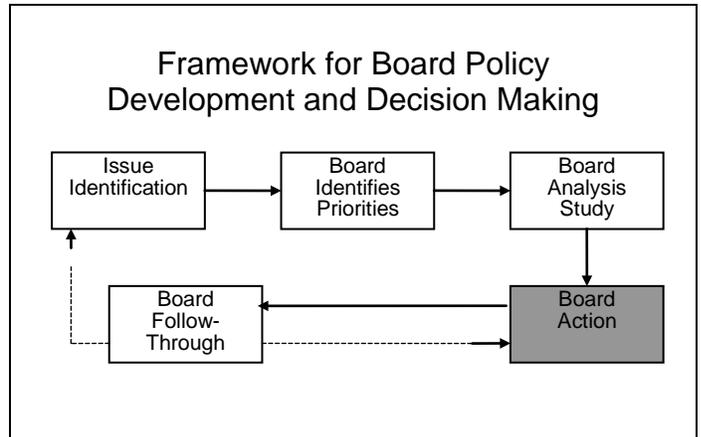


Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary

May 9, 2013



Agenda Item: Northeast Iowa Charter High School - Charter Renewal

Iowa Goal: All PK-12 students will achieve at a high level.

State Board Role/ Authority Iowa Code chapter 256F gives the State Board the authority to grant or deny charter school applications.

Presenter: Janet Boyd, Charter Consultant
Bureau of School Improvement

Attachments: 1

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Northeast Iowa Charter High School and West Central Community School District be granted a renewal of their charter through the end of the 2016-2017 school year.

Background: The Maynard Community School District received approval in 2005 for Northeast Iowa Charter High School. The charter was renewed in 2009 and the goals were revised in 2005 from the original charter.

NORTHEAST IOWA CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

Renewal – May 2013

SCHOOL/DISTRICT INFORMATION

Northeast Iowa Charter High School
305 Pember
Maynard, IA 50655

West Central Community School District
Administrator: Stuart Fuhs, Superintendent/High School Principal

MISSION OF THE CHARTER

To produce a literate, lifelong learner who is visionary and productive, aware of self, accepting of cultural differences, sensitive to others, and who applies knowledge to make morally responsible decisions in an ever-changing global society.

DESCRIPTION OF CHARTER

Northeast Iowa Charter High School consists of a partnership between Northeast Iowa Community College and West Central High School for 11th through 12th grade students to provide unlimited learning opportunities producing a high qualified work force.

CHARTER HISTORY

First Year of Charter: 2005-2006
Charter Renewal: 2008-2009, 2012-2013

CHARTER RENEWAL INFORMATION

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND GOALS

The primary design of the Northeast Iowa Charter High School is to provide students with career academics and pathways with a post-secondary institution that gives them access to rigorous and relevant courses not available at West Central. It provides students with a fast track to completion of post-secondary training in either an AA or four-year course of study beyond PSEO options. Students have access to expanded programming specific to career orientated areas based on current business and industry standards and needs. Programs and courses not available in the resident district, West Central, are provided by Northeast Iowa Community College. Instruction included the integration of upper level math, science and technical reading skills into vocational coursework. The partnership with NICC had resulted in a more rigorous and relevant curriculum for the students. The anticipated results were for improved student achievement in math, reading and science; which has been achieved. In addition, students with special needs and other at-risk students are provided with employability skills training, vocational training and remedial math and English courses for success in high school and post-secondary courses. NICC provides access to their Development Educational Program which

delivers extensive transition strategies, tutoring and specialized services to the students. Students in the West Central's Learning Success Center, (an alternative diploma option for students who desire a high school education and are struggling in the regular school setting), also have the opportunity to participate in the Charter School, which will lead them into completion of a post-secondary training program.

The partnership between the Charter School, local district, and Northeast Iowa Community College provides students with a combination of local offerings, college campus offerings, and distance learning opportunities that would not be possible at just West Central or with the Senior Plus legislation. It is basically a school within a school that prepares the students for the ever changing workplace structure. This is done by providing each student with an individualized plan of instruction to meet each of their unique needs and aspirations. The original plan was based on concepts generated by Tech Prep, School-to-Work and *High Schools That Work* research. Since then, STEM programs and Project Lead the Way objectives have been incorporated as well. Plans are underway to have a West Central teacher provide Project Lead the Way courses to all area schools through the Regional Academy for Math and Science in Oelwein, IA. The anticipated result will be continued improvement in achievement scores for math, science and reading and preparation for success in engineering disciplines.

