

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of the Superintendent

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12/15/11

TO:

Board of Education

FROM:

Anthony Smith, Ph.D., Superintendent

Gail Greely, Coordinator; Office of Charter Schools

DATE:

December 14, 2011

RE:

Civicorps Corpsmember Academy

**Charter Renewal Request** 

Certified:

By:\_\_

Legislative File

File ID No.: 11-2 Introduction Date:

Enactment No.:

Enactment Date:

Certified.

Edgar Rakestraw, Jr., Secretar Board of Education

#### **ACTION REQUESTED:**

Approve Civicorps Corpsmember Academy's charter renewal because the charter school has met the expectations set forth in the OUSD Charter Renewal Standards, which are based on the criteria of the Charter Schools Act, Education Code §47605(b)(5), which governs charter school renewals. The findings outlined in this report provide evidence that petitioners have met the standards and expectations for charter renewal, and that the petitioners are therefore demonstrably likely to successfully implement the program as set forth in the petition.

#### BACKGROUND:

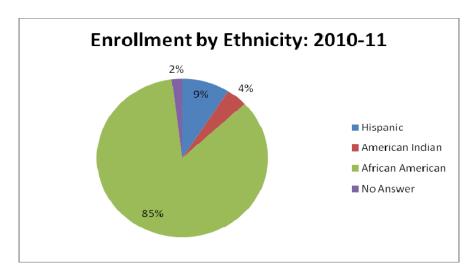
#### **School Description and Key Program Elements:**

Opening Year	1996	Grades	12 (ages 18-24)
Term Approval	7/1/2007	Attendance Area	McClymonds
Renewal Date	6/30/2012	Board District	3
Term	Third	Funding	Direct
CMO School	No	Program Improvement	N/A

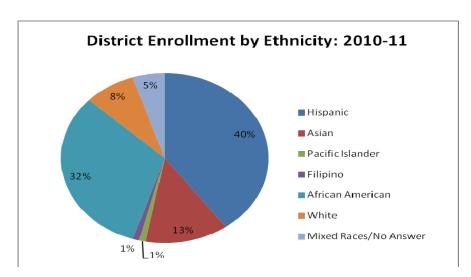
The following table describes the school's enrollment growth and projection (CDE data):

<u>YEAR</u>	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
GRADES	12	12	12	12	12
ENROLL	182	117	104	82	104

The school's enrollment demographics are as follows (CDE data):



The District's enrollment demographics are as follows (CDE data):



The charter school's special populations as a percent of enrollment are as follows (charter school data):

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Free & Reduced Lunch*	97%	97%	98%	98%	97%
Special Education	1%	2%	3%	8%	9%
English Language Learners	3%	1%	2%	1%	2%

<sup>\*</sup>NOTE: Schools have reported the free & reduced Lunch percentages upon request, which are reported here. Charter schools are not required to report free and reduced lunch status, but are required to report poverty levels, which involves a slightly different matrix. Schools have also reported Special Education and English Language Learners as part of the Renewal Performance Report.

The District's current special populations as a percent of enrollment are approximately (District and CDE data):

Oakland Unified School Distirct	2011-12
Free & Reduced Lunch	70%
Special Education	13%
English Language Learners	29%

#### **Program Summary:**

#### School Mission: (Excerpt from the EXISTING, approved charter petition)

The East Bay Conservation Corps (EBCC) is a multi-program nonprofit educational organization located in Oakland, California. The EBCC Corpsmember Academy is committed to the development of the whole student so that our youth enter adulthood prepared to fully accept the responsibility of citizenship. This enriched understanding of citizenship connects the inner and outer lives of students and affirms the rights and responsibilities of individuals who work to promote the common good.

#### <u>Program's Distinguishing Features:</u> (Excerpt from the <u>EXISTING</u>, approved charter petition)

To put our educational philosophy into practice, we have designed an instructional program that incorporates several proven methods of instruction to fulfill our mission of serving the whole person. This program will serve all students, including young adults with exceptional needs through implementation of the following practices:

- 1. Service and Project-Based Learning
- 2. Caring School Community
- 3. Arts and Technology Integration
- 4. Authentic Assessment
- 5. Community Internships and Work Experience

The student outcomes for the EBCC Corpsmember High School are aligned with the California State Standards and with the mission of the school – to prepare young people for their lifelong roles as citizens by instilling in students academic, artistic and civic literacy. All students at the EBCC Corpsmember Academy High School, including individuals with special learning or academic needs, and/or English Language Learners, will be expected to meet these outcomes in order to graduate and/or successfully complete a course of study at the school. Students will be provided additional support and/or accommodations to meet these outcomes as needed and/or legally required by an Individual Education Plan.

In order to graduate from the Corpsmember Academy High School, students must demonstrate competency in the areas of academic, artistic, and civic literacy.

#### **GOVERNING LAW:**

Under the California Charter Schools Act, authorizers are required to apply the "standards and criteria" set forth for the review and approval or denial of a charter school petition. The following excerpt is taken from section 47605 of the California Charter Schools Act (bold emphasis added);

A school district governing board **shall grant** a charter for the operation of a school under this part **if it is satisfied that granting the charter is consistent with sound educational practice**.

The governing board of the school district **shall not deny** a petition for the establishment of a charter school **unless it makes written factual findings**, specific to the particular petition, setting forth specific facts to support one or more of the following findings:

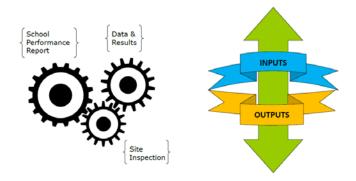
- (1) The charter school presents an **unsound educational program** for the pupils to be enrolled in the charter school.
- (2) The petitioners are demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement the program set forth in the petition.
- (3) The petition does not contain the number of signatures required by subdivision (a).
- (4) The petition does not contain an affirmation of each of the conditions described in subdivision (d).
- (5) The petition does not contain **reasonably comprehensive descriptions** of all of the [required charter elements.]

