

2019 Proposed CPF Changes Overview

The table below provides a summary of the proposed amendments to the CPF. Below the table each amendment is broken down into more detail. The amendments are listed in chronological order of how they appear in the CPF.

In short, the proposed amendments include:

Academics:

- Remove two measures

Finances:

- Add one new measure

Operations:

- Remove three measures
- Split one of the current measures into two separate measures
- Combine six measures down to three measures
- Add five new measures

The changes result in the same number of operational metrics overall.

The remaining amendments focus on structural and language enhancements, meant to provide more clarity to stakeholders and create alignment between sections.

Section	Amendment	Measure	Action
All	1	Scoring Criteria Updates	Structural Update
Academics	1	State Performance Targets	Measure Removed
Academics	2	State Designations	Measure Removed
Finances	1	Debt to Income Ratio	Measure Added
Finances	2	Remove Exceeds Standard	Structural Update
Operations	1	Essential and Innovative Features and Mission-Specific Goals	Measures Combined
Operations	2	Education Requirements- State Ed. Requirements and Federal Ed. Requirements	Measure Split
Operations	3	Data Reporting and Financial Reporting	Measures Combined
Operations	4	Adherence to Federal Financial Requirements	Measure Added
Operations	5	Adherence to the Local Units of Administration Manual	Measure Added
Operations	6	Adherence to the School's Own Financial Policies and Procedures	Measure Added
Operations	7	Budget Approved in Accordance with State Law	Measure Added
Operations	8	Holding Management Accountable	Measure Removed
Operations	9	Transparent Governance and Communication with Stakeholders	Measure Added
Operations	10	Employee Qualifications and Criminal Records Checks	Measures Combined
Operations	11	Student Retention	Measure Removed
Operations	12	Support Services	Measure Removed
Operations	13	Data Reporting	Approaches Standard Added

All Sections Amendment Details

Amendment #1:

PREVIOUSLY: Scoring criteria categories were: Meets Standards, Does Not Meet Standards, and Falls Far Below Standards and the points associated with each designation varied between sections.

UPDATED: Scoring criteria categories are: Meets Standards, Approaches Standards, and Does Not Meet Standards across all sections (Academics, Finances, And Operations). The points associated with each designation will be uniform in the Financial and Operational sections and in the Academic section, no points will be used.

RATIONALE: Within each individual measure in each section in the CPF (i.e. Near-term measures within the Finance section) a school could either be considered meeting, approaching or not meeting standards for that measure. On the other hand, at the end of each section (Academics, Operations, Finances), the sum of how they performed on all measures, resulted in a school being considered meeting, not meeting or falling far below standards. The updated terminology matches the language that is currently used to describe a school's performance on individual measures within each section of the CPF.

The amendment creates consistency throughout the CPF, improves clarity around performance expectations and simplifies messaging with stakeholders. In both the Financial and Operational sections of the CPF the scoring criteria will be, 0-69 pts.= Does Not Meet Standards, 70-79= Approaches Standards, and 80-100=Meets Standards. Providing schools the opportunity to be designated as Approaches standards provides a more accurate depiction of performance standings for schools that are very close to meeting standards. This change required that the relative points be updated to more accurately reflect the new category.

The use of points in the academic section complicated communications with stakeholders. Academic scores on the CPF were often mistook for CCRPI scores (i.e. a score of 0 on the CPF did not mean the school had a CCRPI score of 0). Removing points from the academic section will allow for clearer, more accurate messaging of school performance.

Academic Amendment Details

Amendment #1: Measure Removed- State Performance Targets

PREVIOUSLY: A school could earn 2 points in the academic section of the CPF if it met 100% of its improvement targets.

UPDATED: The measure will be removed.

RATIONALE: The measure does not align the SCSC's mission of assessing whether the school is providing a better educational opportunity than what is being provided by the traditional school district. Additionally, the standard is an extremely high bar. No school has ever earned points on this measure. Finally, being worth only 2 points, the measure plays no role in determining whether a school will or will not meet overall academic standards

Amendment #2: Measure Removed- State Designations

PREVIOUSLY: A school could earn 2 points in the academic section of the CPF if it was not designated as a "CSI", "TSI" or Turnaround Eligible school.

UPDATED: The measure will be removed.

RATIONALE: The measure does not align the SCSC's mission of assessing whether the school is providing a better educational opportunity than what is being provided by the traditional school district. Finally, being worth only 2 points, the measure plays no role in determining whether a school will or will not meet overall academic standards

Financial Amendment Details

Amendment #1: New Measure - Debt to Income Ratio (DTI)

PREVIOUSLY: A school could earn 60 points across four near-term measures in the CPF. However, there was no metric that assess whether a school has enough income to cover short-term debt.

