

The Commission has asked National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA), in its capacity as Transition Coordinator, to review and provide feedback on the draft Essential Terms that the school submitted as part of your Educational Program attachment to the charter contract (Exhibit A). In particular, we asked NACSA to focus their comments on the readiness of the proposed Essential Terms for inclusion in the contract.

You have done an excellent job of capturing things that are important and meaningful to you about how you approach educating children. The topics that you have chosen and the way you have presented them have already given the Commission a better sense of who you are and what you value as a school.

NACSA's review and feedback are designed to help you finalize your Essential Terms in a way that will establish clear boundaries for what the Commission will focus on when it reviews your program. The attached feedback is designed to help you finalize your set of Essential Terms for Exhibit A. In general, NACSA's assessment falls into one of the following three categories.

FINAL or NEAR FINAL. This means that your Essential Term, as presented, is appropriate and acceptable either verbatim or with a few recommended revisions. Near Final terms are well developed enough that NACSA has suggested a revision that would make it ready for inclusion. You are free to accept NACSA's suggested revision or propose something different.

ACCEPTABLE WITH REVISION. In this case, the Essential Term, as presented, has a topic or focus that is appropriate for Exhibit A, but it requires revision. The revision may be needed to clarify or focus the term or for other reasons that will be explained in the comments. **One of the most common revisions needed in this category is that the basis for evaluating performance needs to be clarified.** In this case, the school will be responsible for making appropriate revisions; however, NACSA and the Commission are available to discuss and provide additional guidance.

NOT APPROPRIATE. In this case, the Essential Term, as presented, is not appropriate for inclusion in Exhibit A, and a replacement or substitute term may be required. **It is important to remember that a recommendation to remove a particular term in no way indicates a judgment about the quality of your program, your priorities or your school.** It is simply a reflection of the particular function that this part of the charter contract serves.

There are a number of reasons why a term might not be appropriate for inclusion in Exhibit A. For example, it might be too difficult or impossible for the Commission to evaluate objectively. Or in some cases, schools have proposed Exhibit A measures that are more appropriately considered as school-specific measures for the Academic Performance Framework.