The opportunity for students to enter the labor market with high skills at an earlier stage in their career at a minimum level of expense has proven to be a huge success for this charter school. The support of faculty, Northeast Community College & West Central administration, school board members, community business leaders and parents for the Public Charter School is 100%. Following are the goals of the charter and the results:

First Year of Charter: 2005-2006 **Charter Renewal Dates:** 2008-2009, 2012-2013

Students Enrolled in Charter: 45 (2011-2012)

Forty Five of Forty Nine (45/49) seniors and juniors were enrolled in the Charter in 11-12, for a 91.8% participation rate. They took a total of 463 college credits, an average of 10.28 credits were taken by all juniors and seniors in the charter for 2011-12.

Senior demographics:

Total N: 26 (23 of 26 graduating seniors in 2012 took charter classes for 88.46 percent participation)

Males 8; Females 15

Low SES: <10 (<10 took charter classes; 7 of 7 for 100%)

IEP: <10 (<10 took Charter classes, 0 out of 1)

Minority: 0

Junior demographics:

Total N: 23 (22 of 23 took charter classes for 95.7 percent participation)

Males 8; Females 14

Low SES: <10 (<10 took charter classes 3 out of 4)

IEP: <10 (<10 took Charter classes, 0 out of 1)

Minorities: 0

Total Percentage of All Drop-outs (7-12) for West Central School District: 1 out of 145 (0.006895)

NORTHEAST IOWA CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL
GOALS AND PROGRESS

GOAL 1: Increase the percent of graduates who complete post-secondary training from West Central Community School District.

PROGRESS: See chart below for detailed information regarding the number of students and post-secondary credits earned by graduation.

Northeast Iowa High School Charter: Senior Credits

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Senior Class 2004: 28 graduates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17 took college courses • 5 earned 15 hours credit or more • 0 earned 30 hours credit or more • 0 earned 40 hours credit or more | <p>Senior Class 2005: 18 graduates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 took college courses • 3 earned 15 hours credit or more • 0 earned 30 hours credit or more • 0 earned 40 hours credit or more |
| <p>Senior Class 2006: 23 graduates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22 took college courses • 16 earned 15 hours credit or more • 3 earned 30 hours credit or more • 0 earned 40 hours credit or more | <p>Senior Class 2007: 33 graduates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 took college courses • 22 earned 15 hours credit or more • 12 earned 30 hours credit or more • 3 earned 40 hours credit or more |
| <p>Senior Class 2008: 33 graduates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 took college courses • 22 earned 15 hours credit or more • 12 earned 30 hours credit or more • 3 earned 40 hours credit or more • 2 earned AA degrees | <p>Senior Class 2009: 22 graduates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22 took college courses • 14 earned 15 hours credit or more • 8 earned 30 hours credit or more • 3 earned 40 hours credit or more |