UPDATED: A school can earn 70 points across five near-terms metrics in the CPF, including a measure that includes a debt to income calculation.

RATIONALE: The metric is used to measure the proportion of a school's income that goes towards debt payments. When breaking school expenditures into 3 general parts (Instruction, Operations, and Debt Service) the SCSC is able to gain a better understanding of the school's ability to optimize the availability of funds for instruction and operations. A high DTI is an indicator of relatively high risk when compared to similar schools with lower DTI percentages.

Amendment #2: Structural Update- Removal of Exceeds Standard

PREVIOUSLY: On four different measures, a school could earn 20 points and be considered Exceeding standards on that measure.

UPDATED: All measures have the same point distribution and the Exceeds standard has been removed

RATIONALE: The Financial section was the only section of the CPF that included measures and scoring criteria that included an Exceeds category. In order to create consistency across each section of the CPF the Financials section was adjusted to align with the other sections. Additionally, points allocations had to be adjusted across all financial metrics in order to account for the new DTI metric. Finally, schools that exceed standards are treated the same as schools that meet standards, thus, the update will simply align with the messaging that has already been occurring.

Operations Amendment Details

Amendment #1: Measures Combined- Essential and Innovative Features and Mission-Specific Goals

PREVIOUSLY: Measure 1a, Essential or Innovative Features and Measure and Measure 2b, Mission-Specific Goals were two separate sections.

UPDATED: Measure 1a and Measure 2b have been combined into a new measure – Measure 1a, Essential or Innovative Features and Mission Specific Goals

RATIONALE: Previously these two sections were measured separately, but the goals of the measure are similar and better suited being placed together. Schools will also now have the opportunity to partially meet this measure and will only lose all possible points if they do not meet any mission-specific goal or implement any essential or innovative features.

Amendment #2: Measure Split- State and Federal Education Requirements

PREVIOUSLY: Measure 1c, Education Requirements included state and federal education requirements.

UPDATED: Measure 1c has been split into two new measures: Measure 1b, State Education Requirements and Measure 1c, Federal Education Requirements.

RATIONALE: State and federal education requirements and the requisite monitoring that is attached to these requirements are drastically different. Separating out this measure will allow the SCSC to better measure school compliance and clarify to schools where they are held accountable for these requirements.

Amendment #3: Measure Combined- Data Reporting and Financial Reporting

PREVIOUSLY: Measure 1d, Data Reporting and Measure 2a, Financial Reporting were separate measures.

UPDATED: Measure 1d and Measure 2a have been combined into a new measure – Measure 1d, Data Reporting

RATIONALE: Previously, there were two separate measures that measured a school's ability to meet appropriate data reporting deadlines (i.e., both measures were measuring the same thing, just different deadlines). By combining these measures, we are more appropriately and fairly holding schools accountable for meeting data reporting deadlines.

Amendment #4: New Measure- Adherence to Federal Financial Requirements

PREVIOUSLY: If a school had a financial finding for a particular federal program area, the school would lose points in the CPF measure related to that program area.

UPDATED: New measure - Measure 2b, Adherence to Federal Financial Requirements

RATIONALE: Previously, if a school had a financial finding for a particular federal program area, the school would lose points in the CPF measure related to that program area. This could incorrectly portray that a school is not providing appropriate programmatic support in federal program area when the school actually received findings related to the financial administration of the program area (that may have no impact on the school's programmatic administration). For example, if a school received findings related to an Individuals with Disabilities Education (IDEA) fiscal indicator, the school would lose points in the Measure 4b, Rights of Students with Disabilities. This could incorrectly suggest that a school was not affording students with disabilities appropriate rights when the school actually received a finding regarding a financial administrative error.

Amendment #5: New Measure- Adherence to the Local Units of Administration Manual

PREVIOUSLY: If a school received a SCSC monitoring finding related to not following the Local Units of Administration (LUA) Manual, the school would receive a finding in Measure 6a, Additional Obligations, which does not specifically measure a school's financial compliance.

UPDATED: New measure – Measure 2c, Adherence to the Local Units of Administration Manual

RATIONALE: Schools are required by their charter contracts to comply with the Local Units of Administration (LUA) Manual. The LUA Manual sets requirements around all aspects of a school's financial operations, including proper accounting and internal controls. The SCSC annually monitors schools for adherence to the LUA Manual.

