

LEARN 10 Renewal Application

December 23, 2020

This renewal application is submitted in accordance with the Agreement entered into by School District 187 (the Independent Authority), and Lawndale Educational and Regional Network Charter School (LEARN) for a term of 5 years commencing July 1, 2016 and continuing up and through June 30, 2021. Per the agreement, LEARN is submitting its request for renewal before the established deadline of January 1, 2021.

The performance parameters established in the agreement (Exhibit E) include 4 categories:

1. Pupil Performance
2. Fiscal Management
3. Legal Compliance
4. Charter Compliance

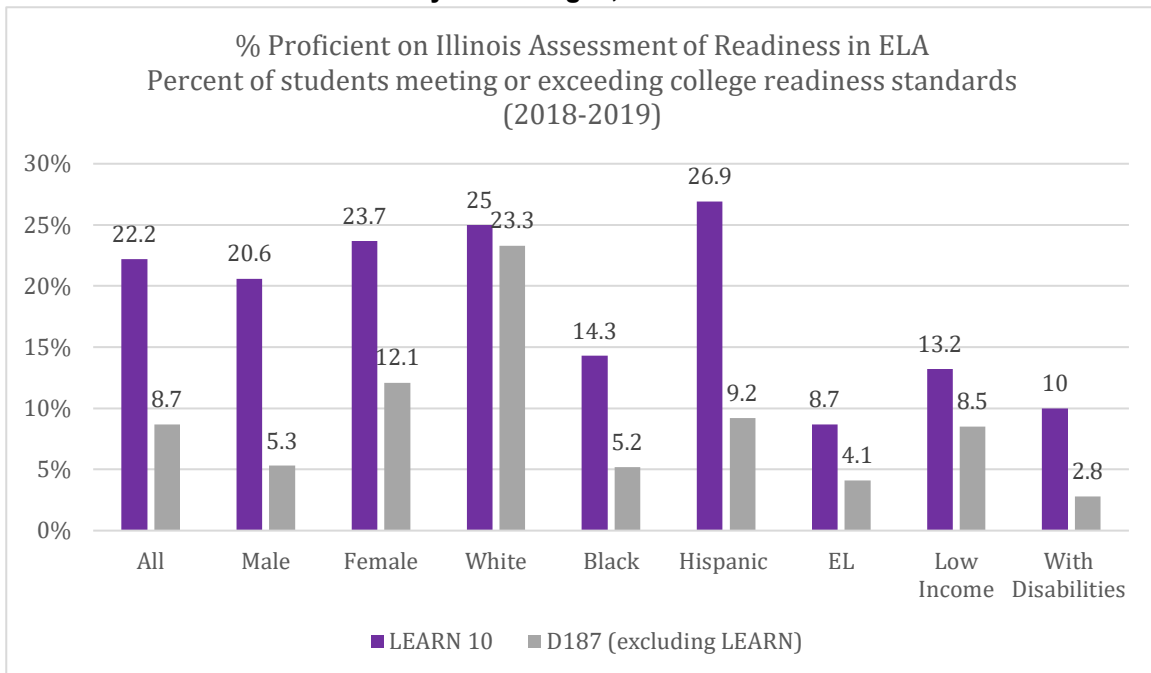
1. PUPIL PERFORMANCE

Per the Agreement, “the District shall consider classifying a pupil performance Indicator as "High" if the Charter School's performance, without attaining the level specified for "High" performance by this Agreement, nonetheless greatly exceeds the performance of other comparable public schools.” In addition to any **Absolute Performance or Growth targets** for student achievement established by the State, by School Year 2016-2017 and thereafter, the Charter School shall outperform the District in the following areas: **State-Mandated Student Assessments, Participation Rate** in State Mandated Student Assessments, and any State-mandated “**Other Indicators**” such as attendance.

A. State-Mandated Student Assessments

LEARN 10 outperformed District 187 on state-mandated students assessments and merits a rating of “high” as defined in the Agreement. During the 2018-2019 Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) ELA and Math assessments, LEARN 10 outperformed all other District 187 elementary schools in absolute and subgroup performance in virtually all categories. Please see Table 1 for ELA proficiency and Table 2 for Math proficiency below. No test was administered by the state in 2020 due to the COVID 19 move to remote learning.

