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Washington Charter School Commission Authorizes Renewal of Impact | Puget Sound Elementary

Charter public school approved for renewal for two years with conditions, community-based public school serves Transitional Kindergarten – Grade 5, data-based student outcomes generally exceed state average

Conditions for renewal require Impact | PSE to develop and implement a plan for its special education services and to resolve corrective action

Olympia, WA – The Washington State Charter School Commission (Commission) has approved a two-year renewal with conditions for Impact | Puget Sound Elementary (Impact | PSE). The charter public school – a nonprofit, tuition-free, accessible to all public school serving students from Transitional Kindergarten through Grade 5 – first opened in Tukwila in 2018. It has demonstrated data-based student outcomes that generally exceed the state average.

As the main authorizer for charter public schools in Washington State, the Commission carried out due diligence specific to renewal that incorporated a corrective action issued by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) regarding Impact | PSE’s special education services and related issues identified by the Commission as areas of improvement. In Washington, charter public schools operate within a rigorous accountability system that requires each school to apply for renewal at the end of its authorized term, which may be up to five years. The renewal of Impact | PSE comes with conditions requiring the school to address:

- resolution of the corrective action plan with OSPI
- the process for initiating and documenting referrals of students for special education evaluation;
- the scope, content and format of Individual Education Plans, including specially-designed instruction and accommodations;
- the Multi-Tiered System of Support and Response to Intervention process as it pertains to students with disabilities;
- special education-related professional development for co-teaching, specially designed instruction, and curricular programs used at Impact | PSE; and

- Impact | PSE Board engagement with the school community such as through surveys and community meetings.

A full report from Commission staff may be found on the agency's [website](#). As detailed in the staff report, Impact | PSE is demonstrating above average data-based student outcomes. According to the report, "aggregate data shows that Impact | PSE's 2022 Smarter Balanced Assessment scores exceeded state averages. In 2021-22, for English Language Arts, 52.6% of Impact | PSE students met state standards compared to 45.8% statewide. For Math, 56.9% of Impact | PSE students met state standards compared to 38.5% statewide. In addition, the school performed well in relation to assigned comparison schools, both in terms of schoolwide and student subgroup proficiency. School-generated internal assessment data has shown a consistent combination of academic growth and proficiency for students."

Specific to special education, the report found that, "throughout the renewal process, the Commission has been transparent with Impact | PSE regarding the importance of [the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction's] inquiry and corrective action, and the need for Impact | PSE to be in compliance. Impact | PSE has been cooperative throughout this renewal process, has demonstrated continued efforts to come into full compliance with the [Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction's] corrective action, and has been responsive to Commission recommendations to improve special education."

"The [review process](#) for charter public school renewal applications is rigorous and is founded on the commitment that charter public schools must demonstrate that they are effectively serving students in the community where they are operating," **said Commission Chair Chris Korsmo**. "Impact | PSE has demonstrated sound financial viability and a track-record of data-based student outcomes that exceed the state average. The determination of the Commission as part of our oversight, makes clear that a two-year renewal with conditions is appropriate to allow for Impact | PSE leadership to come back into compliance with special education requirements in our public school system."

Should it meet all the established requirements of the renewal and its charter, Impact | PSE will be evaluated by the Commission in its typical evaluation cycle for reauthorization. Every charter public school in the state is monitored regularly and on a cycle of up to five years, must be assessed by the Commission to ensure it is still meeting the needs of the students in its community, the law, and the conditions of its charter contract. A charter public school that falls irreparably short of meeting its requirements can be closed.

About Washington State's Charter School Commission

Washington State's Charter School Commission was formed with the mission of creating a rigorous and comprehensive proposal process and to hold charters accountable to high standards of quality. The Commission is an independent state agency that exists to authorize and oversee high quality public charter schools throughout Washington with an emphasis on schools designed to expand opportunities for at-risk students, providing leadership and oversight that is consistent with national principles and standards of charter school authorizers and the provisions of Washington's charter school law.

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