Amendment #6: New Measure- Adherence to the School's Own Financial Policies and Procedures

PREVIOUSLY: If a school received a SCSC monitoring finding related to not its own financial policies, the school would receive a finding in Measure 6a, Additional Obligations, which does not specifically measure a school's financial compliance.

UPDATED: New measure – Measure 2d, Adherence to the School's Own Financial Policies and Procedures

RATIONALE: Schools are required to follow their own financial policies and procedures and the SCSC annually monitors for school's compliance with their own financial policies and procedures.

Amendment #7: New Measure- Budget Approved in Accordance with State Law

PREVIOUSLY: If a school received a SCSC monitoring finding related to not approving its budget in accordance with state law, the school would receive a finding in Measure 6a, Additional Obligations, which does not specifically measure a school's financial compliance.

UPDATED: New measure – Measure 2e, Budget Approved in Accordance with State Law

RATIONALE: Schools are required to follow a specific procedure per state law regarding how to properly approve their annual budgets, and the SCSC annually monitors schools for proper budget approval.

Amendment #8: Measure Removed- Holding Management Accountable

PREVIOUSLY: Measure 3d, Holding Management Accountable measured the governing board's ability to hold contractors accountable and perform requisite Teacher and Leader Keys Effectiveness Systems.

UPDATED: Removing Measure 3d – requirements regarding holding contractors accountable will be measured in Measure 6a, Additional Obligations and requirements regarding the Teacher and Leader Keys Effectiveness Systems will be added to Measure 4d, Employee Qualifications, Evaluations, and Criminal Records Checks.

RATIONALE: The components of the previous Measure 3d are better suited to be combined with existing operational indicators.

Amendment #9: New Measure- Transparent Governance and Communication with Stakeholders

PREVIOUSLY: Measure 3b, Open Governance and Measure 5e, Information, Data, and Communication measured a school's ability to govern and communicate transparently.

UPDATED: New Measure 3d, Transparent Governance and Communication with Stakeholders. Requirement regarding communicating with parents and other stakeholders in a timely manner is removed from Measure 5e, Information, Data, and Communication.

RATIONALE: New Measure 3d, Transparent Governance and Communication with Stakeholders will measure the school's ability to comply with SCSC rule regarding information on school websites and communicating leadership changes transparently. The SCSC has seen recently that school governing boards can struggle with communicating timely and transparently in times of change, and this new measure tries to encourage governing boards to be as communicative as possible with stakeholders.

Amendment #10: Measure Combined- Employee Qualifications and Criminal Records Checks

PREVIOUSLY: Measure 4d, Employee Qualifications and Measure 4, Criminal Records Checks were separate measures.

UPDATED: New measure 4d, Employee Qualifications, Evaluations, and Criminal Records Checks combines Measure 4d, Employee Qualifications and Measure 4, Criminal Records Checks.

RATIONALE: It is a qualification to be employed at a state charter school to have the requisite background check, so the two separate measures were partially repetitive. Combining the measures more accurate measures school compliance.

Amendment #11: Measure Removed- Student Retention

PREVIOUSLY: Measure 5b, Student Retention sought to measure the safety and security of a school's environment based on the school's churn rate. Student churn rate equals the number of student entries and exits between October and May divided by the total number of students in the school in October.

UPDATED: Removing Measure 5b, Student Retention

RATIONALE: SCSC staff do not believe that churn rate is an accurate measure of the safety and security of a school's environment and should be removed from the CPF.

Amendment #12: Measure Removed- Support Services

PREVIOUSLY: Measure 5d, Support Services measured the school's compliance with nursing, food service, and transportation requirements.

UPDATED: Removing Measure 5d, Support Services. School compliance with nursing program regulations will be measured under Measure 5b, Health and Safety. School compliance with food service and transportation requirements will be measured under 6a, Additional Obligations.

RATIONALE: Nursing requirements are better measured under the health and safety measure as it speaks to the school's ability to provide adequate nursing services. Additionally, schools are not required to provide transportation and nutrition services, meaning this would be better measured in the additional obligation's category.

Amendment #13: Approaches Standard Added- Data Reporting

PREVIOUSLY: Measure 1d, Data Reporting, a school would earn all available points if they met all data reporting timelines or receive zero points if any deadline was missed.

UPDATED: A school can earn partial points if it only missed one reporting deadline.

RATIONALE: This update was made in order to allow a school that only missed one data reporting data to still earn partial points in acknowledgement that they were very close to data reporting compliance.