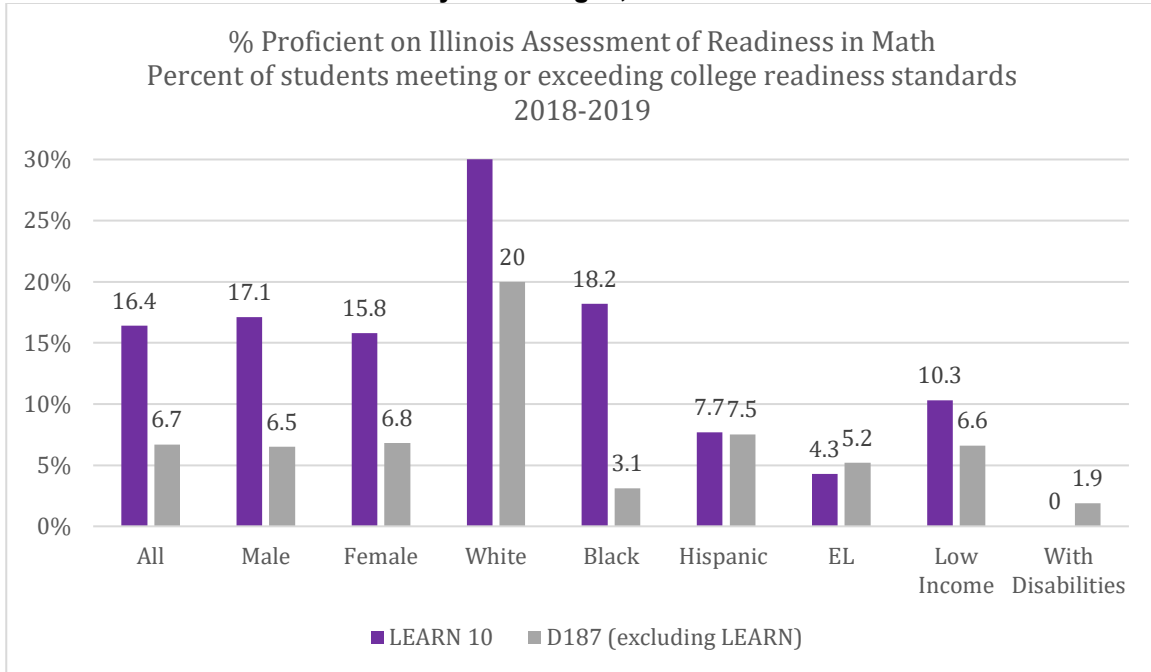
Table 1. 2018-19 IAR ELA Proficiency Percentages, LEARN 10 vs. non-LEARN D187 K-8 Schools



Source: <https://www.isbe.net/ layouts/Download.aspx?SourceUri=/Documents/2019-Report-Card-Public-Data-Set.xlsx>

Methodology: See Appendix A

Table 2. 2018-19 IAR Math Proficiency Percentages, LEARN 10 vs. non-LEARN D187 K-8 Schools



Source: [https://www.isbe.net/ layouts/Download.aspx?SourceUrl=/Documents/2019-Report-Card-Public-Data-Set.xlsx](https://www.isbe.net/layouts/Download.aspx?SourceUrl=/Documents/2019-Report-Card-Public-Data-Set.xlsx)

Methodology: See Appendix A

B. Pupil Growth

Both total and subgroup IAR growth rates were higher for LEARN 10 than for District 187 in 2018-2019, the most recent year for which data is available. As seen below, in 9 out of 10 subgroup comparisons, LEARN 10's student growth was higher than the total percentile for all K-8 D187 schools.

"Student Growth Percentile (SGP)" is a measure of student growth that compares a student's performance over time to that of their academic peers. It includes the current year score and up to two prior years' scores allowing the growth percentile calculation to represent a true growth trend.

Table 3. 2018-19 IAR ELA Student Growth Percentiles, LEARN 10 vs. Whole-District D187 Percentile

