**Annual Report to the Commissioner**

**2018-19 School Year**

**Mission:** *The mission of the Maine Charter School Commission (Commission) is to allow charter schools to be established as public schools that improve pupil learning by creating more high quality schools with high standards for pupil performance; that close achievement gaps between high-performing and low-performing groups of public schools students; that increase high-quality educational opportunities within the public education system; that provide alternative learning environments for students who are not thriving in traditional school settings; that create new professional opportunities for teachers and other school personnel; that encourage the use of different, high-quality models of teaching and other aspects of schooling; and that provide students, parents, community members and local entities with expanded opportunities for involvement in the public education system.*

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**Annual Report to the Commissioner**

**2018-2019 School Year**

**February 2020**

This Annual Report to the Commissioner is written to satisfy the requirement of MRSA Title 20-A, Chapter 112, §2405.4 Reporting and Evaluation - *an authorizer shall submit to the Commissioner an annual report within 150 days of the end of each school fiscal year summarizing:*

1. *The authorizer’s strategic vision for chartering and progress toward achieving that vision;*
2. *The performance of all operating public charter schools overseen by the authorizer, according to the performance measures and expectations specified in the charter contracts;*
3. *The status of the authorizer’s public charter school portfolio of approved charter applications, identifying all public charter schools within that portfolio as – approved, but not yet open; operating; renewed; transferred; terminated; closed; or never opened;*
4. *The oversight and services provided by the authorizer to the public charter schools under the authorizer’s purview; and*
5. *The total amount of funds collected from each public charter school the authorizer authorized pursuant to subsection 5, paragraph B and the costs incurred by the authorizer to oversee each public charter school.*

**Section A**

The Maine Charter School Commission reviews its work from the previous year for the purpose of continuous improvement of its efforts to oversee the public charter schools it authorizes.

In 2017, the Commission underwent a rigorous Authorizer Evaluation conducted by the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA). At the conclusion of the evaluation, a formal report was issued which outlined several recommendations for the Commission to consider. During the 2018-19 school year several of those recommendations were implemented while others are still in progress. The Commission has contracted with an outside consultant to review its progress in implementing the proposed recommendations. A formal report should be available in 2020.

**Section B**

In September 2019, the Commission adopted a uniform Performance Framework for all schools to be implemented beginning with the 2019-20 school year (*see Appendix A*). The following pages are the Indicator Summary Tables for each of Maine’s nine public charter schools. These tables are part of each schools’ 2018-19 Annual Monitoring Report. Full reports for each school can be found on the Commission’s website ([www.maine.gov/csc/reports](http://www.maine.gov/csc/reports)).

**ACADIA Academy**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Indicator** | **Exceeds** | **Meets** | **Partially Meets** | **Does Not Meet** | **Other** |
| **Student Academic Proficiency** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  |  |  | **X** |  |
| Target 2 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 3 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **Student Academic Growth** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 | **X** |  |  |  | **X** |
| Target 3 |  |  |  |  | **X** |
| Target 4 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Target 5 | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| Target 6 | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **Achievement Gaps** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **Student Attendance** | | | | | |
| Target 1 | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| Target 2 | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **Student Enrollment** | | | | | |
| Target 1 | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| Target 2 | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **Financial Performance and Stability** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **Healthy** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  | **Healthy** |  |  |  |
| Target 3 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **Governance Board Performance and Stewardship** | | | | | |
| Target 1 | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **Adequacy of Facilities** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **Parent & Community Engagement and School Climate** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  |  | **X** |  |  |
| Target 3 | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| Target 4 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 5 |  |  |  |  | Not applicable |

In 2019, the Maine Charter School Commission adopted a new performance framework to serve all schools. For school year 2018-2019 reporting, schools were given the option to use their current framework, the new framework, or a combination of the two. Most schools opted to use a combination of the two frameworks as a transition. In the current 2019-20 school year, all schools are using the new framework, which can be found in Appendix A.

For a full explanation of the school’s Targets, please refer to the complete 2018-19 Annual Monitoring Report approved by the Maine Charter School Commission on February 11, 2020. This report can be found on the Commission’s website ([www.maine.gov/csc/reports](http://www.maine.gov/csc/reports)).