#### PREREQUISITE FOR CHARTER RENEWAL (AB 1137)

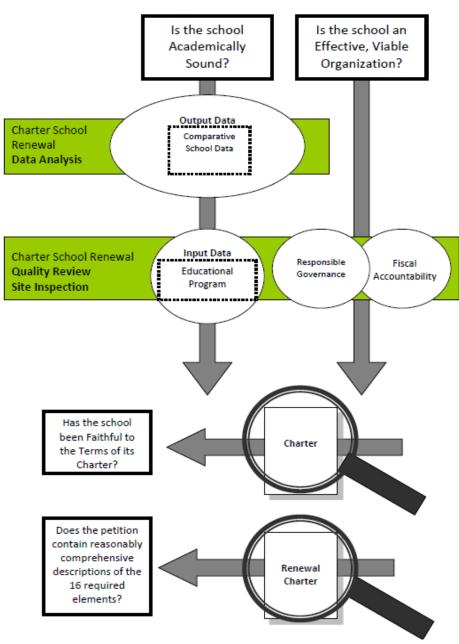
The Charter Schools Act establishes a prerequisite for charter renewal (AB1137) in which a charter school must meet **AT LEAST ONE CRITERIA** so that charter renewal **may be considered**.

CIVICORPS CORPSMEMBER ACADEMY: SB 1137 CRITERIA FOR RENEWAL	Y/N
1. API Growth Target:	
Did school attain API Growth Target in prior year?	n/a
Did school attain API Growth Target in two of last three years?	n/a
Did school attain API Growth Target in the aggregate of the prior three years?	n/a
2. API Rank:	
Is the school ranked 4 or higher on API in prior year?	n/a
Is the school ranked 4 or higher on API in two of last three years?	n/a
3. API Similar Schools <sup>1</sup> Rank:	
Is the school ranked 4 or higher on API Similar Schools in prior year?	n/a
Is the school ranked 4 or higher on API Similar Schools in two of last three years?	n/a
4. Is the school at least equal to the academic performance of schools students would have attended, including District as a whole?	n/a
5. Has the school qualified for an alternative accountability system pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 52052 (Alternative School Accountability Model – ASAM)?	YES

Staff evaluation of charter schools for purposes of renewal involves the following effort to triangulate the evidence base in support of a recommendation of approval or denial of the charter renewal request:



#### ANALYZING A CHARTER SCHOOL'S PERFORMANCE FOR THE PURPOSES OF RENEWAL:



#### **PLEASE NOTE:**

This report is not exhaustive. Many areas would benefit from greater depth of coverage and many aspects of the evaluation set forth here warrant further discussion and elaboration. The intent is to provide adequate evidence upon which to base a charter renewal decision, while lending credence to the overall staff recommendation.

#### Renewal Standard I: Is the school academically sound?

The following is an analysis of the extent to which the school has not met its measurable pupil outcomes as stated in its charter. Because Civicorps Corpsmember Academy is an ASAM school (see "Prerequisites"), California's school accountability measures do not apply, so MPOs are an important component of this evaluation.

MET/SIGNICANT PROGRESS TO	WARDS MEETING		
Measurable Pupil Outcomes	Instrument	Target	Progress
The Civicorps Corpsmember	Attendance Rate	Will maintain or	2007-2008: 69.65%
Academy will maintain or		exceed an average	2008-2009:78%
exceed an average 70%		70% monthly ADA	2009-2010: 76.65%
monthly attendance rate.		rate.	2010-2011: 85.47%
			2011-2012: pending
Within three months of	Verification of	Within three months	2007-2008: 73%
graduation, 75% of Civicorps	transcrips or	of graduation, 75% of	2008-2009:80%
Academy graduates will enroll	employment	graduates will enroll	2009-2010: 82%
in post-secondary education		in post-secondary	2010-2011: pending
as defined by a program		education and/or	2011-2012: pending
leading to certification; AA		begin career-track	
degree and/or begin career		community	
track community		intership/employment	
internship/employment as			
defined by a career ladder			
position that will lead toward			
a living wage job with benefits			
as evidenced by verification of			
transcripts or employment.			
Six months after graduation,	Verification of	60% of graduates will	2007-2008: 66%
60% of graduates will be	transcrips or	be employed or	2008-2009:80%
employed/enrolled as defined	employment	enrolled	2009-2010: 61%
by outcome #2 and as			2010-2011: pending
evidenced by verification of			2011-2012: pending
transcripts or employment.			
50% of "graduated ready"	Graduation rate	50% of "graduation	2007-2008: 67%
students (as defined by having		ready" students will	2008-2009:67%
passed both parts of the		graduate within nine	2009-2010: 64%
CAHSEE exam) will graduate		months	2010-2011: 85%
from the Civicorps Academy			2011-2012: pending
within 9 months.			
75% of students attenting the	NWEA growth data	75% of students who	2007-2008: NWEA was
Civicorps Academy who have		have not yet reached	implemented Spring 07/08
not yet reached proficiency (as		(sic) proficiency will	therefore there is not
defined by Northwest		demonstrate growth	adequate data. Limited data
Evaluation and Assessment		each quarter	shows 50% growth
(NWEA) score of 220) will			2008-2009:61%

demonstrate growth on NWEA			2009-2010: 81%
assessments each quarter.			2010-2011: 87%
			2011-2012: pending
Each NWEA assessment	NWEA assessment	A cumulative cohort	2007-2008: Limited data shows
administration will reveal a	administration data	average increase of	Math-4.75, Reading75,
cumulative cohort average		four points for math	Language-unavailable
increase of four (4) points for		and three points for	2008-2009: Math-5.6, Reading-
math and three (3) points for		reading/language.	6.3, Language-1.4
reading/language. Test			2009-2010: Math-5, Reading-
administrations occur			5.5, Language-4.2
quarterly.			2010-2011: Math-5.5, Reading-
			9.7, Language-4.5
			2011-2012: pending

#### STAR Testing Performance, API Results, & AYP Results: Not Applicable

As Civicorps Corpsmember Academy serves an 18-24 year old population, it does not administer the STAR tests and because the school has been approved to participate in the Alternative Schools Assessment Model, it does not have an API.

#### **Comparison Analysis: CAHSEE**

#### > Similar Grades Served: California Conservation Corps programs for students aged 18 to 24, all administrations

Standard comparison between the renewing charter school and other Oakland charter and District schools serving the same grade level is not applicable to Civicorps Corpsmember Academy, which serves students aged 18 to 24 returning to school to complete their educations. Civicorps Corpsmembers do take the CAHSEE, but because Civicorps Corpsmember Academy does not serve  $10^{th}$  grade students, the comparison of combined  $10^{th}$  grade CAHSEE administration results is not available. The comparison below is between Civicorps Corpsmember Academy and two other California Conservation Corps schools. Numbers of students tested at each administration varies and results are impacted by students re-testing in multiple administrations.

