

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY FOR CONTRACT SCHOOLS PROPOSAL

Contract schools are one of the numerous options Douglas County School District might use to achieve its educational goals. Given their inherent flexibility, contract schools may be particularly well-suited to provide specialized services or fill specific gaps.

Under the proposed Policy, a “contract school” may be any person or entity that enters into a contract with the District for the provision of educational services under the terms of the Policy. This may include, but is not limited to, for-profit or non-profit entities, online programs, or course-specific or supplemental programs. A “contract school” may not be religious in nature, and the educational services, as well as materials and equipment, provided must be non-religious. The educational services must be directed toward fulfilling one or more of the Board’s End Statements.

The Policy describes the process under which the District might engage contract schools. It begins with the District evaluating what educational programs might be best offered through a contract school. The District would then issue a Request for Proposals for potential contract schools, gather and evaluate responses, receive input from District stakeholders, and then make a recommendation for the Board to consider. The District would accept all proposals for potential contract schools, even those that might not come in response to the RFP. The Board would make the final determination as to whether the District would enter into a contract for any particular contract school.

The Policy describes the set of terms that would be included in any contract between the District and a contract school. For instance, the contract would set specific, measurable outcomes against which the performance of the contract school will be evaluated. It would establish the payment terms, which may include incentive or performance payments tied to meeting or exceeding the outcomes described in the contract. It would also contain termination provisions; these provisions would make clear that the contract may be terminated or non-renewed if the school does not meet the agreed-upon outcomes.

Finally, the Policy contemplates an annual report to the Board which would summarize how well the contract schools were performing and their effect on the District.