**Baxter Academy for Technology and Science**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Indicator** | **Exceeds** | **Meets** | **Partially Meets** | **Does Not Meet** | **Other** |
| **Student Academic Proficiency** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **Student Academic Growth** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  |  | **X** |  |  |
| **Achievement Gaps** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **Student Attendance** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **Student Enrollment** | | | | | |
| Target 1 | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **Post-Secondary Readiness** | | | | | |
| Target 1 | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| Target 2 | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| Target 3 | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **Financial Performance and Stability** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **Healthy** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  | **Healthy** |  |  |  |
| Target 3 |  | **Clean audit** |  |  |  |
| **Governance Board Performance and Stewardship** | | | | | |
| Target 1 | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **Adequacy of Facilities** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **Parent & Community Engagement and School Climate** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  |  | **X** |  |  |
| Target 3 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 4 |  | **X** |  |  |  |

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**Community Regional Charter School**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Indicator** | **Exceeds** | **Meets** | **Partially Meets** | **Does Not Meet** | **Other** |
| **Student Academic Proficiency** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  |  |  | **X** |  |
| Target 2 |  |  |  | **X** |  |
| **Student Academic Growth** | | | | | |
| Target 1 | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| Target 2 | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| Target 3 |  |  | **X** |  |  |
| Target 4 |  |  | **X** |  |  |
| Target 5 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 6 |  |  |  | **X** |  |
| Target 7 |  |  |  | **X** |  |
| **Achievement Gaps** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **Student Attendance** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  |  |  | **X** |  |
| Target 2 |  |  |  | **X** |  |
| Target 3 |  |  | **X** |  |  |
| **Student Enrollment** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **Post-Secondary Readiness** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  |  |  |  | Not applicable |
| Target 2 |  |  |  |  | Not applicable |
| Target 3 |  |  |  |  | Not applicable |
| Target 4 | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **Financial Performance and Stability** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **Healthy** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  | **Healthy** |  |  |  |
| Target 3 |  | Met |  |  |  |
| **Governance Board Performance and Stewardship** | | | | | |
| Target 1 | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **Adequacy of Facilities** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **Parent & Community Engagement and School Climate** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| Target 3 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 4 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 5 |  |  |  |  | Not applicable |

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**Fiddlehead School of Arts & Sciences**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Indicator** | **Exceeds** | **Meets** | **Partially Meets** | **Does Not Meet** | **Other** |
| **Student Academic Proficiency** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 3 | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| Target 4 | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **Student Academic Growth** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| Target 3 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 4 | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| Target 5 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 6 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **Achievement Gaps** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **Student Attendance** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  |  |  | **X** |  |
| Target 2 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **Student Enrollment** | | | | | |
| Target 1 | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| Target 2 | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **Financial Performance and Stability** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **Healthy** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  | **Healthy** |  |  |  |
| Target 3 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **Governance Board Performance and Stewardship** | | | | | |
| Target 1 | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **Facilities** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **Parent & Community Engagement and School Climate** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| Target 3 | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| Target 4 |  |  |  | **X** |  |
| Target 5 |  |  |  |  | **NA** |

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**Harpswell Coastal Academy**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Indicator** | **Exceeds** | **Meets** | **Partially Meets** | **Does Not Meet** | **Other** |
| **Student Academic Proficiency** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  |  |  | **X** |  |
| Target 2 |  |  |  |  | NA |
| Target 3 |  |  |  | **X** |  |
| Target 4 | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| Target 5 | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| Target 6 |  |  |  |  | NA |
| **Student Academic Growth** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 3 |  |  | **X** |  |  |
| **Achievement Gaps** | | | | | |
| Target 1 | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **Student Attendance** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **Student Enrollment** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **Post-Secondary Readiness** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  |  |  | **X** |  |
| Target 2 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 3 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 4 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 5 |  |  | **X** |  |  |
| Target 6 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **Financial Performance and Stability** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **Governance Board Performance and Stewardship** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **Facilities** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **School Climate** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  |  | **X** |  |  |
| Target 3 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 4 |  |  | **X** |  |  |
| Target 5 |  |  |  | **X** |  |
| Target 6 |  |  |  | **X** |  |
| **Parent & Community Engagement** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 3 |  |  |  | **X** |  |
| Target 4 |  | **X** |  |  |  |