# COMPARABLE CONSERVATION CORPS PROGRAMS

**CAHSEE % Passing** 



CAHSEE ELA 2010-2011	July	Oct	Nov	Feb	Mar	May
Civicorps Corpsmember Academy	33%	31%	-	27%	-	41%
John Muir Charter School	34%	28%	27%	29%	26%	29%
San Jose CCC	49%	35%	28%	26%	28%	32%

# **CAHSEE-Math**

CAHSEE MATH 2010-2011	July	Oct	Nov	Feb	Mar	May
John Muir Charter School	24%	21%	22%	30%	28%	27%
San Jose CCC	25%	22%	15%	29%	36%	26%
Civicorps Corpsmember Academy	10%	18%	-	10%	-	18%

The quality of the school's educational program and operations has been evaluated, in part, through a two-day Site Inspection conducted on <u>August 30 and 31, 2011</u> by District staff. See Attachment I for the school's comprehensive ratings on the Charter School Renewal Quality Standards Criteria.

#### Strengths:

- The school is dedicated to serving a very underserved population and designs its program to specifically suit this population.
- The number of staff and level of their commitment to serving the wide range of student needs in impressive.
- The school leader's experience with the program and dedication to its mission are evident in the "academy" redesign and overall improvement of student performance.
- The integration of academics into the field, via the Field Guide, is a strength.
- There is a strong, organization-wide focus on continuous improvement.
- There are clear and strong structures and routines in place to reinforce the strong culture.
- Some individual teachers demonstrate extremely high expectations for learning and behavior, clear learning
  objectives tied to student outcomes, differentiated instruction, well-organized learning environment, strong rigor,
  relevance, urgency, and pacing. Sharing best practices among teachers would strongly benefit the academic
  program.
- Identification and support for students with special needs is impressive, given the differences between the needs of young adults and children.

#### **Challenges:**

- The school would benefit from a specific detailed plan to improve the quality and rigor of instruction.
- Teachers need consistent support to strengthen their ability to implement targeted differentiation strategies.
- The school needs to continue to seek structures in addition to the portfolio requirements that ensure that Corpsmembers take ownership of their classroom learning and strive to achieve at high levels, rather than simply complete portfolio requirements.
- Recruitment efforts to attract Latino students have been less successful than desired.
- The school needs to continue its work to more closely integrate fieldwork with classroom studies.
- Mathematics instruction is a challenge for the school, with students having widely varied levels of proficiency and "math anxiety".

#### **Renewal Standard I:**

Based on an analysis of Civicorps Corpsmember Academy's performance outcomes and an evaluation of its educational program over the past four years, the school is deemed an <u>academic success</u> for the purposes of renewal.

The school has met or made substantial progress towards meeting its Measurable Pupil Outcomes identified in its charter.

#### Renewal Standard II: Is the school an effective, viable organization?

The effectiveness and viability of the school has been evaluated, in part, through a two-day Site Inspection conducted on <u>August 30 and 31, 2011</u> by District staff. See Attachment I for the school's comprehensive ratings on the Charter School Renewal Quality Standards Criteria.

#### Strengths:

- The board's self-described "revolution" and newfound commitment to its ownership of the charter, and to transparency, is a strength.
- The depth and breadth of relationships with community organizations and partnerships with local resources to support the Corpsmembers' many needs is impressive.
- Governance, management, and fiscal responsibility systems are improving.
- The new executive director is bringing strong accountability systems and community-building experience, as well as ideas for further growth of the program.

#### Challenges:

- The program's combination of field and classroom work is dependent on contracts with local agencies and business, which have been negatively impacted by the recession.
- The board needs a long-term plan for development and training, to ensure its ability to sustain a high level of governance for the long-term.
- Memorandum of Understanding with the District regarding special education needs to be developed to formalize services and charges. Standard agreement in which charter is "a school within the District for purposes of special education" is not appropriate given the differences between this school and the other charters in the District.
- Including alumni and parents of this program on the governing board has been challenging. Additional training for stakeholder board members would be appropriate.

#### **IS THE SCHOOL AN EFFECTIVE, VIABLE ORGANIZATION**

An evaluation by staff of Civicorps Corpsmember Academy's fiscal accountability and governance over their recent charter term also included:

- Evaluation of annual financial audits
- Resolution of parent/community complaints
- Timeliness of mandated reporting requirements
- Financial controls and budgeting process
- Effective use of resources
- Consistency and strength of Governing Board oversight
- Standing with parents and within the community

#### **Renewal Standard II:**

Based on this analysis, the school is deemed an <u>effective, viable organization</u> for the purposes of charter renewal.

#### Renewal Standard III: Has the school been faithful to the terms of its charter?

Through the charter renewal process, as well as a review of the school's performance and operations throughout the term of its charter, an evaluation of the extent to which the school has been faithful to the terms of its charter has been assessed along the following:

- Adherence to Proposed Educational Program
- Pursuit of Measurable Pupil Outcomes
- Compliance with Regulatory Elements

As discussed above, the structure of the program has been altered to some degree as a result of the organization's push for continuous improvement, but not to an extent that would be considered inconsistent with the previous charter. Staff has reviewed the school's records on file with the District and deemed that the school has sufficiently adhered to its proposed educational program, has sufficiently pursued its measurable pupil outcomes as stated in its charter, and has been compliant in all material aspects of its regulatory elements under its charter term.

#### Renewal Standard III:

Based on review of the school's records and performance, the school is deemed to have been **faithful to the terms of its charter.** 

# Renewal Standard IV: Does the charter petition contain reasonably comprehensive descriptions of the required elements?

The Charter Schools Act requires authorizers to evaluate whether the petitioners have presented a "reasonably comprehensive" description of 16 elements related to a school's operation, plus specific supplementary information on operations and finance. The following table summarizes the results of the Staff's review of the charter petition's content.