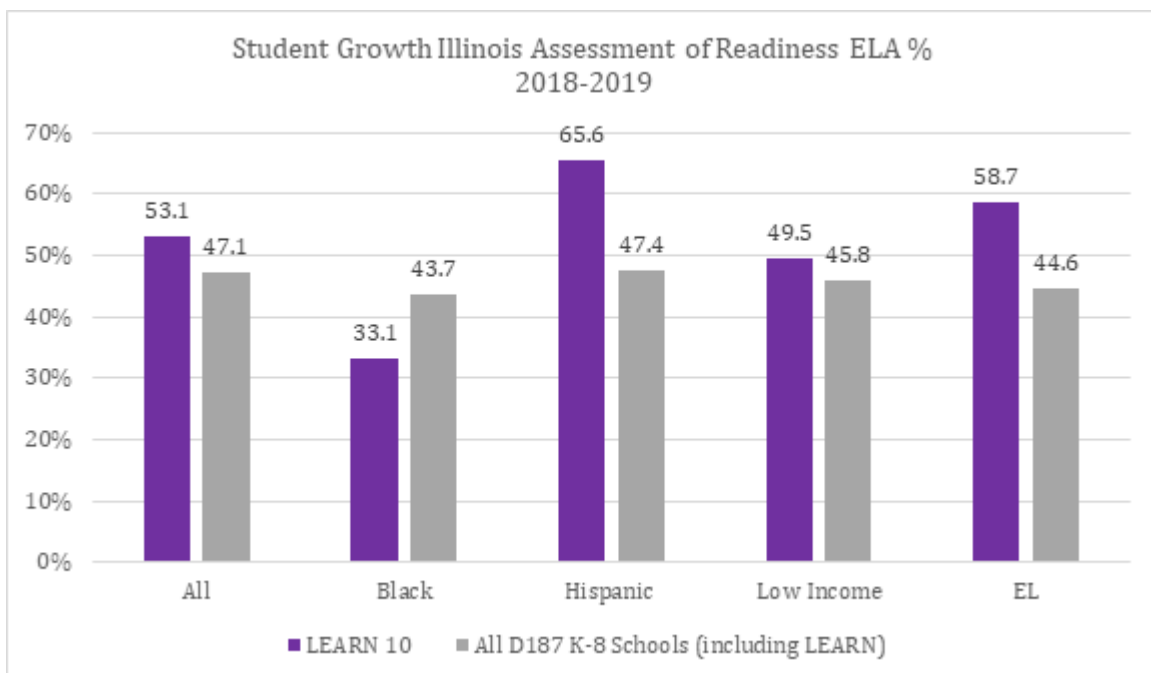
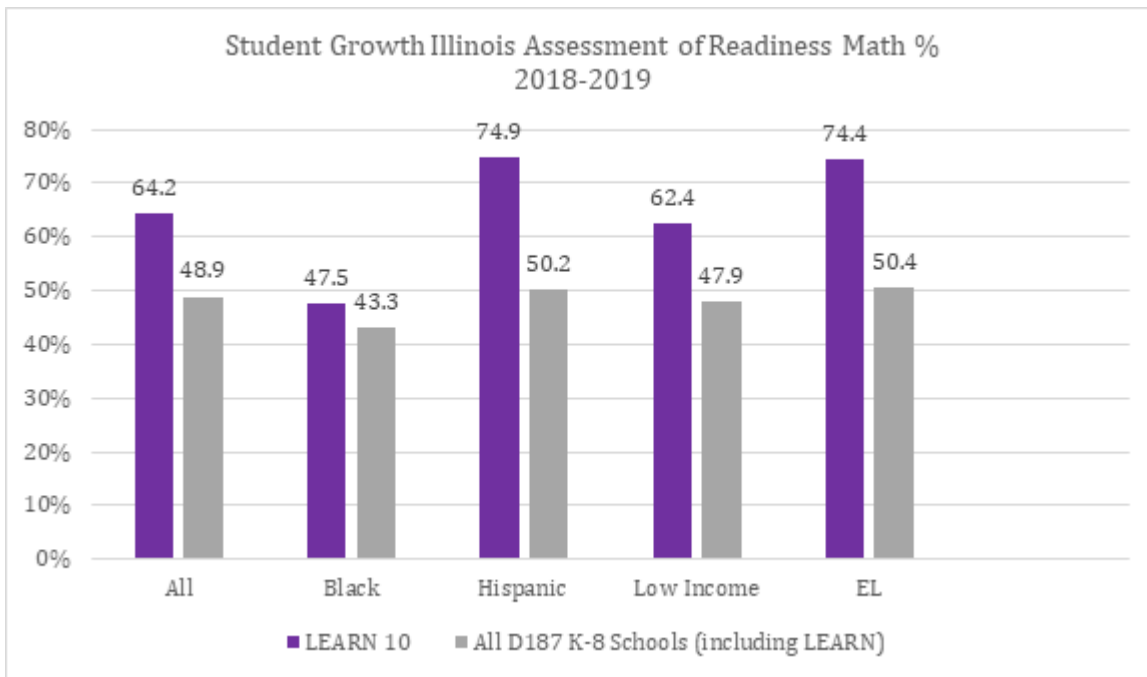


Table 4. 2018-19 IAR ELA Student Growth Percentiles, LEARN 10 vs. Whole-District D187 Percentile



Source: https://www.isbe.net/_layouts/Download.aspx?SourceUrl=/Documents/2019-Report-Card-Public-Data-Set.xlsx

Since Growth Percentiles are computed as a median, it is not possible to disaggregate LEARN schools from the overall K-8 district values shown above. A more detailed review of this data for each school in D187 - both LEARN and non-LEARN - is presented in Appendix B. This data shows that for the most recent testing cycle for which data is available, with only one exception, LEARN 10 exceeds median growth of the two non-LEARN D187 schools in both subjects for all subgroups.

C. Pupil Participation

The IL School Code requires that all public school students participate in the state's accountability assessments, unless exempt. High participation rates are essential for understanding overall school performance and for providing important data to measure student growth from year to year. In 2019, LEARN 10's student participation rates exceeded D187's in both subject areas.