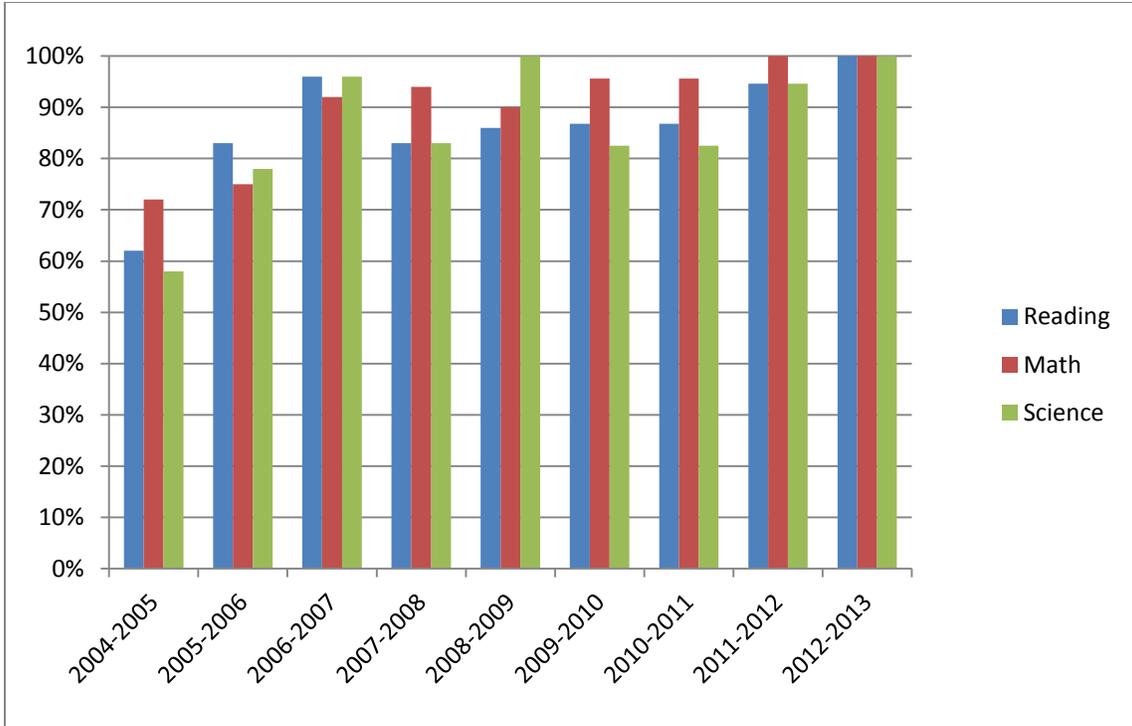
| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Senior Class 2010: 23 graduates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22 took college courses • 5 earned 5 or more credits • 3 earned 15 hours credits or more • 3 seniors earned 30 hours credit or more | <p>Senior Class 2011: 23 graduates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 totaled 348 credits • 5 earned over 6 credits • 2 earned over 20 credits • 5 earned over 30 credits • 2 earned over 50 credits |
| <p>Senior Class 2012: 26 graduates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23 of 26 took 469 credits • 16 earned 15 hours of credit or more • 7 earned 30 hours of credit or more • 1 earned more than 40 hours of credit | <p>Senior Class 2013: 23 graduates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22 totaled 715 credits • 7 earned 15 hours of credit or more • 6 earned 30 hours of credit or more • 7 earned 40 hours of credit or more • 2 earned over 50 credits |

GOAL 2: Continue to raise Iowa Assessment proficiencies for 11th grade students in reading, mathematics, and science.

PROGRESS: Iowa Assessment scores for 11th grade charter students increased in science, mathematics and reading.

Northeast Iowa Charter High School: Percentage of Charter Students Proficient in Reading, Mathematics, and Science on Iowa Assessments

| | 2004-2005 | 2005-2006 | 2006-2007 | 2007-2008 | 2008-2009 | 2009-2010 | 2010-2011 | 2011-2012 | 2012-2013 |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Reading | 62% | 83% | 96% | 83% | 86% | 86.8% | 86.8% | 94.6% | 100% |
| Math | 72% | 75% | 92% | 94% | 90% | 95.6% | 95.6% | 100% | 100% |
| Science | 58% | 78% | 96% | 83% | 100% | 82.5% | 82.5% | 94.6% | 100% |



GOAL 3: Provide special needs and at-risk students with the opportunity to develop individualized courses of study working toward a high school diploma and developing employability skills.

- **Graduation rate for charter school students is 100% since inception in 2005.**

PROGRESS:

11th Grade- Iowa Assessment Proficiencies for 2012-2013:

| | All Student | Low SES | IEP |
|---------|-------------|---------|-----|
| Reading | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Math | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Science | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Total Senior Students Earning College Credits compared to Low SES and IEP Senior Students

| | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-2011 | 2011-2012 | 2012-2013 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | | | | | | |

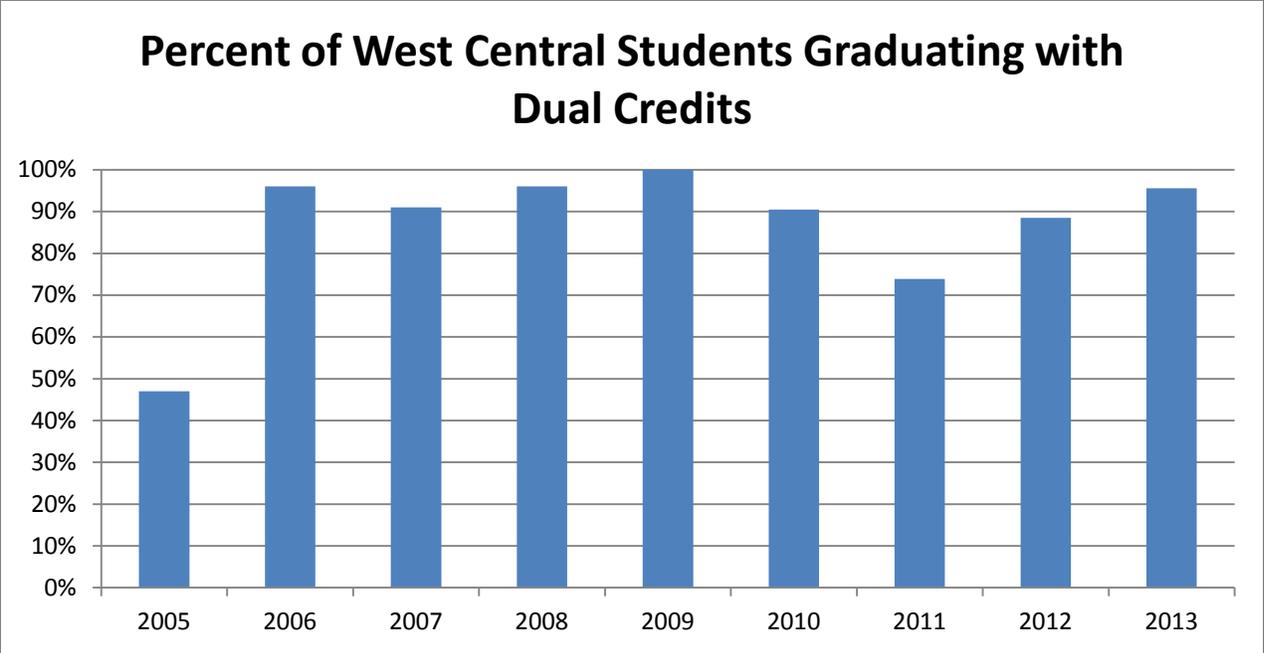
| | | | | | | |
|-------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|------------|----------|
| All Seniors | 30 of 33 | 22 of 22 | 22 of 23 | 15 of 23 | 23 of 26 | 22 of 23 |
| Low SES | 3 of 4 | 3 of 3 | 3 of 3 | 4 of 4 | 7 out of 7 | 7 out 7 |
| IEP | 3 of 5 | 4 of 4 | 4 of 4 | 2 of 2 | 0 of 1 | 1 out 1 |

GOAL 4: Increase the percentage of students that graduate with a dual concentration of vocational and academic credits.

PROGRESS: The number of students graduating with dual concentration increased from forty-seven percent (47%) in 2004-2005 pre-charter to more than eighty-eight (88.5%) in 2011-2012. Data indicates that the charter is providing increased opportunities for students who are low income and who have IEPs, as well as students in the general population.

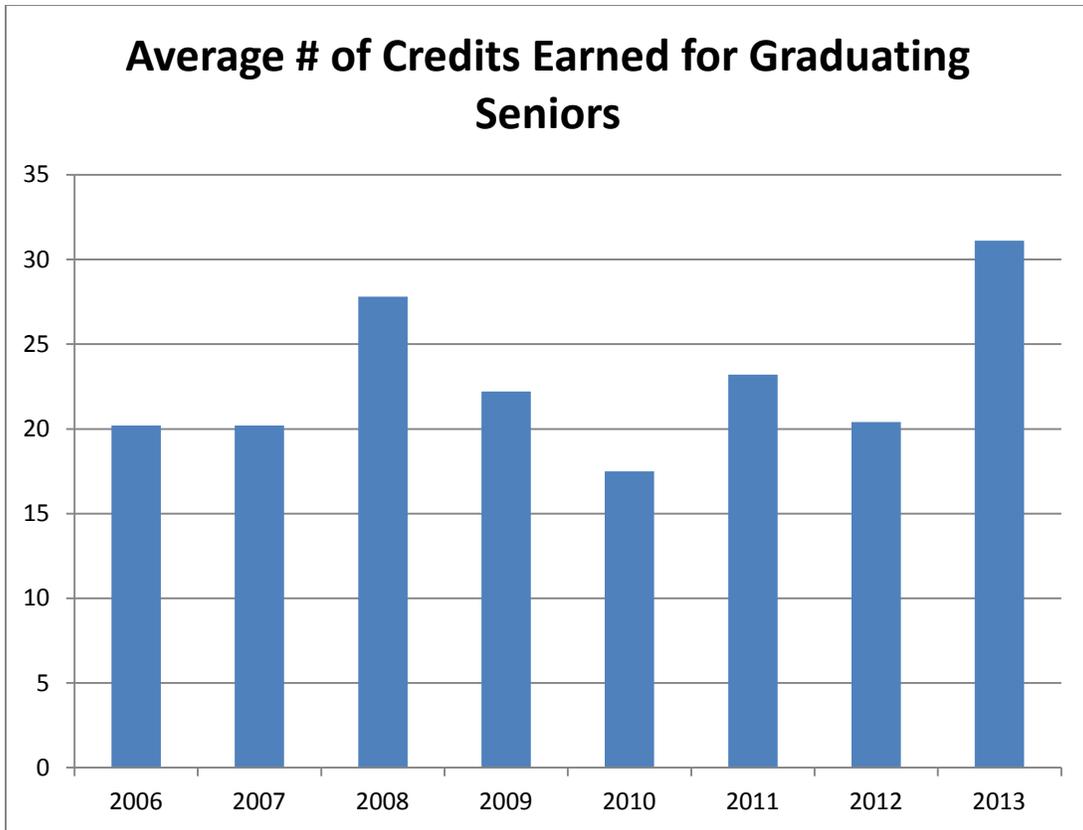
Northeast Iowa Charter High School: Students Graduating with Dual Concentration

| | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 |
|-------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| All Seniors | 8 of 17 47% | 22 of 23 96% | 30 of 33 91% | 29 of 31 96% | 22 of 22 100% | 19 of 21 90.5% | 15 of 23 73.9% | 23 of 26 88.5% | 22 of 23 95.6% |
| Low SES | < 10 25% | < 10 100% | < 10 100% | < 10 75% | < 10 100% | < 10 66.6% | < 10 62.5 | <10 100% | <10 100% |
| IEP | < 10 0% | < 10 50% | < 10 60% | < 10 60% | < 10 100% | < 10 75% | < 10 40% | <10 0% | <10 100% |



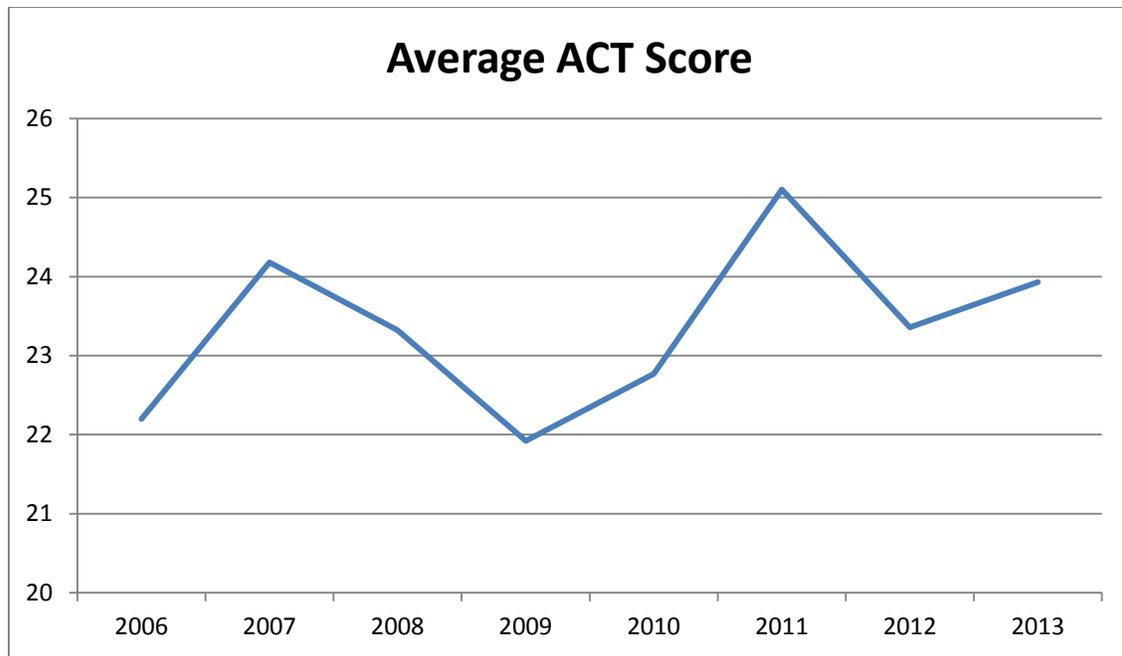
Total Charter Credits earned/ student average # of credits earned: 5 year charter trend-line data