Element	Inadequate	Reasonably Comprehensive	Statutory Reference	Comments
Required signatures			E.C. § 47605(a)(1)	Sufficient teacher signatures were provided. However, new CDE charter renewal regulations effective November 23, 2011 eliminate the petition signature requirement for charter renewal.
Affirmations and assurances			E.C. § 47605(d)	
Description of the educational program of the school, including what it means to be an "educated person" in the 21 <sup>st</sup> century and how learning best occurs.			E.C. § 47605(b)(5)(A)	21st Century Skills have been added to the school's key practices. New measures added to graduation requirements.
Measurable pupil outcomes		$\boxtimes$	E.C. § 47605(b)(5)(B)	,
Method by which pupil progress is to be measured		$\boxtimes$	E.C. § 47605(b)(5)(C)	
Governance structure		$\boxtimes$	E.C. § 47605(b)(5)(D)	
Qualifications to be met by individuals employed at the school			E.C. § 47605(b)(5)(E)	School has sufficient experience to be able to more fully describe the qualities teachers need to succeed with this group of students.
Procedures for ensuring health & safety of students			E.C. § 47605(b)(5)(F)	Emergency management plan added.
Means for achieving racial and ethnic balance			E.C. § 47605(b)(5)(G)	Recruitment plan does not include new strategies specifically addressing the lack of Latino students
Admission requirements, if applicable			E.C. § 47605(b)(5)(H)	Priority for siblings, children of staff and District residents.

				1
Manner for conducting annual,		$\boxtimes$	E.C. § 47605(b)(5)(I)	
independent audits and for				
resolving exceptions or deficiencies				
Suspension and expulsion		$\boxtimes$	E.C. § 47605(b)(5)(J)	Corpsmember
procedures				handbook covers
				both academic and
				field work discipline
				with a system that is
				not specifically
				aligned with the
				Education Code, but
				meets Constitutional
				due process
		<u> </u>		requirements.
Manner for covering staff members		$\boxtimes$	E.C. § 47605(b)(5)(K)	
through the State Teachers'				
Retirement System, the Public				
Employees' Retirement System or				
federal social security			Γ C δ 47C0Γ/b\/Γ\/L\	
Attendance alternatives for pupils residing within the district who			E.C. § 47605(b)(5)(L)	
choose not to attend the charter				
school				
Employee rights of return, if any		$\square$	E.C. § 47605(b)(5)(M)	
Dispute resolution procedure for			E.C. § 47605(b)(5)(N)	
school-authorizer issues related to			2.6. 3 47 003(8)(3)(14)	
the charter.				
Statement regarding exclusive	П		E.C. § 47605(b)(5)(O)	
employer status of the school				
Procedures for school closure		$\boxtimes$	E.C. § 47605(b)(5)(P)	
Facilities to be utilized by school		$\overline{\boxtimes}$	E.C. § 47605(g)	School has its own
				facilities in West
				Oakland, both for
				academics and field
				crews.
Manner in which administrative		$\boxtimes$	E.C. § 47605(g)	
services are to be provided				
Potential civil liability effects		$\boxtimes$	E.C. § 47605(g)	
Proposed first year operational		$\boxtimes$	E.C. § 47605(g)	
budget				
Cash flow and financial projections		$\boxtimes$	E.C. § 47605(g)	Reflects planned 20%
for 3 years				growth in enrollment

#### **Renewal Standard IV:**

Petition as submitted, with appendices, contains reasonably comprehensive descriptions of all required elements set forth in charter law.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is the recommendation of staff, based on its thorough analysis of the charter school's performance, to **approve** the charter renewal petition for Civicorps Corpsmember Academy, <u>as revised per Attachment II</u>, because the charter school has sufficiently met the standards and expectations set forth in the OUSD Charter Renewal Standards, as well as the standards and criteria set forth in the California Charter Schools Act, Education Code 47605, which governs charter school renewals.

This approval is for the charter program and operation in its entirety as proposed and revised herein. Any subsequent material revision of the provision of this charter may be made only with the approval of the District as charter authorizer ( $Education\ Code\ \S47607(a)(1)$ ). Any material revision to any charter component must be proposed and considered according to the standards and criteria in Education Code  $\S47607(a)(2)$ ).

This report recommends that the Oakland Unified School District Board of Education <u>approve</u> the charter renewal petition for Civicorps Corpsmember Academy for a term of five years, as required by law (Education Code 47605 d(1)). The charter renewal term would begin on July 1, 2011 and expire on June 30, 2017. The District will not accept a charter renewal request more than 270 days prior to the expiration of the charter.

Because the charter is a legally binding performance contract, exact language is important. Therefore, this report recommends that the charter's text be amended as indicated in the attachment to this report. With these amendments, the charter contains reasonably comprehensive descriptions of all of the required charter elements.

This report recommends that the Board of Education approve the Civicorps Corpsmember Academy petition for charter renewal, under the California Charter Schools Act, and incorporating the text amendments attached to this report. Staff recommends this approval based on factual findings, specific to this particular charter school and renewal petition. Be it here acknowledged, pursuant to the charter petition text submitted by the petitioner that if renewal is granted the petitioner opts to receive funding directly from the state.

A charter may be revoked by the authority that granted the charter if the authority finds that the charter school committed a material violation of any of the conditions, standards, or procedures set forth in its charter (Education Code §47607(c)(1)). The Board of Education's approval of this charter shall incorporate the charter text amendments and associated deadlines as a condition of the charter.

ATTACHMENT I: CHARTER SCHOOL RENEWAL QUALITY STANDARDS CRITERIA ATTACHMENT II: REQUIRED TEXT REVISIONS

#### ATTACHMENT I: CHARTER SCHOOL RENEWAL QUALITY STANDARDS CRITERIA

#### **Making Consistent Judgments**

In the complex context of school review, it is important that the terminology used is clearly understood by everyone concerned. It is also imperative that everyone recognizes that there are many ways in which a school's program for improving student outcomes can merit a particular evaluation and that awarding levels is a matter of informed professional judgment and not simply a technical process. The following rubric is included to assist reviewers in making consistent judgments.

