

Plato Academy Charter Renewal Application

I.	Is there evidence that the charter school continues to meet the program requirements defined in its charter?	
	Is there evidence that the school abides by the charter's mission, serves identified students at identified grade levels?	Plato Academy sets goals that nurture high academic standards in a safe learning environment through the Socratic Principal of thinking. Students learn how to reflect, plan, infer, interpret and apply the knowledge that they are learning in all academic areas. This philosophy encourages critical analytical thinking skills that prepare our students to become productive, contributing citizens in our multicultural society. Plato maintains this Socratic Principal of thinking in grades Kindergarten through sixth grade.
	Is there evidence that the school abides by the charter in identified academic endeavors, financial requirements, governmental requirements, reporting requirements (including class size), and human resource requirements?	Evidence of academic endeavors includes adopting technology tools and curriculums that enables our students' success in this technology age. All classrooms are equipped with Smart Boards and every student in grades 3 through 6 have the use of a personal laptop. The goal is for every student at Plato Academy to have the use of a laptop during school hours. Plato students will be prepared to be lifelong learners and productive citizens in this ever changing world. Plato uses specified program to measure and evaluate each student's mastery of knowledge. This program is consistent with the Pupil Progressive Plan of the District, the Florida Sunshine State Standards along with the No Child Left Behind guidelines. Plato reports regularly to PCS and maintains all fiscal reporting per PCS and Plato Academy guidelines. Plato submits an annual state-level accountability report including supporting documentation regarding safety, FTE, class size and fiscal issues. Plato Academy follows county protocol regarding human resource matters including hiring, payroll and benefits.
II.	Is there evidence that the charter school participated in the state's accountability system and met the requirements for student performance stated in the charter?	
	Is there evidence that the school is making progress in meeting each goal?	Plato Academy has met its established program goals each of the five years that the school has been in operation. Tom Massey, consultant for PCS, evaluates Plato and its program goals each year as a component of district level accountability reporting.
	Is there evidence that the school's academic performance demonstrates improvement and/or strong results?	Plato Academy's academic performance is demonstrated by its receiving a grade of "A" for the first time last year, 2007-08. Our third grade students FCAT scores for 2007-08 were 97% in math and 89% in reading compared to the state average of 76% in math and 72% in reading. Fourth graders scored 100% in both reading and math. The state average for fourth graders was 78% in math and 85% in reading.

		scores were equally impressive, third grade received 100% in both math and reading along with 100% in math for fourth grade and 93% in reading and state averages were 74% math and 69% reading for third grade and 72% math and 75% reading statewide for fourth grade.
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III.	Is there evidence that the school meets generally accepted standards of fiscal management?	
	Is there evidence that the school demonstrates financial stability?	Plato Academy manages the financial resources using its staff and the services of Michael Steuer, C.P.A. Plato has participated and successfully completed the annual audit processes and been deemed compliant with all applicable audit policies.
IV.	Is there evidence that the school did not violate law?	
	Have the school's programs been consistent with the terms of its charter?	Plato Academy has maintained an elementary program that meets and exceeds the requirements of the county's academic standards. The school also provides a safe environment where teachers, parents, and members of the community guide our students to become independent learners who develop the life skills of lifelong learners and productive citizens.
	Is there evidence that the school's operations have been consistent with the terms of its charter?	Plato Academy has provided support and resources to meet K-6 guidelines for the successful operation of an elementary school.
	Is there evidence that the school abides by applicable statutory and regulatory requirements? (Special Education, Limited English Proficiency, student learning time, state testing requirements, health and safety, legal, student discipline)	Plato's Board recognizes the administrative and leadership prerogatives of the principal, who assumes the primary responsibility for ensuring compliance with applicable local, state, and federal laws as well as standards and regulations applicable to the operation of elementary school programs. In addition, the annual state accountability report for charter schools requires documentation regarding health and safety. The principal and staff within student support services work to maintain all standardized testing requirements and other documentation regarding testing.