IAR Assessment	D187	LEARN 10
ELA	97% of students participated	99% of students participated
Math	97% of students participated	100% of students participated

Source: <https://www.illinoisreportcard.com/School.aspx?source=trends&source2=participationrate&Schoolid=34049187026203C>

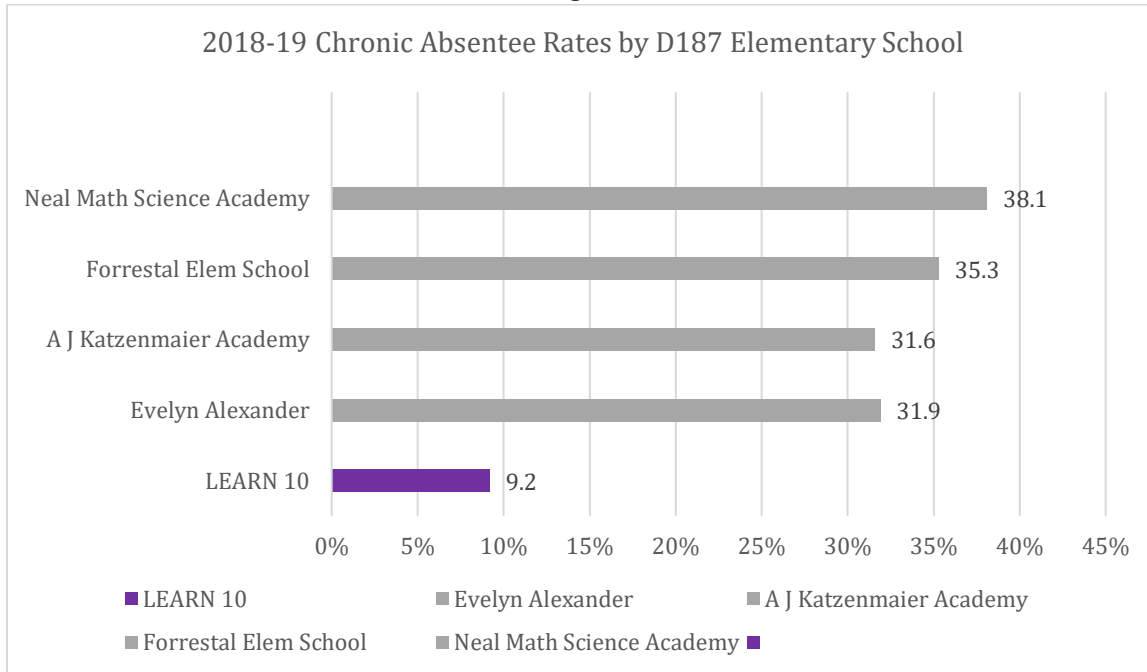
See Appendix C for a full review of this dataset for the duration of the contract term.

D. Other Indicators of Student Performance

Chronic Absenteeism

Chronic absenteeism is defined by ISBE as students who miss 10% or more of school days per year either with or without a valid excuse. Per the Illinois Report Card, all elementary schools in D187 had at least 30% of students chronically absent while LEARN 10 had just 9%, see table below.

Table 6. 2018-19 Chronic Absentee Percentages for D187 K-8 Schools



Source: <https://www.illinoisreportcard.com/School.aspx?source=studentcharacteristics&source2=chronicabsenteeism&Schoolid=34049187026203C>

The data included in Appendix D shows that for the three years of the contract term during which chronic absentee data was collected,

Suspension and Expulsions

LEARN 10 has not expelled any students during this five year contract term. The data for out-of-school suspensions that has been published by ISBE is as follows:

Table 7. D187 Student Out-of-School Suspensions, 2015-16 and 2017-18 School Years

Percent of Students Who Received an Out-of-School Suspension, as per CRDC Data Reported by ISBE		
School	2015-16 School Year (Published on 2019 Report Card)	2017-18 School Year (Published on 2020 Report Card)
Neal Math Science Academy	23.4	8.4
Forrestal Elem School	2.5	4.1
A J Katzenmaier Academy	16	16.4
Evelyn Alexander School	6.3	2.2
LEARN 6 Charter School	0.4	1
LEARN 10 Charter School	n/a	3.2
Whole-District Average	10.2	7.2

Sources: <https://www.isbe.net/layouts/Download.aspx?SourceUrl=/Documents/2020-Report-Card-Public-Data-Set.xlsx> and <https://www.isbe.net/layouts/Download.aspx?SourceUrl=/Documents/2019-Report-Card-Public-Data-Set.xlsx>

See Page 154 of <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/Public-Business-Rules-2020-Report-Card-Metrics.pdf> for a further explanation of these statistics.

Summative Assessment by ISBE

One final measure that affirms LEARN 10's strong academic performance is our most recent rating by ISBE. In 2019, LEARN 10 received a "**Commendable**" rating, the second highest category by the Illinois State Board of Education in its annual summative ratings for all state schools. ISBE defines "**Commendable**" as "a school that has no underperforming student groups". No other D187 school, other than the LEARN 6 campus, received as high of a rating.