- An evaluation of (5) applies to schools characterized, overall, by strengths. There are very few or no weaknesses, and any that exist do not diminish the students' experience. Although an evaluation of (5) represents a high standard of quality, it is a standard that is achievable by all schools. It implies that the school may appropriately continue its provision without significant adjustment, and that there is compelling evidence that this provision can be sustained at a high level. However, all schools are expected to continue to take advantage of all opportunities to improve. The Quality Indicator (QI) for this provision is *excellent*.
- An evaluation of (4) applies to schools where efforts to improve student achievement are characterized by a number of strengths. There are a few weaknesses, but neither singly nor collectively, do these have a significant adverse impact on the student experience. An evaluation of (4) may be appropriate in circumstances where the provision may make for a productive student experience; but it may not apply consistently to most or all students. There is strong evidence that this provision can be sustained at a level that positively impact student experiences. Typically, the school's academic-improvement practices will be characterized by strengths but one or more weaknesses will reduce the overall quality of the practices. The Quality Indicator (QI) for this provision is **proficient**.
- An evaluation of (3) applies to schools characterized by some strengths, but where some important weaknesses have an impact on the quality of students' experiences. In general, an evaluation of (3) will imply the need for structured and timed action on the part of the school. It may be arrived at in a number of circumstances. There may be some of strengths, but there will also be weaknesses which will be, either individually or collectively, sufficient to diminish the student experience in significant ways. There may be an overall lack of evidence that this provision can be sustained or implemented by the school at a level to positively impact student experiences. The QI for the provision provided is *underdeveloped*.
- An evaluation of (2) applies to schools where provisions are characterized by weaknesses that require immediate and significant corrective action by the school. Some, if not all, staff responsible for improving student achievement require support from senior managers in planning and carrying out necessary actions to enhance the effectiveness of the school's efforts to improve student outcomes. There are a few strengths but these are overshadowed by the impact of the weaknesses. There is little evidence that this provision can be sustained or implemented by the school at a level to positively impact student experiences. The Quality Indicator (QI) for this provision is *inadequate*.
- An evaluation of (1) applies when there are major weaknesses in provision, requiring immediate remedial action on the part of the school. The student experience is at risk in significant respects. In almost all cases, staff responsible for provision evaluated *unsatisfactory* will require significant support from senior managers in planning and carrying out the necessary actions to effect improvement. This may involve working alongside effective peers in or beyond the school. There is no evidence that this provision can be sustained or implemented by the school to positively impact student experiences. The Quality Indicator (QI) for this provision is *unsatisfactory*.

## **Criterion 1: Improving Student Achievement**

A charter school promotes student learning through a clear vision and high expectations. It achieves clear, measurable program goals and student learning objectives, including meeting its stated performance standards, state and federal performance standards, and closing achievement gaps of students.

	The criteria for making judgments on the quality of Improving Student Achievement	Score	Comments
1.1	Demonstrates high expectations for student achievement	3	Because program is not credit based, expectations for students can appear as a checklist of activities, rather than acquired knowledge and skills
1.2	Provides a challenging and coherent curriculum for each individual student	3	
1.3	Implements and directs learning experiences (consistent with the school's purpose and charter) that actively engage students	3	Engagement levels in classrooms vary; Field Academy and computer lab work on portfolio requirements keep students motivated
1.4	Allocates appropriate resources in the way of instructional materials, staffing and facilities to promote high levels of student achievement	3	Staffing is prioritized over materials and technology; budget cuts may require reconsideration of staffing levels
1.5	Promotes academic risk taking by supporting students in a safe, healthy and nurturing environment characterized by trust, caring and professionalism	5	Returning to school is perceived by many Civicorps students as a "risk" because of life challenges and past experience; program effectively creates a safe environment supporting students' unique (and substantial) needs
1.6	Productively engages parental and community involvement as a part of the school's student support system	4	Given the school's enrollment of young adults, parent involvement is limited
1.7	Shares its vision among the school community and demonstrates its mission in daily action and practice	4	
1.8	Involves staff, students, parents and other stakeholders in its accountability for student learning and in the school's program evaluation process	4	Small size and dedicated staff lead to high accountability

# **Criterion 2: Strong Leadership**

The leaders of a charter school are stewards of the charter's mission and vision and carry out their duties in a professional, responsible and ethical manner. Charter school leaders use their influence and authority for the primary purpose of achieving student success.

	The criteria for judging the quality of Strong Leadership	Score	Comments
2.1	Effectively communicates and engages stakeholders in the vision mission of the school	4	
2.2	Consistently puts into practice the educational program outlined in its charter	4	Program has evolved since charter was written and approved, while retaining its core mission and components; new structure has proven more effective
2.3	Generates and sustains a school culture conducive to staff professional growth	3	School is very supportive of teachers in a demanding environment, but more emphasis could be placed on development of teaching skills
2.4	Actively monitors and evaluates the success of the school's program	4	
2.5	Provides regular, public reports on the school's progress towards achieving its goals to the school community and to the school's authorizer	4	
2.6	Treats all individuals with fairness, dignity and respect	5	School leadership ensures that culture is consistent with strong norms related to respecting others, despite the challenge of 6-week orientation cycle introducing new students to the program
2.7	Has a cogent understanding of the laws that govern charter schools and monitors the trends, issues and potential changes in the environment in which charter schools operate	4	. 0
2.8	Makes management decisions and uses his/her influence and authority for the primary purpose of achieving student success	4	
2.9	Respects diversity and implements practices that are inclusive of all types of learners consistent with the school charter	3	School population is not racially/ethnically diverse and is predominantly male; attention is paid to needs of female students; challenge of recruiting Latino students (who also have high drop-out rates) remains
2.10	Engages community involvement in the school	4	Effective partnerships in place supporting both Learning Academy and Field Academy

## **Criterion 3: A Focus on Continuous Improvement**

A charter school engages in a process of continuous self-improvement in order to increase the effectiveness of its educational program. The school regularly assesses and evaluates student learning based on stated goals.

	The criteria for judging the quality of the Continuous Focus on Improvement	Score	Comments
3.1	Uses information sources, data collection and data analysis strategies for self-examination and improvement	4	Use of NWEA MAP assessments has been a plus for the program, and data are regularly used by staff
3.2	Establishes benchmarks and a variety of accountability tools for monitoring student progress and uses the results of these assessments to improve curriculum and instruction	3	Data used to provide individual student supports; not as evidence that assessments are shaping curriculum choices
3.3	Establishes both long and short term goals and plans for accomplishing the school's mission as stated in its charter	4	
3.4	Uses student assessment results to improve curriculum and instruction	3	
3.5	Uses the results of evaluation and assessment as the basis for the allocation of resources for programmatic improvement	3	

## **Criterion 4: Responsible Governance**

A charter school board and administration establish and implement policies that are transparent and focused on student achievement. Charter school board members and administrators have a cogent understanding of and comply with the laws that govern charter schools. Governing Board establishes structures that ensure the long-term viability, stability, and consistency of the program through student outcomes.

