

RESOLUTION

Regarding *Independence Classical Academy*

The Board of Education remains committed to serving the students of the district by continuing to support the opening of Independence Classical Academy as a charter school within the district whose focus is providing a rigorous, classical education in the liberal arts, math and sciences, with instruction in the principles of moral character and civic virtue; and

The Board of Education recognizes that Independence Classical Academy will provide an educational program that many parents within the district want for their children; and

The Board of Education acknowledges that it granted a charter to Independence Classical Academy on October 28, 2024, and it executed a Space Lease Agreement with ICA on January 17, 2025, to allow it use a portion of the Frontier Center, located at 589 S. Banner Street, Elizabeth, Colorado; and

The Board of Education further acknowledges that unanticipated roof damage was recently discovered at the Frontier Center, which has caused questions about whether students can be safely educated in that building in the 2025-2026 school year; and

Given those questions, Independence Classical Academy requested a one-year extension on its charter planning to open now for the 2026-27 school year.

THEREFORE:

We, the members of the Board, resolve to extend the charter of Independence Classical Academy for one year, with the goal that it would open as a charter school serving students in grades K-8 in Fall 2026, subject to the following conditions:

- ESD and ICA execute a charter contract by March 15, 2026;
- ICA provides evidence of a suitable temporary facility acquired via lease or purchase, including available square footage, estimated cost through the term of the agreement, and detail regarding any escalating costs no later than February 28, 2026;
- ICA provides evidence by February 28, 2026, that its temporary facility has met, or will meet within a reasonable timeframe, all the requirements to receive its certificate of occupancy so that it can serve students for the Fall 2026;
- ICA provides evidence by February 28, 2026, that it will be financially viable. This evidence shall include:
 - Documentation to show that ICA has been awarded the Colorado Charter School Program (CCSP) grant, or a suitable replacement; and
 - Evidence of sufficient enrollment to ensure financial viability as reasonably determined by both the ESD BOE and the ICA Charter Board of Directors; and
 - A budget that demonstrates financial viability for ICA, based upon reasonable and achievable assumptions, for school years 2026-2027 and 2027-2028.

Charter approval remains for grades K-8. ESD will provide a streamlined application process so that ICA may apply to expand to also serve grades 9-12 once it is ready to do so.

ESD and ICA both remain committed to ICA eventually establishing a long-term facility on the western side of the district by means of ESD leasing property to ICA at favorable rates (e.g., \$1 per year for a 30-year ground lease), so that ICA can serve students in that part of the district.

The ESD Superintendent and the ICA school leader will be responsible for the continued implementation, oversight, monitoring, review, execution, and accountability of the ICA plan.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 5th day of May, 2025.

Rhonda Olsen, Board President
Elizabeth School District

(SEAL)

Attest:

Mary Powell, Board Secretary
Elizabeth School District