

Charter System Renewal Petition Addendum

PAST PERFORMANCE

1. Please provide a narrative describing how your charter system performed in meeting the academic and performance goals set forth in their previous charter contract. Please provide any charts, tables or graphs that provide quantitative data that can support your narrative. Please make sure to address your system’s performance in each year of its charter term.

The City Schools of Decatur is proud of the work and performance that resulted from the first four years of the charter system contract, effective July 1, 2008. The enclosed accountability spreadsheet clearly shows the positive trajectory of both academic and non-academic goals. In addition, Application Questions #1-2 in the Charter Application offer visual examples of student performance data. Figures 1-3 are offered here highlighting Performance Measures 1.1-1.2, 1.4-1.5, and Academic Goal 3.

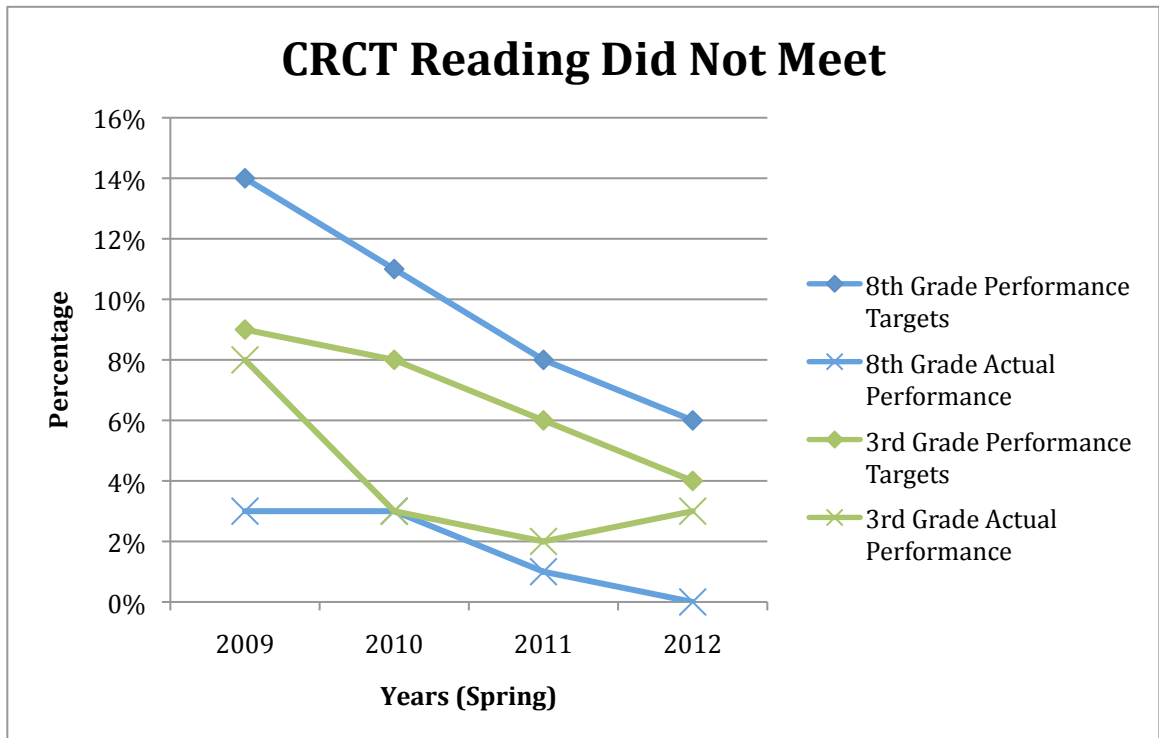


Figure 1. Performance Measures 1.1-1.2

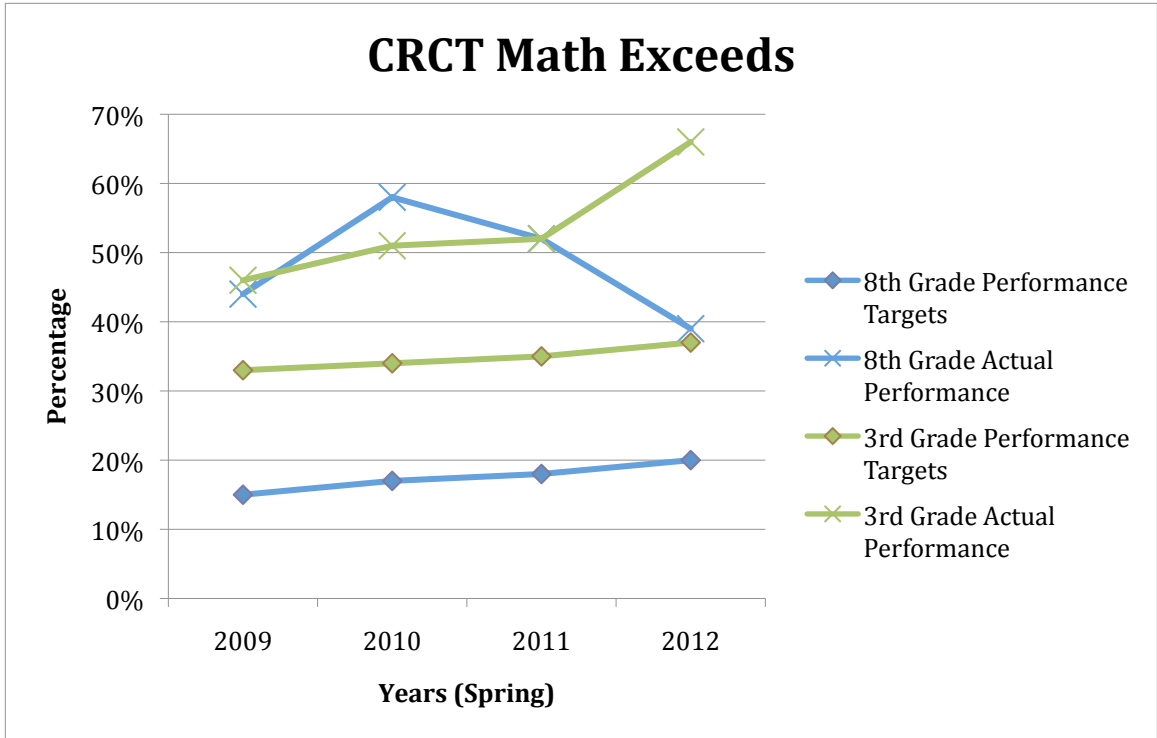


Figure 2. Performance Measures 1.4-1.5

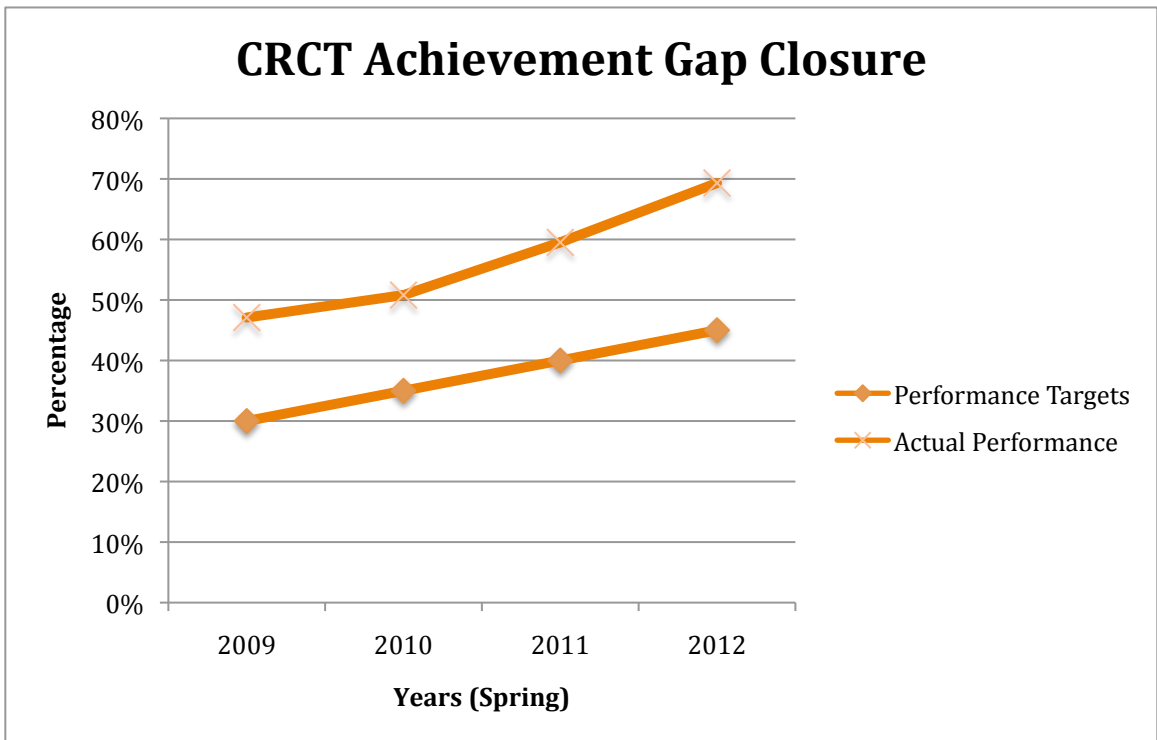


Figure 3. Academic Goal 3

When Charter System status first became an option in 2008, goals were not divided into Academic and Non-Academic Goals, nor were they defined as goals that needed to be measured the same way each year (performance measures). Thus, Goal 2 about foreign language proficiency looks different each year, albeit each year is colored green as City Schools of Decatur attained the measure as it was defined and approved by the State Board of Education.

- a. If your charter system did not meet all the goals in your charter contract, please explain any mitigating factors to which this can be attributed, and explain how the system plans to address these issues in the next five years if your charter is renewed.