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**Maine Academy of Natural Sciences**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Indicator** | **Exceeds** | **Meets** | **Partially Meets** | **Does Not Meet** | **Other** |
| **Student Academic Proficiency** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  |  |  | **X** |  |
| Target 2 |  |  |  |  | Not reportable |
| Target 3 |  |  |  | **X** |  |
| Target 4 |  |  |  | **X** |  |
| **Student Academic Growth** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  |  |  | **X** |  |
| Target 2 |  |  |  | **X** |  |
| **Achievement Gaps** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  |  |  | **X[[1]](#footnote-1)** |  |
| Target 2 |  |  |  | **X2** |  |
| Target 3 |  |  |  | **X3** |  |
| Target 4 |  |  |  | **X4** |  |
| **Student Attendance** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **Student Enrollment** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **Post-Secondary Readiness** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 3 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 4 |  |  |  | **X** |  |
| **Financial Performance and Stability** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **Governance Board Performance and Stewardship** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **Facilities** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **Transportation** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **Food** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **School Climate** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  |  |  | **X** |  |
| Target 3 |  |  | **X** |  |  |
| Target 4 |  |  |  | **X** | Gallup not conducted |
| **Parent & Community Engagement** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

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**Maine Arts Academy**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Indicator | Exceeds | Meets | Partially Meets | Does Not Meet | Other |
| Student Academic Proficiency | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 3 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Student Academic Growth | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 3 |  |  | **X** |  |  |
| Target 4 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Achievement Gaps | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Student Attendance | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  |  |  | **X** |  |
| Target 2 |  |  |  | **X** |  |
| Target 3 |  |  | **X** |  |  |
| Student Enrollment | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Post-Secondary Readiness | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 3 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Financial Performance and Stability | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  |  | **X** |  |  |
| Target 2 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 3 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Governance Board Performance and Stewardship | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 3 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Adequacy of Facilities | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Transportation | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Food Service | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| School Climate | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Parent & Community Engagement | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 3 |  |  | **X** |  |  |
| Target 4 |  | **X** |  |  |  |

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**Maine Connections Academy**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Indicator** | **Exceeds** | **Meets** | **Partially Meets** | **Does Not Meet** | **Other** |
| **Student Academic Proficiency** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **Student Academic Growth** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  |  | **X** |  |  |
| Target 3 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 4 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **Achievement Gaps** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 3 |  |  |  | **X**1 | Not reported |
| Target 4 |  |  |  | **X[[2]](#footnote-2)** | Not reported |
| **Student Attendance** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 3 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **Student Enrollment** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **Post-Secondary Readiness** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  |  |  | **X** |  |
| Target 2 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 3 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 4 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **Financial Performance and Stability** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **Governance Board Performance and Stewardship** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **Facilities** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **School Climate** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  |  | **X** |  |  |
| Target 3 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **Parent & Community Engagement** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  |  |  | **X** |  |
| Target 3 |  |  | **X** |  |  |

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For a full explanation of the school’s Targets, please refer to the complete 2018-19 Annual Monitoring Report approved by the Maine Charter School Commission on February 11, 2020. This report can be found on the Commission’s website ([www.maine.gov/csc/reports](http://www.maine.gov/csc/reports)

**Maine Virtual Academy**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Indicator** | **Exceeds** | **Meets** | **Partially Meets** | **Does Not Meet** | **Other** |
| **Student Academic Proficiency** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 3 |  |  | **X** |  |  |
| Target 4 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 5 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 6 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **Student Academic Growth** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 3 | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| Target 4 | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **Achievement Gaps** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **Post Secondary Readiness** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  |  | **X** |  |  |
| Target 2 |  |  |  | **X** |  |
| Target 3 | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| Target 4 | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **Student Attendance** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  |  | **X** |  |  |
| Target 2 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 3 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **Student Enrollment** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **Financial Performance and Stability** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **Healthy** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  | **Healthy** |  |  |  |
| Target 3 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **Governance Board Performance and Stewardship** | | | | | |
| Target 1 | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **Adequacy of Facilities** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **School Climate** | | | | | |
| Target 1 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 2 | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| Target 3 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 4 |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Target 5 |  |  |  |  | **Not applicable** |

In 2019, the Maine Charter School Commission adopted a new performance framework to serve all schools. For school year 2018-2019 reporting, schools were given the option to use their current framework, the new framework, or a combination of the two. Most schools opted to use a combination of the two frameworks as a transition. In the current 2019-20 school year, all schools are using the new framework, which can be found in Appendix A.

