## CENTER FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS

- CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY —

## Educational Program Review Focus Group Discussion Questions Leaderhip, Staff and Students

Standard I: Implementation and support of the Educational Program as set forth in the Charter Contract Standard II: Supervision of the implementation and support of the Educational Program as set forth in the Charter Contract			
Leadership and Staff Questions			
Curriculum	a) Describe the Academy's Curriculum.		
	b) How does the Academy ensure the Curriculum is aligned to/meets state standards?		
	<ul> <li><i>High school only-</i></li> <li>Discuss the high school graduation requirements and how the Academy ensures they are met.</li> </ul>		
	c) What curricular resources and materials are provided to support teaching and learning? Is there anything lacking?		
	d) What curricular expectations have been communicated to staff (i.e., How do you know what to teach?)		
	e) What professional development has been provided in the area of curriculum?		
	f) Describe the Curriculum monitoring and review processes. Do teachers have input?		
Instructional Delivery	<ul> <li>a) What research-based instructional strategies (best practices) does the Academy use?</li> <li>1. Are there any that are expectations schoolwide?</li> </ul>		
	<ul> <li>b) How does the Academy differentiate instruction to meet the needs of all students (e.g., gifted and talented students; students below grade-level; students requiring special education; ELL)?</li> <li>1. What will differentiation look like in the classroom (Tier 1)?</li> </ul>		
	c) Describe instructional interventions (MTSS/RtI) at the Academy (e.g., support staff, scheduling, grouping structures, data utilized).		
	d) What professional development has been provided in the area of instruction?		
	e) Describe the instructional planning expectations and processes at the Academy.		
	f) How are leaders and support staff involved with instructional planning?		
Monitoring Student Progress	a) What types of assessments are utilized at the Academy (e.g., formative, interim, and summative)?		
	b) What processes are in place for routine data analysis to inform curriculum and instruction decisions? (To clarify better, try: How is data used to make bigger changes to the overall instructional program, like changing textbook programs or instituting the workshop model?)		
	c) How are assessment results used to identify student needs and adjust instruction?		
	d) What professional development has been provided in the area of assessment administration and data analysis/utilization?		

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Leadership Skills	a)	Please share the school's mission and how it is integrated into daily operations.
	b)	How are clear, measurable school improvement strategies established and communicated to staff? (For example, is there a School Improvement Team or committees? How do staff know the expectations for improvement efforts?)
	c)	Describe how the leader (leadership team) builds relationships with and among staff.
	d)	Describe the leader's (leadership team's) communication style and processes (with staff, students and parents).
	e)	Describe the systems and structures of the school (or lack thereof) that most impact teaching and learning at the Academy.
Instructional Leadership	a)	How is data used to ensure the school is achieving measureable progress toward the Educational Goal of the Charter Contract? <i>(Note: This question is for Leadership only.)</i>
	b)	Who would you consider to be the instructional leader of the Academy?
	c)	How are goals for staff developed (individual, team, schoolwide) and monitored?
	d)	Describe the process for classroom observations and evaluations. 1. How is feedback and support provided?
	e)	What PD is planned for the remainder of the year? How does the PD Plan align to the Academy's academic improvement strategies?

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Student Questions				
Welcome/Overview	a) Tell us a little about yourselves (name, grade, how long you've been a student here).			
	<ul><li>b) Why did you decide to come to this school?</li><li>1. What makes other kids come/stay here?</li></ul>			
Curriculum	a) Tell us about the type of work you do in your classes. What's a typical day/lesson like?			
	b) Do your teachers help you to see real-world connections and the importance of what you are learning? If so, how?			
	c) Do you think your school is preparing you for your future? Why or why not?			
	d) Do your teachers or principal talk to you about college or trades, or help you think about what career you might have in the future?			
	1. What professions are you interested in?			
	High school students:			
	e) How do you know you are meeting high school graduation requirements?			
Instructional Delivery	a) Do you feel like school is interesting and that you are learning in the best way for you? Tell us a few ways your teacher makes learning interesting and helps you learn.			
	<ul><li>b) Is your classroom an orderly place where you can learn? (i.e., Do students behave?)</li><li>1. What happens if students misbehave?</li></ul>			
	c) What kinds of resources/supplies do you have available to you in the classroom (e.g., technology)?			
	d) Do kids get the help they need? If so, how do the teachers help?			
	e) Do you think the teachers care about you and your learning? Why or Why not?			
Monitoring Student Progress	a) Tell us about assessments or tests that you take here.			
	b) How are assessment results shared with you (e.g., meetings with your teachers)?			
	c) Do you set goals for your learning?			
Leadership Skills and	a) What is your school's mission or purpose?			
Instructional Leadership	<ul><li>b) Do you feel safe at school?</li><li>1. Do you feel there is an adult you can talk to about any problems you might have?</li></ul>			
	c) Tell us a little about your principal. Do you interact with him/her often? Does he/she come into your classroom very much?			
	d) What is the best part about this school?			
	e) If you could change one thing about your school, what would it be? (not uniforms or lunch)			
	f) Would you recommend your school to other kids?			