Table 9. ISBE Summative Ratings - 2019

D187 School	ISBE School Rating
A.J. Katzenmaier	Targeted
Evelyn Alexander	Targeted
Forrestal Elementary	Targeted
Neal Math Science Academy	Comprehensive
LEARN 10	Commendable
LEARN 6	Commendable

Source: <https://www.isbe.net/summative>

2. Fiscal Management

LEARN has strong financial oversight and internal control policies to safeguard funds, manage cash flow and ensure sufficient liquidity. The LEARN Finance Committee completes a detailed review of the annual audited financial statements and internal controls with the independent auditor. LEARN has consistently earned clean audit results and unqualified opinions. The Finance Committee and the Board of Directors review quarterly financial results to budget, variance analysis, and key statistics. LEARN is current in meeting its financial obligations including but not limited to payroll and applicable taxes, benefits, TRS pension obligations and debt payments.

Of the 8 criteria listed under the D187 Audit of Fiscal Management, LEARN received a high rating on 5 of the items and a medium rating for one item related to a Balanced budget despite strong budget performance. Of the two remaining items rated low by D187, both pertained to the submission of board minutes.

- Item #3: LEARN received a low rating because D187 had not received LEARN's board minutes.
- Item #6: Board review was rated low also due to a delay in receiving board minutes. Minutes were subsequently provided to D187.

LEARN notes that, as a public charter school, its Board minutes are publicly available on its website. Since the November 2019 audit, all board minutes have been submitted in accordance with D187 requirements.

3. Legal Compliance

Of the 26 categories listed under Legal Compliance, LEARN 10 received a rating of high in 24 of the categories in the most recent audit in November 2019. Only one Item #12 was rated low by D187.

Item #12 English Learners

LEARN 10 received a rating of low from D187 in its most recent audit on November 8, 2019, despite the significantly higher performance of its English Learners on state assessments and other objective measures. To better communicate about district guidelines, the LEARN Network Student Support Services team and District 187's Multicultural Education Department have established monthly meetings. LEARN 10 agrees to use the district's student record file review checklist form to create and audit EL files. The following changes will be made per our discussions with D187.

- 1) LEARN 10 will directly input student information in PowerSchool per D187 guidelines once the district provides direct access for LEARN to input or retrieve information.
- 2) LEARN 10 will review EL programming services to ensure compliance with D187 requirements and Illinois Administrative code 228.
- 3) LEARN 10 will document meetings per D187 guidelines with parents submitting a parent refusal letter.

4. Charter Compliance

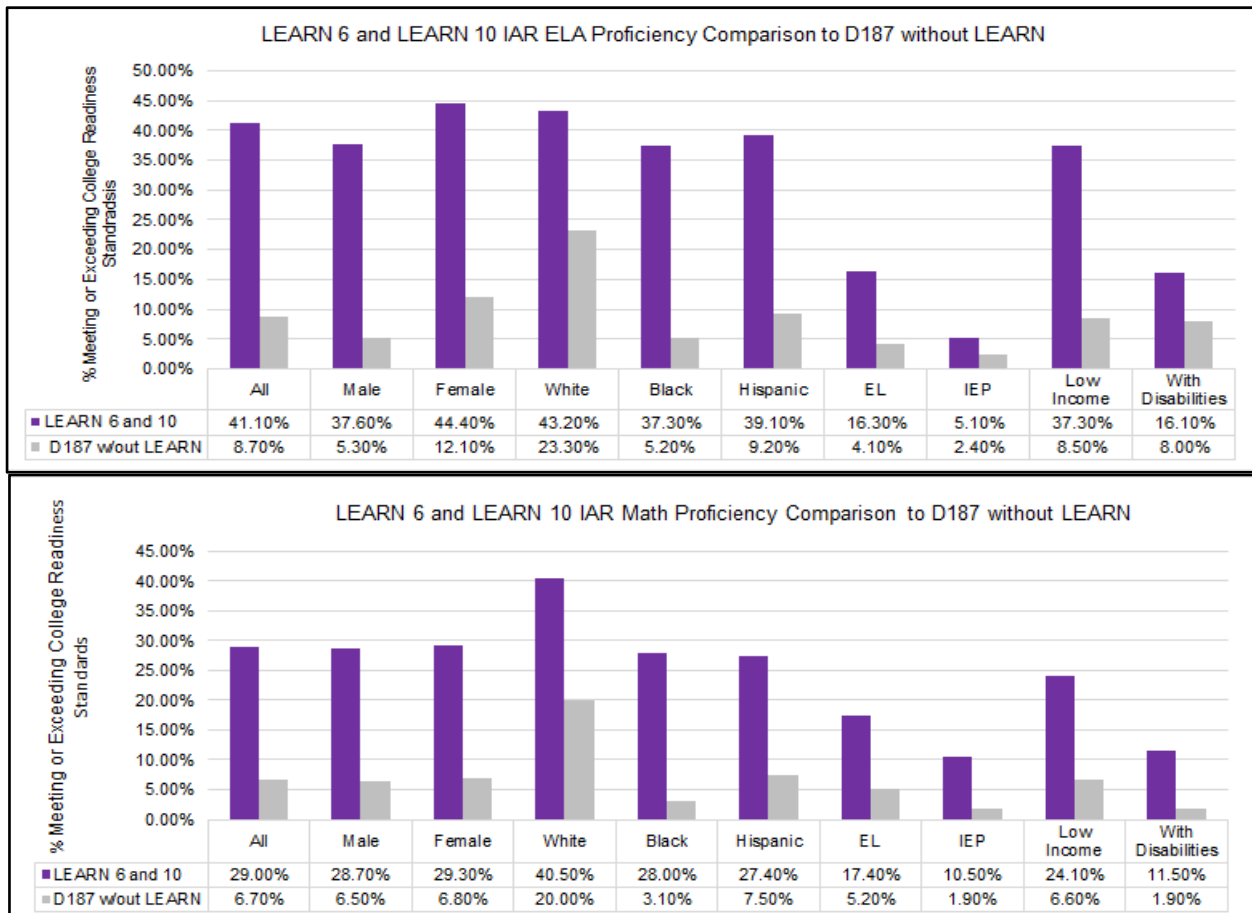
In the district 2019 audit report, LEARN is in compliance and received a rating of high on **ALL** 20 items listed.