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**Section C**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | **Approved** | Ecology Learning Center | September 2019 |
|  |  |  |  |
| 2 | **Operating** | ACADIA Academy | September 2016 |
|  |  | Baxter Academy for Technology and Science | September 2013 |
|  |  | Community Regional Charter School *(formerly Cornville Regional Charter School)* | October 2012 |
|  |  | Fiddlehead School of Arts & Sciences | September 2013 |
|  |  | Harpswell Coastal Academy | September 2013 |
|  |  | Maine Academy of Natural Sciences | October 2012 |
|  |  | Maine Arts Academy | September 2016 |
|  |  | Maine Connections Academy | September 2014 |
|  |  | Maine Virtual Academy | September 2015 |
|  |  |  |  |
| 3 | **Renewed** | Maine Connections Academy | November 2018 |
|  |  |  |  |
| 4 | **Transferred** | None |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 5 | **Terminated** | None |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 6 | **Closed** | None |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 7 | **Never Opened** | None |  |

**Section D**

In 2018-19, the Maine Charter School Commission authorized nine public charter schools. A tenth public charter school – the Ecology Learning Center – anticipates opening in the fall of 2020.

The Commission established a monitoring visit table (Site Visit Protocol) for visit frequency and intensity. At its discretion, the Commission may opt to not conduct monitoring site visits in accordance with the Site Visit Protocol for schools that are performing well. Likewise, the MCSC may choose to visit a school that is not on a visit cycle for any reason.

The primary purpose of site visits is to inform authorizer decisions, both imminent, such as assessing a school’s readiness to open, and longitudinal, when a visit is undertaken mid-term as part of routine monitoring.

The purpose of monitoring visits is to gauge the overall progress a school is making toward the mission and goals outlined in its charter. In most cases, the authorizer will already possess some quantitative data about that progress – test scores, attendance rates, and other annual outcomes, so a monitoring visit can help explain the context behind that data and explore the school’s fidelity to its approved program.

Site visits are a mechanism for collecting additional evidence regarding a school’s performance against the expectations memorialized in its contract and contribute to the body of data authorizers utilize to ultimately make renewal recommendations. They also provide MCSC staff with the opportunity to review and analyze documentation that may be better understood on-site, such as factors impacting attendance, or rates of academic growth across subgroups. Site visits can also provide a basis for authorizer judgment or intervention where there is limited state assessment data yet available.

The Maine Charter School Commission’s Monitoring Site Visits are based on both the criteria set forth in the school’s performance framework and the school’s alignment with its mission. The categories in the performance framework are student achievement, school climate and family engagement, governance and finance.

In addition to the site visits described above, Commission staff offered several trainings and workshops designed to assist school staff with the day-to-day operations of their schools. *(See Appendix B for full Commission schedule).*

**Section E**

By law, the Commission is allowed to receive up to 3% of annual per-pupil allocations received by each public charter school that it authorizes. These funds must be used to cover the costs for the Commission to oversee its public charter schools. Currently, the Commission takes only 2.25%.

The revenue received from the Department of Education based on the Essential Programs and Services (EPS) formula in FY19 was $715,135 *(NOTE: FY18’s fourth quarter payment was paid in FY19 first quarter so it’s much higher than the FY18 figure)* of which $427,697 was used to pay the Commission per diem, fund professional development for the Commission and staff, engage professional and administrative staff and to fund activities to oversee public charter schools. The balance has been carried into FY 2020 *(See Appendix C for budget documents).*

1. **-4 School unable to provide data** [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. **1-2 School unable to provide data** [↑](#footnote-ref-2)