| | 2005-06 Cr./Student Aver. # Cr | 2006-07 Cr./Student Aver. # Cr | 2007-08 Cr./Student Aver. # Cr | 2008-09 Cr./Student Aver. # Cr | 2009-10 Cr./Student Aver. # Cr | 2010-2011 Cr./Student Aver. # Cr | 2011-2012 Cr./Student Aver. # Cr | 2012-2013 Cr./Student Aver. # Cr |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| All Seniors | 465/23 20.2 Cr | 666/33 20.2 Cr | 861/31 27.8 Cr | 488/22 22.2 Cr | 367/21 17.5 Cr | 348/23 23.2 Cr | 469/23 20.4 Cr | 715/23 31.1 |

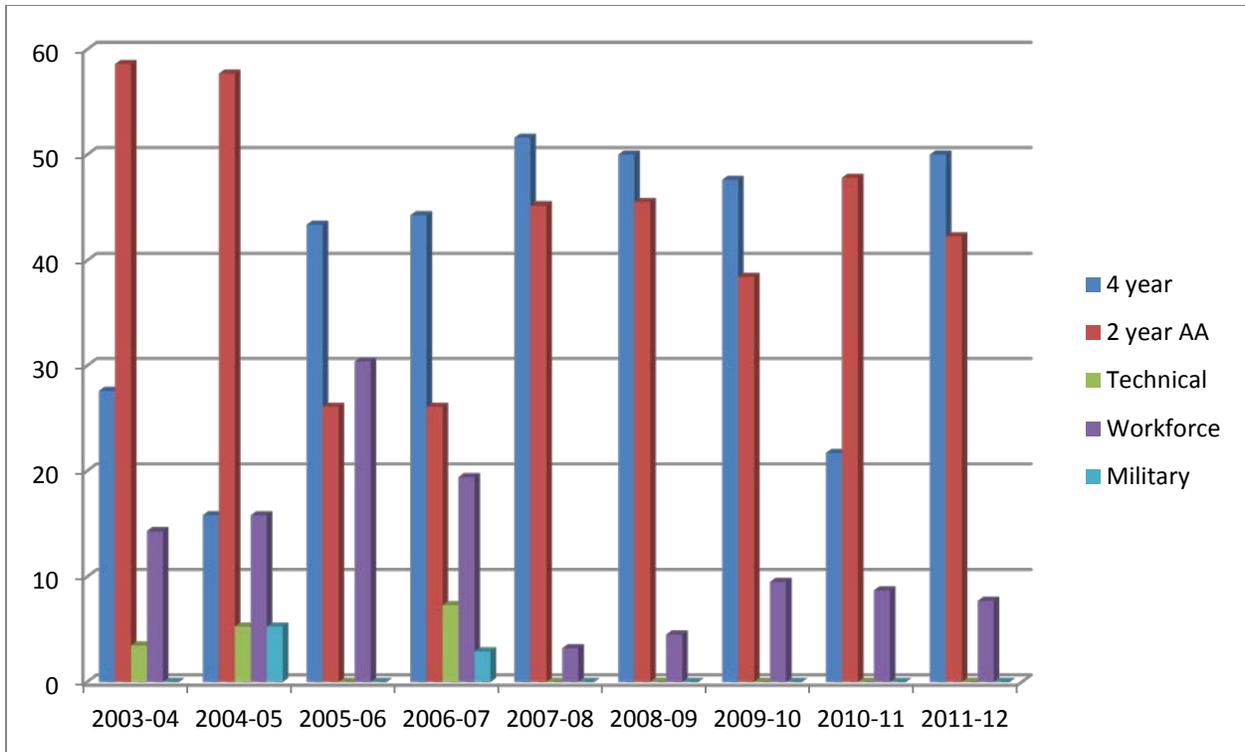


ACT DATA: A total of 15 seniors, or 65% of the class of 2013, has taken the ACT for a class total average of 23.93. 14 out of 15 seniors taking the ACT, or 93.3%, scored at or above the cut-score of 20, which is the cut-score used to indicate probable success in college. 14 of the 15 were above the national average score of 21 and 9 of the 15 were above the state average score of 22.

| | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| ACT Participation Rate | 10 of 23 43.47% | 16 of 39 44.44% | 19 of 31 61.29% | 12 of 22 54.54% | 9 of 21 52.38% | 8 of 23 34.8% | 14 of 26 53.8% | 15 of 23 65% |
| Average ACT Score | 22.20 | 24.18 | 23.32 | 21.92 | 22.77 | 25.1 | 23.36 | 23.93 |



| Post-Secondary Graduation Intentions with Two Years of Pre-Charter Data (Percentage) | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 |
| 4 year | 27.6 | 15.78 | 43.4 | 44.3 | 51.6 | 50 | 47.6 | 21.7 | 50 |
| 2 year AA | 58.6 | 57.7 | 26.1 | 26.1 | 45.2 | 45.5 | 38.44 | 47.8 | 42.3 |
| Technical | 3.45 | 5.26 | 0 | 7.3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Workforce | 14.28 | 15.78 | 30.4 | 19.4 | 3.2 | 4.5 | 9.5 | 8.7 | 7.7 |
| Military | 0 | 5.26 | 0 | 2.9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |



Is the charter school an effective, viable organization with effective leadership?

The charter school has impacted almost all the students who attend the West Central School District. The charter has an active board that is committed to providing educational opportunities to those who wish to participate. The Advisory Board meets regularly to review data on the charter school and make further recommendations to increase its effectiveness.

What role has the Advisory council played in the school?

The advisory council reviews all the data and helps give direction to the charter. In the spring of 2011 the council made recommendations to organize nights where all the stake holders (college staff, parents, students) could meet and discuss offerings. The results of those meeting saw a spike in interest and increased involvement by the students.

Are parents, students, teachers and other stakeholders satisfied? How is information and input gathered from parents?

We receive constant feedback from our many stakeholders as to their satisfaction with the charter. Our students are asked to evaluate the college courses they take and their instructors. We are made aware of the results. The Deans at the college attend our advisory council meetings and provide feedback. Our parents are required to review course selections and must give their approval.

We survey graduates at one year and five years and have received very positive comments on the opportunities made available through the charter. Most comment on how great the opportunity was to take courses on campus and at West Central. The experience they gained

has helped them immensely in their post-secondary choices. Our parents participated in a school climate survey in 2011 and were very positive about the educational opportunities made available to their children. Their support for the charter school is overwhelming.

Is the school financially sound?

The Northeast Iowa Charter High School is fully funded to meet the needs of its students. The West Central School District does not have a negative unspent authorized budget.

| | | CHARTER | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-------|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | SOLVENCY | | |
| FISCAL YEAR END | REVENUE | EXPENDITURES | UNSPENT BALANCE | RATIO |
| 2012 | | \$ 75,936.93 | \$ 609,586.86 | 16.6% |
| 2011 | | \$ 68,450.16 | \$ 702,197.11 | 21.1% |
| 2010 | | \$ 47,362.51 | \$ 833,398.93 | 26.0% |
| 2009 | | \$ 64,189.85 | \$ 975,982.93 | 32.3% |
| 2008 | \$ 5,079.27 | \$ 143,295.59 | \$ 751,103.22 | 24.5% |
| 2007 | \$ 175,000.00 | \$ 175,000.00 | \$ 703,982.00 | 23.4% |
| 2006 | \$ 225,000.00 | \$ 225,000.00 | \$ 512,427.53 | |
| | \$ 405,079.27 | \$ 799,235.04 | | |

The charter school has the full support of the school board, community, and parents. The school board is determined to keep the solvency ratio of the school district positive.

Describe the successes and challenges the charter school has experienced since its inception? What impact have these had on the charter school and its future?

Some might point to the six students that were able to obtain their AA degree by the summer they had graduated from high school as our biggest achievement. But the success of a special education student, who neither parent had ever taken a college course, is our brightest moment.

As a senior with just elective credits remaining to graduate from high school, we were able to help get her on her way to a career in Early Childhood Education. We took her to campus and met with the program coordinator and helped her register for sixteen college credits. We transported her to campus and she made the dean’s list that spring. She completed her diploma program the following year and her AA degree the following year. Today she is employed as a preschool teacher, something she always dreamed about.