	The criteria for judging Responsible Governance	Score	Comments
4.1	Ensure that policies and practices are implemented in a fair and consistent manner	4	
4.2	Monitor the trends, issues and potential changes in the environment in which charter schools operate	4	
4.3	Seek input from impacted stakeholders	4	Multiple opportunities for input from stakeholders; student voice has expanded activities (prom); school made effective use of renewal performance report process to reflect on program
4.4	Enact policies that respect diversity and implements practices that are inclusive of all types of learners consistent with the school charter	4	

	The criteria for judging Responsible Governance	Score	Comments
4.5	Actively engage the school's authorizer in monitoring the school's educational program and its fiscal status	4	
4.6	Establishes and maintains a safe environment for students, staff, and community stakeholders	5	Program incorporates numerous strategies for ensuring a safe environment conducive to learning in both Learning Academy and Field Academy
4.7	Consistently engages in timely reporting or required information to the District, the County, and the State	4	
4.8	Establishes clear and well-understood systems for decision-making and communication that results in a common sense of purpose and understanding for all stakeholders	4	Hiring of new Executive Director stimulated discussion and development of better processes
4.9	Maintains effective and active control of the charter school	4	Significant improvement in board engagement and oversight since renewal of Civicorps Elementary charter
4.10	Abstains from any decision involving a potential or actual conflict of interest	4	Board members understand conflict of interest obligations
4.11	Ensures implementation of the student recruitment, retention, and enrollment process intended in the charter, in the school's recruitment and retention plan, and as defined by statute and regulation	3	Recruitment plan needs revision to address low representation of Latino students
4.12	Employs best practices to hire effective school leader and annually and systematically assesses the performance of school leader against clearly defined goals, and makes effective and timely use of the evaluations	3	Not currently strong; new Executive Director is implementing new performance management systems
4.13	Implements an accountability process for the school's academic results and operates with a clear set of goals for the school, and has developed a set of tools for understanding progress towards meeting those goals	3	With new Executive Director, board is developing a long- term strategic plan for the organization (including both Corpsmember Academy and Elementary School)
4.14	Involves parents/guardians as partners in the education of their children and maintains positive relationships with parents.	3	Because students served are young adults aged 18-14, parent involvement is not a strong feature of the program

# **Criterion 5: Fiscal Accountability**

A charter school fulfills its fiduciary responsibility for public funds and maintains publicly accessible fiscal records. The school conducts an annual financial audit which is made public.

	The criteria for making judgments on Fiscal Responsibility	Score	Comments
5.1	Creates and monitors immediate and long-range financial plans to effectively implement the	4	Board has strong understanding of short-term and long-

	The criteria for making judgments on Fiscal Responsibility	Score	Comments
	school's educational program and ensure financial stability and sustainability		term financial issues for the school, including impact of recession on Field Academy contracts
5.2	Conducts an annual financial audit which is made public	4	
5.3	Establishes clear fiscal policies to ensure that public funds are used appropriately and wisely	4	Organization has strong set of policies for management, including fiscal; updating in some areas may be needed
5.4	Ensures financial resources are directly related to the school's purpose: student achievement of learning goals	4	
5.5	Managing cash flow	4	
5.6	Enrollment is stable and/or growing at the rate anticipated by the charter school as projected in the approved charter and in the multi-year budget.	4	Enrollment targets not met, although with some regional office support, enrollment has been sufficient to sustain the program financially

# ATTACHMENT II Oakland Unified School District Office of Charter Schools

#### **CHARTER TEXT REVISIONS – CIVICORPS CORPSMEMBER ACADEMY**

**APPENDIX III - REQUIRED CHARTER TEXT REVISIONS**: The approved charter is amended from the filed petition to incorporate the revisions below. The charter school must submit to the District's Office of Charter Schools a revised charter to include all revisions outlined below in one hard copy and one electronic copy in *WORD* format on a CD or via email of no later than **5pm on June 1, 2012**.

Charter Text	Text	Revision
Governance	Reference Page 21	Add the following text and remove any text to the contrary:
		"Civicorps Corpsmember Academy will comply with the District policy related to charter schools to the extent it aligns with and does not exceed the law applicable to charter schools, as it may be changed from time to time as long as the charter school has been given written notice of the policy change."
Student Admissions Policies and	Page 27	Add the following text and remove any text to the contrary:
Procedures		"Civicorps Corpsmember Academy will be nonsectarian in its programs, admission policies, and all other operations, and will not charge tuition nor discriminate on the basis of the characteristics listed in Education Code Section 220 (actual or perceived disability, gender, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or any other characteristic that is contained in the definition of hate crimes set forth in Section 422.55 of the Penal Code or association with an individual who has any of the aforementioned characteristics).  As part of the Fall Information Update, Civicorps Corpsmember Academy will notify the District in writing of the application deadline and proposed lottery date. Civicorps Corpsmember Academy will ensure that all application materials will reference these dates as well as provide complete information regarding application procedures, key dates, and admissions preferences and requirements consistent with approved charter."
Public Records	Page 21	Add the following text and remove any text to the contrary:
		"Civicorps Corpsmember Academy acknowledges that pursuant to Article XVI section 8.5(e) of the California Constitution, sections 2(e), 6, and 8 of Proposition 98, and sections 33126.1(b), 35256(c), and 35258 of the Education Code require schools, including Civicorps Corpsmember Academy to provide certain information in certain formats in certain ways to the general public and specifically to parents of students at Civicorps Corpsmember Academy and of the District. Civicorps

		Corpsmember Academy further acknowledges that it has the obligation to provide all of such information to the District that is required by these referenced authorities in a timely manner so that the District may meet its obligations under those authorities as well. To the extent that there is information that the District has, but that Civicorps Corpsmember Academy does not have that Civicorps Corpsmember Academy needs in order to meet its obligations, the District shall provide the same to Civicorps Corpsmember Academy in a reasonably timely manner upon request."
External Reporting	Page 20	Add the following text and remove any text to the contrary:
		"Civicorps Corpsmember Academy will maintain sufficient staff and systems including technology, required to ensure timely reporting necessary to comply with the law and to meet all reasonable inquiries from District and other authorized reporting agencies."
Governance Structure of the School	Pages 23	Add the following text and remove any text to the contrary:
		"Civicorps Corpsmember Academy in accordance with Education Code Section 47604.3, shall promptly respond to all reasonable inquiries, including but not limited to, inquiries regarding financial records, from the District and shall consult with the District regarding any such inquiries. Civicorps Corpsmember Academy acknowledges that it is subject to audit by OUSD if OUSD seeks an audit of Civicorps Corpsmember Academy it shall assume all costs of such audit. This obligation for the District to pay for an audit only applies if the audit requested is specifically requested by the District and is not otherwise required to be completed by Civicorps Corpsmember Academy by law or charter provisions."
Governance Structure	Page 22	Add the following text and remove any text to the contrary:
		"Members of Civicorps Corpsmember Academy Governing Board, any administrators, managers or employees, and any other committees of the School shall at all times comply with federal and state laws, nonprofit integrity standards and OUSD's Charter School policies and regulations regarding ethics and conflicts of interest so long as such policies and regulations are not in conflict with any then-existing applicable statutes or regulations applicable to charter schools.
		Civicorps Corpsmember Academy and/or its non-profit corporation will be solely responsible for the debts and obligations of the charter school."
Addressing Parent Complaints	Page 35	Add the following text and remove any text to the contrary:
		"Civicorps Corpsmember Academy will establish complaint