LEARN 10 Application Summary

LEARN 10 believes that it has been a valuable partner to D187 and the families of North Chicago. LEARN 10 and LEARN 6 serve approximately 53% of the District’s military families, helping D187 maintain its eligibility for super impact aid of approximately \$3M annually.

Per the detail in this application, LEARN 10’s pupil performance significantly exceeds the district performance in academic outcomes in total and by sub-group. LEARN 10 exceeds the district growth percentiles in total and by sub-group, and outperforms the district in other factors such as student attendance, participation, chronic absenteeism, and ISBE Summative Assessment..

An analysis of the combined performance of LEARN 10 and LEARN 6, when the test results of LEARN scholars are extracted from the districts’ totals, demonstrates the educational excellence enjoyed by LEARN North Chicago families.



Source: https://www.isbe.net/_layouts/Download.aspx?SourceUrl=/Documents/2019-Report-Card-Public-Data-Set.xlsx

Methodology: See Appendix A

LEARN 10 has demonstrated sound fiscal management of its resources despite its ongoing challenge in receiving equitable resources available to other D187 students. LEARN families are burdened by a lack of funding for

transportation, a resource that ISBE provides to other North Chicago public school families, and the failure of the district to pass through any Title 1 funding despite the fact that LEARN 10 has met the federal threshold of 40% low-income students. Any concerns raised through the D187 audit have been addressed in collaboration with D187 staff. Finally, LEARN is in compliance with all other areas identified in the Agreement.

On the basis of the strong performance of its scholars, LEARN's fiscal responsibility, and compliance over the contract period, LEARN respectfully requests a vote to renew its agreement with D187, the Independent Authorizer. Thank you.

Proposed Contract Changes

1. District 187 will submit to ISBE for the reimbursement of all LEARN 10 transportation costs.
2. An increase in LEARN 10's enrollment cap to 400 students.
3. D187 shall pass through to LEARN its prorated amount of Title 1 federal funds based on the percentage of LEARN 10 Low Income Students.
4. D187 will share complete parent contact information for all D187 students Pre K - 8th grades and support LEARN's efforts to make parents aware of this learning opportunity.
5. D187 will share all its assumptions and formulas for calculating the amount of monies owed to LEARN at the time the payment is made.

Appendix A - Methodology to Aggregate IAR Percent Proficiencies

Starting with the 2017-2018 ISBE Report Card, student percent proficiencies can be aggregated from the raw Report Card data files using the following methodology:

1. Within a given year's ISBE Report Card, locate the relevant data for student proficiency counts and number of students tested per demographic group, e.g. for 2017-18 ELA, use Columns K-U and BY-CK, "ELA and Math" sheet, 2018 Report Card (<https://www.isbe.net/layouts/Download.aspx?SourceUrl=/Documents/Report-Card-Public-Data-Set.xlsx>).
2. Sum the number of students rated as proficient and the total number of students tested for each desired aggregation, e.g. to compute the aggregate performance of D187 LEARN schools, compute the sum the number of students rated proficient at LEARN 6 and LEARN 10 and the sum of students tested at LEARN 6 and LEARN 10.
3. Divide the sum of students rated as proficient by the sum of students tested, and multiply this result by 100 to obtain the percent proficiency for that aggregation.