The biggest challenge has been the coordination between the many course offerings and delivery systems available to our students. Our students have opportunities to take college courses on the Calmar campus of NICC, in the Regional Academy of Science and Math (RAMS) in Oelwein, at West Central High School where classes can be face to face or on the ICN and through online offerings that might be a hybrid, synchronized or the traditional online format.

The future looks very bright for the Northeast Iowa Charter. Members of the class of 2014 have positioned themselves to take full advantage of the charter options as students will be pursuing college course work in Automotive Technology, Criminal Justice, Cosmetology, Dairy Science, Industrial Electrician, and Agriculture – Forestry. These students will be attending class in Calmar and are well on their way to a brighter future. We also will continue to have students working to meet graduation requirements associated with AA and BA degrees.

Some qualitative data:

- * As a result of the Charter School, more students are transferring to higher education with more college credits than ever before.
- * Students are taking a more rigorous course load earlier in their high school career than prior to entering the Charter for flexibility in their schedules for their junior and senior year. Most take seven or more classes per semester
- * Students with IEP's and who are Low SES have had an increased opportunity for participation in college. Both are finding success at the college level as a result of the charter participation.
- * All interviewees, including Charter and Non-Charter students, high school and college faculty, and advisory members feel the Charter is good for students, families, and the West Central School District. Numerous individuals referenced the support of the school board and administration for their commitment to maintaining the Charter.
- * The Charter Advisory Committee has a good understanding of the requirements of the Charter, the responsibilities of the Advisory Committee to the Charter, and a high degree of confidence in the leadership and administration at both NICC and West Central. The group operates independently from the school BOD; the Superintendent is responsible for communicating between the advisory committee and BOD.

| | Department of Education Evaluation Based on Data Submitted | Meets/Does not meet |
|---|---|----------------------------|
| GOAL 1: Increase the percent of graduates who complete post-secondary training from West Central Community School District. | The number of credits taken by students has increased each year. Students would not be able to take the number of credits they are taking without the charter as they are over the limit placed on students by Senior Year Plus requirements. | Meets |
| GOAL 2: Continue to raise Iowa Assessment proficiencies for 11 th grade students in reading, mathematics, and science. | Proficiency is high and has improved over the past nine years. | Meets |
| GOAL 3: Provide special needs and at-risk students with the opportunity to develop individualized courses of study working toward a high school diploma and developing employability skills. | The district is meeting this requirement but they have very low numbers of students on Individualized Education Plans (IEP). | Meets |
| GOAL 4: Increase the percentage of students that graduate with a dual concentration of vocational and academic credits. | The percent has increased from 47% in 2005 to 95.6% in 2013. | Meets |
| Improve student learning §256F.1(3)"a" | All goals show growth. | Meets |
| Increase learning opportunities for students §256F.1(3)"b" | Exposure and encouragement to take college courses. | Meets |
| Encourage the use of different and innovative methods of | College courses are available to all Iowa students. | Unclear |

| | Department of Education Evaluation Based on Data Submitted | Meets/Does not meet |
|---|--|----------------------------|
| teaching §256F.1(3)"c" | | |
| Require the measurement of learning outcomes and create different and innovative forms of measuring outcomes §256F.1(3)"d" | This would depend on the college courses taken. | Unclear |
| Establish new forms of accountability for schools §256F.1(3)"e" | Does not apply here. Could be occurring in individual college courses. | Unclear |
| Create new professional opportunities for teachers and other educators, including the opportunity to be responsible for the learning program at the school site §256F.1(3)"f" | Does not apply here. | Unclear |
| Create different organizational structures for continuous learner progress. §256F.1(3)"g" | The community college provides a different organizational structure from the traditional high school. | Meets |
| Allow greater flexibility to meet the education needs of a diverse and constantly changing student population. §256F.1(3)"h" | The ability to take unlimited community college courses affords students the opportunity to take a wide range of classes. In addition, these courses are challenging, they allow the student to get a year or two of college credit in high school which is a tremendous value, and they allow the student to explore different careers. | Meets |
| Allow for the allocation of resources in innovative ways through implementation of | Allows the school to offer diverse courses without the cost of instructional staff. | Meets |

| | Department of Education Evaluation Based on Data Submitted | Meets/Does not meet |
|--|---|----------------------------|
| specialized school budgets for the benefit of the schools served. §256F.1(3)"i" | | |

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Northeast Iowa Charter High School and West Central Community School District be granted a renewal of their charter through the end of the 2016-2017 school year.