

Colorado State Board of Education Relations

Subject: Summary of Directed Next Steps for Risley International Academy of Innovation and Heroes Middle School

Date: Nov. 29, 2018

Dear Stakeholder,

The State Board of Education met again on Tuesday, November 27 to finalize the details of the accountability decisions for Heroes Middle School and Risley International Academy of Innovation. The state board adopted a [formal, written order regarding both schools](#). The purpose of this email is to provide you with a summary of those details and information on next steps.

What the State Board Decided:

- The State Board of Education ordered the Pueblo City Schools Board of Education to select and contract with a high quality public or private management organization to wholly manage Heroes Middle School and Risley International Academy of Innovation. The manager will be responsible for all formal decision-making involving the management of the schools.
- In selecting the management organization, the state board is requiring the local board ensure that:
 - the organization uses research-based strategies and has a proven track record of successfully working with schools in similar situations, and
 - the organization is qualified and willing to fulfill the responsibilities listed the state board's order.

What Happens Next:

- The Pueblo City Schools local board has 90 days (until February 25) to select a management organization that meets the criteria listed above.
- The State Board of Education will then approve the selected management organization, based on the criteria and process requirements listed in the state board's adopted order.
- Once the state board approves the selection, the Pueblo City Schools school board will then have 30 days to sign a contract with the management organization for at least 4 years (estimated to be signed by April 13, 2019).
- CDE will ensure that the contract meets the requirements determined by the state board.
- The management organization will start work by July 1, 2019.
- CDE will monitor the ongoing implementation of this plan.

Additional Information:

- If Pueblo City Schools does not find and contract with a high quality operator and delegate all school management authority to them within the specified timelines, the state board may convert one or both schools to charter schools or order the closure of either school.
- If the Pueblo City Schools local board needs to end the contract with the management organization, it must first discuss this with the state board and propose a different plan.

The State Board of Education office will continue to provide updates through the major milestones of this improvement work. We thank you for your continued dedication to the students in your district.

Your hard work and commitment will be essential in ensuring that these directed actions improve the educational experience of students at Heroes and Risley.

If you would like to continue to receive updates on the accountability status of Heroes Middle School or Risley International Academy of Innovation, please sign-up here: [Join Pueblo City Update List](#).