procedures that address both complaints alleging discrimination or violations of law and complaints regarding other areas. Civicorps Corpsmember Academy will not, at any time, refer complaints to the District. The complaint procedures will include the clear information with respect to the response timeline of the school, whether the school's response will be in writing, the party identified to respond to complaints, the party identified and charged with making final decisions regarding complaints, and whether the final decision will be issued in writing. The procedures will also identify an ombudsperson for situations in which the school leader is the subject of the complaint. The complaint procedures will be clearly articulated in the school's student and family handbook or distributed widely. Civicorps Corpsmember Academy will designate at least one employee to coordinate its efforts to comply with and carry out its responsibilities under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) including any investigation of any complaint filed with Civicorps Corpsmember Academy alleging its noncompliance with these laws or alleging any actions which would be prohibited by these laws. Civicorps Corpsmember Academy will notify all its students and employees of the name, office address, and telephone number of the designated employee or employees. Civicorps Corpsmember Academy will adopt and publish grievance procedures providing for prompt and equitable resolution of student and employee complaints alleging any action, which would be prohibited by Title IX, or Section 504. Civicorps Corpsmember Academy will implement specific and continuing steps to notify applicants for admission and employment, students and parents of elementary and secondary school students, employees, sources of referral of applicants for admission and employment, and all unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the recipient, that it does not discriminate on the basis of sex or mental or physical disability in the educational program or activity which it operates, and that it is required by Title IX and Section 504 not to discriminate in such a manner." **Health and Safety Procedures** Page 27 Add the following text and remove any text to the contrary: "Civicorps Corpsmember Academy shall occupy facilities that

comply with the Asbestos requirement as cited in the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), 40CFR part 763. AHERA requires that any building leased or acquired that is to

		be used as a school or administrative building shall maintain an asbestos management plan."
<u>Dispute Resolutions Procedures</u>	Page 33	Add the following text and remove any text to the contrary:
		"The staff and Governing Board members of Civicorps Corpsmember Academy agree to attempt to resolve all disputes between the District and Civicorps Corpsmember Academy regarding this charter pursuant to the terms of this section. Both will refrain from public commentary regarding any disputes until the matter has progressed through the dispute resolution process.
		Any controversy or claim arising out of or relating to the charter agreement between the District and Civicorps Corpsmember Academy except any controversy or claim that in any way related to revocation of this charter, shall be handled first through an informal process in accordance with the procedures set forth below.
		(1) Any controversy or claim arising out of or relating to the charter agreement, except any controversy or claim that in any way related to revocation of this charter, must be put in writing ("Written Notification") by the party asserting the existence of such dispute. The Written Notification must identify the nature of the dispute and all supporting facts known to the party giving the Written Notification. The Written Notification may be tendered by personal delivery, by facsimile, or by certified mail. The Written Notification shall be deemed received (a) if personally delivered, upon date of delivery to the address of the person to receive such notice if delivered by 5:00 PM or otherwise on the business day following personal delivery; (b) if by facsimile, upon electronic confirmation of receipt; or (c) if by mail, two (2) business days after deposit in the U.S. Mail. All written notices shall be addressed as follows:
		To Charter School, c/o School Director: Civicorps Corpsmember Academy
		To Coordinator, Office of Charter Schools:  Tilden Education Complex  4551 Steele Street, Room 11  Oakland, California 94619
		(2) A written response ("Written Response") shall be tendered to the party providing the Written Notification within twenty (20) business days from the date of receipt of the Written Notification. The Written Response shall state the responding party's position on all issues stated in the Written Notification and set forth all fact which the responding party believes supports its position. The Written Response may be tendered

		by personal delivery, by facsimile, or by certified mail. The Written Response shall be deemed received (a) if personally delivered, upon date of delivery to the address of the person to receive such notice if delivered by 5:00p.m., or otherwise on the business day following personal delivery; (b) if by facsimile, upon electronic confirmation of receipt; or (c) if by mail, two (2) business days after deposit in the U.S. Mail. The parties agree to schedule a conference to discuss the claim or controversy ("Issue Conference"). The Issue Conference shall take place within fifteen (15) business days from the date the Written Response is received by the other party.
		(3) If the controversy, claim, or dispute is not resolved by mutual agreement at the Issue Conference, then either party may request that the matter be resolved by mediation. Each party shall bear its own costs and expenses associated with the mediation. The mediator's fees and the administrative fees of the mediation shall be shared equally among the parties. Mediation proceedings shall commence within 60 days from the date of the Issue Conference. The parties shall mutually agree upon the selection of a mediator to resolve the controversy or claim at dispute. If no agreement on a mediator is reached within 30 days after a request to mediate, the parties will use the processes and procedures of the American Arbitration Association ("AAA") to have an arbitrator appointed  (4) If the mediation is not successful, the parties agree that each party has exhausted its administrative remedies and shall have any such recourse available by law."
Suspension and Expulsion	Pages 31	Add the following text and remove any text to the contrary:
		"Civicorps Corpsmember Academy shall notify, within 30 days, the superintendent of the school district of any pupil who is expelled or leaves Civicorps Corpsmember Academy without graduating or completing the school year for any reason. The school district notified shall be determined by the pupil's last known address. Civicorps Corpsmember Academy shall, upon request, provide that school district with a copy of the cumulative record of the pupil, including a transcript of grades or report card and health information, pursuant to Education Code Section 47605(d)(3)."
Suspension and Expulsion: Due	Pages 32	Add the following text and remove any text to the contrary:
Process for Students with Disabilities		"In the case of a special education student, or a student who receives 504 accommodations, Civicorps Corpsmember Academy will ensure that it makes the necessary adjustments to comply with the mandates of State and federal laws, including the IDEA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Plan of 1973, regarding the discipline of students with disabilities. Prior