For the 2016-2017 Report Card and earlier, ISBE did not report count totals of student proficiencies, but we can easily compute this value using the provided data via the following methodology:

1. Within a given year's ISBE Report Card, locate the relevant data for percent proficiencies and enrollment size, e.g. the "PERCENTAGE OF PROFICIENCY IN ELA (ALL STUDENTS)" and "TOTAL SCHOOL ENROLLMENT IN ELA FOR GRADE 3-8 AND HS" columns from the 2016-17 Report Card, https://www.isbe.net/Documents/rc17_assessment.zip and assembled following the guidelines provided by ISBE at https://www.isbe.net/Documents/Open_Illinois_Report_Card_Data_Files.pdf.
2. Since the percentages provided in the "PERCENTAGE OF PROFICIENCY" were computed by dividing the count of students rated proficient by values given in the "TOTAL SCHOOL ENROLLMENT IN ELA" columns, we reverse the operation and compute the count totals for the number of students rated proficient by multiplying the enrollment total with the percent proficiency, e.g. (TOTAL SCHOOL ENROLLMENT) * (PERCENTAGE OF PROFICIENCY/100) = Count of students rated proficient. Since the percent values given by ISBE are rounded, in all cases we round up this student count to the nearest whole number.
3. Once this count is obtained, we can follow the procedure noted above using this count total and the total enrollment values.

Appendix B - Student Growth Percentiles

Student Growth Percentiles as provided by ISBE on the Report Cards for the relevant school year for D187 K-8 schools are as follows.

Median Student Growth Percentiles by School and Demographic Group, 2017-18						
		Neal	Katzenmaier	LEARN 6	LEARN 10	D187, All K-8 Schools
ELA	Overall	47	43.7	60.6	44.1	48.1
	Male	*	*	*	*	*
	Female	*	*	*	*	*
	White	57.9	41.7	61.3	54.5	54.5
	Black	44.1	39.4	61	49.5	45.4
	Hispanic	48.2	45.5	60	45	49.2
	Two or More Races	46.7	59.1	66.6	^	54.3

	Children with Disabilities	*	*	*	*	*
	IEP	35.1	37.1	58.4	46	40
	EL	43.6	44	59.6	31	45.6
	Low Income	47.3	43.6	60.1	40.5	47.2
	Homeless	*	*	*	*	*
	Military	*	*	*	*	*
Math	Overall	41.2	48.1	60.3	57.3	47.2
	Male	*	*	*	*	*
	Female	*	*	*	*	*
	White	56	46.1	60.9	60.5	55.7
	Black	41.5	45.9	56.2	64	45.7
	Hispanic	40.5	49.6	63.5	59	47.7
	Two or More Races	40.5	41	59.4	36	46.4
	Children with Disabilities	*	*	*	*	*
	IEP	37.6	54.4	56.1	51	46.3
	EL	40.5	49.1	69.5	46	48.1
	Low Income	41.3	48.2	60.9	47.2	46.2
	Homeless	*	*	*	*	*
	Military	*	*	*	*	*

*Statistics for these demographic groups were not provided by ISBE for this year

^Demographic groups with ten or fewer students will not generate a statistic

Source: [https://www.isbe.net/ layouts/Download.aspx?SourceUrl=/Documents/Report-Card-Public-Data-Set.xlsx](https://www.isbe.net/layouts/Download.aspx?SourceUrl=/Documents/Report-Card-Public-Data-Set.xlsx)

Median Student Growth Percentiles by School and Demographic Group, 2018-19						
		Neal	Katzenmaier	LEARN 6	LEARN 10	D187, All K-8 Schools
ELA	Overall	40.1	46.3	62.7	53.1	47.1
	Male	38	43.7	60.1	45.7	44.7
	Female	42.3	48.8	65.7	57.7	49.6
	White	^	^	62.7	^	55.8
	Black	34.4	45.5	61.6	33.1	43.7

	Hispanic	41.6	46.9	61.4	65.6	47.4
	Two or More Races	^	39.5	71.1	^	54.3
	Children with Disabilities	38	41.7	61.6	^	44
	IEP	37.5	41.9	59	^	42.7
	EL	36.8	46.4	58.3	58.7	44.6
	Low Income	39.7	46.4	66	49.5	45.8
	Homeless	36.4	40.3	^	^	37.8
	Military	48.6	45.1	67.2	52.9	55.9
Math	Overall	41.1	52.4	58	64.2	48.9
	Male	39.6	50.8	57.4	59.1	47.2
	Female	42.7	54	58.6	67.3	50.5
	White	^	^	71.7	^	59.5
	Black	37.2	43.3	54.8	47.5	43.3
	Hispanic	42.3	56.4	58.1	74.9	50.2
	Two or More Races	^	64.9	66.2	^	59.9
	Children with Disabilities	35.1	42.5	58.2	^	42.1
	IEP	34.4	42.8	53.4	^	40.6
	EL	39.1	55.6	60.3	74.1	50.4
	Low Income	41.2	52.6	57.7	62.4	47.9
	Homeless	36.1	58.8	^	^	44.6
	Military	36.4	55.6	64.7	63.6	56.2

^Demographic groups with ten or fewer students will not generate a statistic

Source: https://www.isbe.net/_layouts/Download.aspx?SourceUrl=/Documents/2019-Report-Card-Public-Data-Set.xlsx