Non-Academic Goal 1 regarding student engagement includes a note how this goal changed over the life of the charter: *As explained in the Annual Reports, at the onset of this charter, no student engagement surveys existed that met our criteria. The Gallup Organization created a student survey and launched in 2010-2011. We have two years of data that indicate growth in student engagement.*

As City Schools of Decatur now uses the Gallup Student Engagement Survey, no foreseen difficulties exist to meet such a goal in the future.

Performance Measures 2.4: By 2011-2012, 60% of 8th graders will score Novice-Mid on the assessment. A publisher's change in the scoring and aligning of this assessment made this measure impossible: *The norm-referenced assessment, STAMP, was aligned to ACTFL levels (used to measure this measure). However, without warning, the company changed the scoring process and alignment. It is no longer aligned to ACTFL, thus cannot be used to measure this particular measure.*

2. Please provide a brief overview of your system's current organizational structure. Please provide a summary of any organizational or governance changes that your system made since the beginning of your charter term.

Please see Application Question #8.

3. If you have received communications from the State regarding compliance issues and/or the limits of your broad flexibility during the past charter term, please explain what steps were taken to remedy these issues and/or address those limits, and what steps the system took to ensure such situations do not recur in the future.

No communications were received from the Charter Division.

4. Please state whether the system's charter was amended via a formal amendment or an administrative clarification during the past charter term. Please explain the reasoning for the changes to the charter contract and how they have benefited the system.

The first administrative clarification removed re-apportioned some responsibility from the Board of Education to the School Leadership Teams (SLTs). This change certainly matched the spirit of the first charter petition in having a System Charter Leadership Team, from which this change was recommended. This has been a lasting change over the rest of the charter period.

The second administrative clarification added the Decatur Career Academy to our system charter. The Decatur Career Academy is under the governance of the Decatur High School Leadership Team. The Charter Division, in collaboration with the Technical College System of Georgia, required City Schools of Decatur to submit a clarification in order to submit an application for the Career Academy Grant, which was awarded to City Schools of Decatur.

The third administrative clarification included the adding of Glennwood Elementary K-3 and the 4/5 Academy at Fifth Avenue, and removing the 4/5 Academy at Glennwood.

5. Please briefly describe any substantial changes that your charter system proposes to implement in its next charter term in the areas of academics, governance, and operations.

Please see Application Questions #3 and 6.

6. Please provide a brief rationale for any changes planned.

Please see Application Questions #3 and 6.

7. Please briefly describe how your system will implement these proposed changes to serve the needs of its students for the upcoming charter term.

Please see Application Questions #3 and 6.