		to recommending expulsion for a Section 504 student or special education student, the charter administrator will convene a review committee to determine 1) if the conduct in question was caused by, or had a direct and substantial relationship to the child's disability; or 2) if the conduct in question was the direct result of the LEA's failure to implement the 504 plan or IEP. If it is determined that the student's misconduct was not caused by or had direct and substantial relationship to the child's disability or the conduct in question was not a direct result of the LEA's failure to implement the 504 plan or IEP, the student may be expelled."
		"To the extent that Civicorps Corpsmember Academy is a recipient of federal funds, including federal Title I, Part A funds, Civicorps Corpsmember Academy has agreed to meet all of the programmatic, fiscal and other regulatory requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act and other applicable federal grant programs. Civicorps Corpsmember Academy agrees that it will keep and make available to the District any documentation necessary to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act and other applicable federal programs, including, but not limited to, documentation related to required parental notifications, appropriate credentialing of teaching and paraprofessional staff, where applicable, or any other mandated federal program requirement. The mandated requirements of NCLB include, but are not the limited to, the following:  • Notify parents at the beginning of each school year of their "right to know" the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teacher including a timely notice to each individual parent that the parent's child has been assigned, or taught for four or more consecutive weeks by, a teacher who is not highly qualified.  • Develop jointly with, and distribute to, parents of participating children, a school-parent compact.  • Hold an annual Title I meeting for parents of participating Title I students.  • Develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to, parents of participating children a written parent involvement policy.  Civicorps Corpsmember Academy also understands that as part of its oversight of the school, the Office of Charter Schools may conduct program review of federal and state compliance
<u>Facilities</u>	Page 38	Add the following text and remove any text to the contrary:
		"If Civicorps Corpsmember Academy fails to submit a certificate

		of accumancy or other valid decumentation to the District
		of occupancy or other valid documentation to the District verifying that the intended facility in which the school will operate complies with Education Code Section 47610, not less than 30 days before the school is scheduled to begin operation pursuant to the first year of this renewal term, it may not commence operations unless an exception is made by the Office of Charter Schools and/or the local planning department or equivalent agency. If Civicorps Corpsmember Academy moves or expands to another facility during the term of this charter, Civicorps Corpsmember Academy shall provide a certificate of occupancy or other valid documentation to the District verifying that the intended facility in which the school will operate complies with Education Code Section 47610, to the District for each facility at least 30 days before school is scheduled to begin operations in the facility or facilities. Civicorps Corpsmember Academy shall not begin operation in any location for which it has failed to timely provide a certificate of occupancy to the District, unless an exception is made by the Office of Charter Schools and/or the local planning department or equivalent agency.  Notwithstanding any language to the contrary in this charter, the interpretation, application, and enforcement of this provision are not subject to the Dispute Resolution Process."
District Fee for Oversight	Page 29	Add the following text and remove any text to the contrary:
		"The District may charge for the actual costs of supervisorial oversight of Civicorps Corpsmember Academy not to exceed 1% of the charter school's revenue, or the District may charge for the actual costs of supervisorial oversight of the Charter School not to exceed 3% if Civicorps Corpsmember Academy is able to obtain substantially rent free facilities from the District.  Notwithstanding the foregoing, the District may charge the maximum supervisorial oversight fee allowed under the law as it may change from time to time."
Miscellaneous Charter-Related Issues	Page 38	Add the following text and remove any text to the contrary:  "Civicorps Corpsmember Academy must submit its renewal petition to the Office of Charter Schools no earlier than 270 days before the charter is due to expire unless otherwise agreed by the Office of Charter Schools"
Miscellaneous Charter-Related Issues	Page 38	Add the following text and remove any text to the contrary:
		"The District may revoke the charter of Civicorps Corpsmember Academy in accordance with Education Code Section 47607.any successor provisions to section 47607, or other statutory provisions, if enacted after the date of the charter, regarding the revocation of charters.

Impact on Charter Authorizer	Page 29	Add the following text and remove any text to the contrary:
		"In order to ensure the necessary oversight and review of mandated reports for which the authorizer must determine fiscal health and sustainability, the following schedule of reporting deadline to the District will apply each year of the term of this charter;  September 1 – Final Unaudited Financial Report for Prior Year December 1 – Final Audited Financial Report for Current Year December 1 – First Interim Financial Report for Current Year
		<ul> <li>March 1 – Second Interim Financial Report for Current Year</li> <li>June 15 – Preliminary Budget for Subsequent Year</li> </ul>
Impact on Charter Authorizer	Page 30	Add the following text and remove any text to the contrary:
		"Civicorps Corpsmember Academy agrees to observe and abide by the following terms and conditions as a requirement for receiving and maintaining their charter authorization:
		<ul> <li>Civicorps Corpsmember Academy is subject to District oversight.</li> </ul>
		The District's statutory oversight responsibility continues throughout the life of the charter and requires that it, among other things, monitor the fiscal condition of Civicorps Corpsmember Academy
		<ul> <li>The District is authorized to revoke this charter for, among other reasons, the failure of Civicorps Corpsmember Academy to meet generally accepted accounting principles or if it engages in fiscal mismanagement in accordance with Education Code Section 47607.</li> </ul>
		Accordingly, the District hereby reserves the right, at District cost, pursuant to its oversight responsibility, to audit Civicorps Corpsmember Academy books, records, data, processes and procedures through the Office of Charter Schools or other means. The audit may include, but is not limited to, the following areas:
		<ul> <li>Compliance with terms and conditions prescribed in the charter,</li> <li>Internal controls, both financial and operational in nature,</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>The accuracy, recording and/or reporting of school financial information,</li> <li>The school's debt structure,</li> </ul>

- Governance policies, procedures and history,
- The recording and reporting of attendance data,
- The school's enrollment process, suspension and expulsion procedures, and parent involvement practices,
- Compliance with safety plans and procedures, and
- Compliance with applicable grant requirements.

Civicorps Corpsmember Academy shall cooperate fully with such audits and to make available any and all records necessary for the performance of the audit upon 30 day's notice to Civicorps Corpsmember Academy When 30 days notice may defeat the purpose of the audit, the District may conduct the audit upon 24 hour's notice.

In addition, if an allegation of waste, fraud or abuse related to Civicorps Corpsmember Academy operations is received by the District, the Civicorps Corpsmember Academy shall be expected to cooperate with any investigation undertaken by the Office of Charter Schools, at District cost. This obligation for the District to pay for an audit only applies if the audit requested is specifically requested by the District and is not otherwise required to be completed by Civicorps Corpsmember Academy by law or charter provisions."