

IQS Annual Review FY'25

School Name: BlueSky Online
Report Date: July 24, 2025
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The contract between Innovative Quality Schools (IQS) and the school outlines the criteria for the annual school review. In part, it states that IQS will evaluate whether the:

- a) school has been faithful to the terms of the agreement regarding the implementation of the school's design and the learning standards of the Commissioner. (Mission/Program Model)
- b) Board is performing its governance responsibilities. (Governance)
- c) performance of the students and the school meet the expectations as provided in the contract. (Student Performance)
- d) school is using its resources in compliance with the law and is planning for the future. (Finance)
- e) school is meeting the administrative requirements of the law relating to charter schools. (Operations)

Members of the IQS Cadre conducted numerous site visits and several virtual reviews of school records. IQS also provided support by sponsoring three school conferences and two board training workshops.

Cumulative Scorecard

This review provides a summary of findings in each of the above noted performance areas based upon observations and direct interactions with the school. Additional information can be found in the [school's Cumulative Scorecard](#), which documents performance on every contracted measure on an annual basis. Please note that this document has one tab for each of the five performance areas outlined above as well as tabs for data and graphs.

Continuous Improvement Expectations

The charter contract requires that all schools engage in continuous improvement efforts by developing an annual improvement plan, referred to as the School Continuous Improvement Plan. These plans must include action steps for *each measure* for which the school is *not yet meeting the target benchmark* (e.g. scoring below a 3.0).

Summary of Performance

Category 1: Mission/Program Model

Rating: 4.0

Observed Areas of Positive Performance

- BlueSky consistently achieves high student satisfaction regarding feelings of acceptance and safety, along with exceptional student and family feedback on the quality of their children's learning.
- Ongoing staff development is a strength of the school. Professional development for the 2024-2025 school year include: MTSS, Writing Quality IEP Goals, American History and Culture, AI Content Creation, and Communicating with Families.

Opportunities for Improvement

- Making a safety/learning/acceptance survey a requirement for students can offer a crucial advantage: increased participation. A higher response rate can significantly improve the representativeness of the data, potentially making it more reliable and useful for informing school decisions and initiatives. (This is not reflected in the indicator rating absent a connection to the benchmark language).

Scorecard Measures Not Meeting the Target Benchmark:
➤ None.

Category 2: Governance

Rating: 3.4

Observed Areas of Positive Performance

- The director and board chair have a strong understanding of charter school law and ensure it is followed in their work.
- The board policy committee, composed of the executive director, board chair, board secretary, human resources generalist, finance manager, principal, and other committee chairs as needed depending on the content of the policy being reviewed, ensures policies are annually reviewed and updated in response to new legislation. All approved policies are accessible on the school's website, and policy review is a standard agenda item for each committee meeting to ensure a continuous review process.

Opportunities for Improvement

- There appears to be some updates necessary for BlueSky's Bylaws. The school is always proactive in engaging IQS to review this important element in the schools organizational structure.
- BlueSky's board does not have a formal development plan but clearly prioritizes training. School leadership could move this rating to a 3.0 or higher if they follow through on the board self evaluation and creation of a development plan.
- Board policy on the election process, 2.1 needs to be updated to reflect a new practice that the board has implemented related to elections. (This is not reflected in the indicator rating absent a connection to the benchmark language).
- Committee minute listings could be strengthened by adding meeting dates. (This is not reflected in the indicator rating absent a connection to the benchmark language).

Scorecard Measures Not Meeting the Target Benchmark:
➤ 2.e Board Bylaws ➤ 2.i Board Training

Category 3: Student Performance

Rating: 3.85

Observed Areas of Positive Performance

- BlueSky students demonstrate strong performance in meeting or exceeding reading standards. While MCA math scores show a slight dip of 1.0 percentile lower than the state change overall, STAR Renaissance data reveals significant student growth in both subjects: 63% in math and 59% in reading are achieving at or above the 50th student growth percentile, indicating better than expected progress compared to their peers nationwide.
- The school's passing rate for students receiving Free/Reduced lunch is 91.4% and students completing grade requirements for career portfolio is 92.2%.

Opportunities for Improvement

- BlueSky's MCA Reading Proficiency for students in Grades 5-8 that meet the enrollment criteria for the data released during the current year for school year 2023-2024 was 1.0 percentile change lower than the state change, therefore, the goal was not met.
 - BlueSky's MCA Proficiency data was significantly affected by 170 student opt-outs and 75 no-shows. Despite offering multiple testing locations, the school struggled to entice family participation and is now exploring alternative solutions.

Scorecard Measures Not Meeting the Target Benchmark:
➤ 3.c MCA Reading Proficiency (Grades 3-8 only)

Category 4: Finance

Rating: 3.94

Observed Areas of Positive Performance

- BlueSky has a fund balance policy that is posted on the school website. Based on the policy, the school should maintain a 15-25% unassigned General Fund balance. However, the school is anticipating a 46% balance at the end of FY25. The school has consistently demonstrated sound stewardship of public funds throughout its financial history.
- The school's FY24 financial audit contained no findings and it was a 'clean' audit. The school works well with its contracted financial manager which enables them to complete the audit on time and in an efficient manner.

Opportunities for Improvement

- There are no observed opportunities for improvement at this time.

Scorecard Measures Not Meeting the Target Benchmark:
➤ None.

Category 5: School Operations

Rating: 3.89

Observed Areas of Positive Performance

- According to the information submitted by the school and the licensing data from PELSB, all teachers have an appropriate license for their assignment(s). The school's staff retention rate continues to be high.
- The school has the capacity to manage all state reporting requirements with submittals made on a timely basis. No notices of non-compliance have been received during the past two years.

Opportunities for Improvement

- There are no observed opportunities for improvement at this time.

Scorecard Measures Not Meeting the Target Benchmark:
➤ None.

Overall Performance Summary

Blue Sky school leadership effectively translates the school's vision, mission, and strategic plan into daily practice through student learning, staff development, and school-wide operations. The school's success and satisfaction are a testament to the integral involvement of the leadership team, staff, teachers, students, and stakeholders. Blue Sky consistently demonstrates continuous improvement by developing and implementing student learning initiatives, fostering social emotional learning, improving attendance, and amplifying the voices of marginalized groups. Financial stewardship is a hallmark of the school showcased through a healthy General Fund balance and consistently clean financial audits. It is always a pleasure to work with BlueSky leaders.

Reasons for celebration this year include:

- Star Tribune *Top Workplaces* award recipient AGAIN
- The Special Education monitoring year went very well.
- Many students made the honor roll.
- Students earned club participation and academic letters.

New initiatives for FY26 include:

- Continuing the MnMTSS plan
- Artificial Intelligence Use Guidelines are being developed.
- New elective course will be offered
- Records retention process
- Update to communications - vendor and staff expectations
- Moving to a new location in the same building complex