

Future School of Fort Smith Charter High School Charter Renewal CAP Action

Recommendation and Motion Summary: Future School of Fort Smith Charter High School

Future School of Fort Smith Charter High School is recommended for renewal based on the Charter Authorizing Panel's approval of the Department's recommendation, inclusive of the Charter Support Unit (CSU) recommendations.

At its meeting, the Panel considered the school's renewal request and supporting documentation. Ms. Edie Stewart moved to approve the renewal of the charter contract for Future School of Fort Smith Charter High School, consistent with CSU recommendations. The motion was seconded by Dr. John Bacon and passed unanimously (6–0).

The Panel's approval includes the following:

- 1. Renewal Plan and Monitoring**

Approval of Future School of Fort Smith Charter High School's comprehensive renewal plan, submitted May 1, with the condition that the school participate in quarterly CSU check-ins to monitor implementation and progress.

- 2. Charter Renewal Term**

Approval of a three-year renewal of the charter contract.

- 3. Assessment and Reporting Requirement**

Requirement that Future School of Fort Smith Charter High School administer the Atlas Interim Assessment as a mandatory measure to ensure consistent data analysis and provide timely reporting to CSU in support of accountability.

Rationale and School Summary

Future School of Fort Smith Charter High School is a public charter high school that has engaged in a structured improvement process following its root cause analysis presented at the December Charter Authorizing Panel meeting. Since that time, the school has focused on implementing targeted improvement actions aligned to identified needs, with an emphasis on strengthening instructional practices, improving school culture, and refining organizational systems.

The school's improvement efforts reflect a developing and deliberate approach. Evidence gathered during the CSU site visit, including stakeholder engagement, data review, and classroom observations, indicates that staff are increasingly aligned around instructional priorities, strategic planning, and schoolwide goals. Observed practices demonstrate that the school is beginning to operationalize its identified priorities within daily instruction and routines.

The comprehensive improvement plan submitted on May 1 presents a coherent framework aligned to the school's root cause analysis. The plan includes targeted, evidence-based strategies and action steps intended to improve student outcomes. This alignment reflects a thoughtful planning process and establishes a clear path forward for continued improvement.

Organizationally, the school shows early signs of progress but continues to require intentional focus on implementation and sustainability. Systems to support instruction, monitoring, and continuous improvement are emerging; however, consistent execution and fidelity of implementation will be critical to achieving measurable gains. Additionally, declining enrollment presents an ongoing challenge that may impact staffing, programming, and financial stability if not carefully monitored and addressed.

A key consideration moving forward is ensuring consistent implementation of the improvement plan while addressing operational challenges. Structured oversight through quarterly CSU check-ins will provide necessary support, monitor progress, identify barriers, and allow for timely course corrections. These engagements will also help ensure that enrollment trends and organizational conditions do not impede progress toward improved student outcomes.

Bottom line:

Future School of Fort Smith demonstrates initial progress, a coherent improvement plan, and a commitment to addressing identified challenges. The school is positioned to improve outcomes; however, continued and structured monitoring is necessary to ensure implementation fidelity, sustainability, and long-term success. Approval of the renewal is appropriate with the condition of quarterly CSU engagement to support progress and accountability.