Appendix C - Testing Percentages, LEARN 10 vs. D187 Whole-District Totals

Testing Participation Percentages by Subject, LEARN 10 vs. D187 Whole-District Totals			
School Year	Subject	LEARN 10	D187, All Schools
2017	ELA	100	99
	Math	100	99
2018	ELA	98	99
	Math	98	99
2019	ELA	99	97
	Math	100	98
2020	ELA	NO TEST GIVEN THIS YEAR	
	Math		

Source: <https://www.illinoisreportcard.com/School.aspx?source=trends&source2=participationrate&Schoolid=34049187026203C>

Appendix D - Chronic Absentee Data

As noted in the table below, ISBE did not compute chronic absenteeism data for the 2016-17 school year. Data on chronic truancy, the statistic that was collected by ISBE for the 2016-17 school year, can be found here:

<https://www.illinoisreportcard.com/School.aspx?source=studentcharacteristics&source2=chronictruants&Schoolid=34049187026203C>

This table compares LEARN 10 to the averages for all of D187, w

Chronic Absenteeism, LEARN 10 vs. D187 Whole-District Totals														
School Year	Overall		White		Hispanic		Black		Low Income		Eng. Learners		With IEPs	
	LEARN 10	D187	LEARN 10	D187	LEARN 10	D187	LEARN 10	D187	LEARN 10	D187	LEARN 10	D187	LEARN 10	D187
2016-17	This Statistic Not Collected by ISBE in This Year													
2017-18	0%	26%	0%	13%	0%	24%	0%	34%	0%	29%	0%	22%	0%	32%
2018-19	9%	37%	6%	21%	8%	32%	5%	50%	11%	39%	12%	27%	24%	43%
2019-20	10%	20%	7%	11%	10%	19%	12%	25%	14%	21%	8%	18%	30%	24%

Source: <https://www.illinoisreportcard.com/School.aspx?source=studentcharacteristics&source2=chronicabsenteeism&Schoolid=34049187026203C>

Appendix E - Disaggregated School Performance Data

Percent Proficiency on State-Mandated Testing, Non-LEARN D187 Schools vs. all LEARN Schools and LEARN 10, 2015-16 to 2018-19										
		2016-2017			2017-2018			2018-2019		
		Non-LEARN	LEARN	LEARN 10	Non-LEARN	LEARN	LEARN 10	Non-LEARN	LEARN	LEARN 10
ELA	All	8.8%	37.9%	35.3%	7.9%	37.9%	13.6%	8.7%	41.1%	22.2%
	Male	5.8%	28.6%	*	5.0%	35.7%	12.0%	5.3%	37.6%	20.6%
	Female	12.4%	45.8%	36.4%	10.8%	40.4%	16.0%	12.1%	44.4%	23.7%
	White	15.2%	48.8%	*	19.2%	36.4%	25.0%	23.3%	43.2%	25.0%
	Black	5.0%	27.4%	*	4.0%	33.6%	8.8%	5.2%	37.3%	14.3%
	Hispanic	10.4%	37.3%	*	9.1%	41.0%	7.1%	9.2%	39.1%	26.9%
	Two or More Races	21.4%	*	*	19.0%	56.3%	*	8.0%	81.3%	*
	ELL	3.1%	18.0%	*	2.3%	28.6%	0.0%	4.1%	16.3%	8.7%
	IEP	0.0%	10.3%	*	0.6%	12.8%	*	2.4%	5.1%	*
	Low Income	8.6%	36.0%	10.0%	7.8%	32.9%	7.7%	8.5%	37.3%	13.2%
	With Disabilities	^	^	^	^	^	^	2.8%	16.1%	10.0%
Math	All	7.7%	27.4%	11.8%	5.8%	33.0%	13.3%	6.7%	29.0%	16.4%
	Male	7.5%	27.6%	*	4.1%	33.3%	12.0%	6.5%	28.7%	17.1%
	Female	8.2%	25.4%	0.0%	7.5%	32.5%	16.0%	6.8%	29.3%	15.8%
	White	14.7%	37.2%	33.0%	19.2%	36.4%	33.3%	20.0%	40.5%	31.3%
	Black	7.0%	21.8%	0.0%	2.7%	28.2%	0.0%	3.1%	28.0%	18.2%
	Hispanic	8.3%	23.2%	7.0%	6.4%	35.3%	7.1%	7.5%	27.4%	7.7%
	Two or More Races	7.1%	*	*	9.5%	31.3%	*	3.8%	43.8%	*
	ELL	2.2%	5.8%	0.0%	1.0%	19.7%	0.0%	5.2%	17.4%	4.3%
	IEP	1.3%	10.3%	*	1.2%	12.8%	*	1.9%	10.5%	*
	Low Income	7.8%	26.2%	11.0%	5.8%	30.4%	11.1%	6.6%	24.1%	10.3%
	With Disabilities	^	^	^	^	^	^	1.9%	11.5%	0.0%

*Demographic groups with ten or fewer students tested will not generate a statistic

^ This demographic group was not tracked until 2018-19