director retired
- Annually, PRA Board of Directors meets to complete a self-evaluation and a review of the Governing Board’s Bylaws
- Overall Rating of EXEMPLARY by outside reviewer and successful annual reports by DCSD



Website link: <https://www.prak8.org/>

Address: 4085 Lark Sparrow Street Highlands Ranch, CO 80126

Year Opened: 1997

School Model: Core Knowledge

Grades Served: PK-8

Total Enrollment: 729

Subgroup	This School	This Region	DCSD
FRL	1.67%	20.06%	12.99%
SPED	2.57%	18.36%	12.86%
ML	1.37%	7.94%	4.80%
504	7.32%	6.03%	5.21%
GT	9.08%	12.64%	11.73%
Minority	26.56%	39.18%	33.32%

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM ANALYSIS

<p><i>Is the school implementing the material terms of the education program as defined in the current charter contract?</i></p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Instructional days or minutes requirements ● Graduation and promotion requirements ● State assessments 	YES
<p><i>Is the school protecting the rights of all students?</i></p> <p>The school is protecting student rights pursuant to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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 	YES

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	
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School Performance Framework Ratings (Retrieved from: Colorado Department of Education)

Platte River Academy Charter School	SY 23-24	SY 22-23	SY 21-22	SY 20-21
Platte River Academy Elementary	Performance Plan	Performance Plan	Performance Plan	No Score (COVID-19)
Platte River Academy Middle School	Performance Plan	Performance Plan	Performance Plan	No Score (COVID-19)

OPERATIONAL ANALYSIS

<p><i>Is the school complying with governance requirements?</i> 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"> Board policies Board bylaws Conflicts of interest Board composition and membership requirements, if applicable 	YES
<p><i>Is the school holding management accountable?</i> The school complies with applicable laws, rules, regulations and provisions of the charter relating to oversight and evaluation of school leadership.</p>	YES
<p><i>Is the school complying with reporting requirements?</i> 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>	YES
<p><i>Is the school meeting teacher and other staff credentialing requirements?</i> The school complies with applicable laws, rules, regulations and provisions of the charter relating to state certification requirements and background checks.</p>	YES
<p><i>Is the school complying with facilities and transportation requirements?</i> 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"> Fire inspections and related records Certificate of occupancy Documentation of insurance coverage Student transportation 	YES
<p><i>Is the school complying with health and safety requirements?</i> 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"> Appropriate nursing services Food services requirements, if applicable Emergency management plan 	YES

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Asset Sufficiency Ratio (ASR) Benchmark ≥ 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 22-23
2024	2023	2022	2024	2023	2022	2024	2023	2022	2024	2023	2022		2024	2023	2023
7.88	5.67	5.37	0.44	0.35	0.33	0.12	0.03	-0.07	0.45	0.08	-0.11	No	None	None	None

A review of the past three years shows Platte River Academy met all of the fiscal benchmarks set forth by Douglas County School District for the last two years, showing strong fiscal health. Platte River Academy has 23 weeks of reserve fund balance, which has steadily increased over the last 3 years. While reviewing the remaining benchmarks, Platte River Academy was below the Operating Margin Ratio and the Change in Fund Balance in 2022. Operating Margin Ratio indicates the amount added to reserves for every \$1 in total general fund gross revenue, while Change in Fund Balance indicates the change in the general fund balance and a consistent decline is not sustainable. Platte River Academy shows overall good fiscal health and meets all financial deadlines.

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