



## **Annual Report**

**September 30, 2017**

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## **I. Charter School Program**

### **Narrative:**

*Provide a Synopsis of the School's Mission and Educational Program, Including Key Components of the Education Model and Any Unique or Innovative Features of the School*

Sussex Academy is a small accelerated charter school located in Georgetown, Delaware which is in the geographic center of Sussex County. The school opened in 2000 as a middle school for grades 6-8. In 2013, the school moved physically to a new building and began its first ninth grade class with a four year phase-in for high school. Sussex Academy had its first graduating class in June 2017. Because of its centrality and its academic program, parents view Sussex Academy as a choice to some of the larger schools in the county. Sussex Academy's mission is to foster academic achievement and social responsibility through a challenging curriculum, highly effective instruction and a respectful, responsible school culture. Sussex Academy is certified as an International Baccalaureate World School with the IB Diploma program.

*Discuss Key Accomplishments of the Charter School Program Over the 2016-17 School Year.*

Please refer to the Sussex Academy renewal application submitted September 2017 for a detailed description of the school's accomplishments over the past five years. In school year 2016-2017 Sussex Academy students continued to meet and exceed the standards as measured by international, national, and state benchmarks in English Language Arts, mathematics, and science. After a four-year phase in of the high school, Sussex Academy saw its first graduating class in June 2017. Of the 39 graduates, 38 were slated to attend college and one entered the military. By mid summer we learned that of the thirteen students who had enrolled in the full IB diploma program, that seven of the students earned the IB diploma. The IB system is juried, as the measures are international and scored by those outside the school. Sussex Academy students pride themselves on the numbers of community service hours they complete with each middle school student having to complete 10 hours and high school students having to complete a minimum of 25 hours during the school year. Sussex Academy also saw the fielding of middle school, junior varsity, and varsity athletic teams in field hockey, soccer, basketball, volleyball softball, baseball, golf, and swimming. In addition, the high school arts program has had several high successful choral, band and theater productions. The school was delighted to host the DIAA Henlopen Conference swim meet at our newly opened state of the art aquatics center that was a gift from the Schell Brothers of Rehoboth, Delaware. Additionally, Sussex Academy Foundation completed all phases of the school facility and by year's end was waiting for the completion of an outside concession stand with bathrooms, storage, and training room.

## II. Performance Reflection

Please Complete the Questions that Match the Charter School's Performance Tier.

Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
<p>"Meets Standard" overall ratings on all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2015-16 and 2016-17 Org Frameworks</li> <li>- 2015-16 and 2016-17 Financial Frameworks</li> <li>- 2016-17 Academic Frameworks</li> </ul>	<p>"Meets Standard" overall Ratings on one or more Performance Framework reports during 2015-16 and 2016-17 school years OR Opened in 2016-17 School Year, Never on Formal Review</p>	<p>At any point during 2016-17 school year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Renewed with Conditions</li> <li>- Placed on Formal Review</li> <li>- Earned "Falls Far Below Standard" on any Framework Report</li> </ul>

### Tier 1 Narrative:

#### Academic Performance

**The academic progress of all students at Sussex Academy is one of our highest priorities. Please refer to pages 8 - 18 of the Sussex Academy renewal application submitted September 2017 for a detailed description of the Sussex Academy successful practices that other schools can replicate.**

#### Organizational Performance

*What Are the Successful Organizational Practices at Your Charter School that Other Schools Can Replicate?*

**The organizational practices at Sussex Academy are linked directly to compliance established in law, regulation, or contract. Please refer to pages 19 - 37 of the Sussex Academy renewal application submitted September 2017 for a detailed description of the practices that other schools can replicate.**

**While Sussex Academy met the standard in Organizational Performance for both 2015-2016 and 2016-2017, it received "Approaching the Standard" for Measure 2a because one newly appointed Executive Board member was unable to attend the Financial Training provided in July 2017. That board member will meet that obligation as soon as practicable.**

#### Financial Performance

*What Are the Successful Financial Management & Stewardship Practices At Your Charter School that Other Schools Can Replicate?*

The financial management and stewardship practices at Sussex Academy are linked directly to compliance established in law, regulation, or contract. Please refer to pages 38 – 40 of the Sussex Academy renewal application submitted September 2017 for a detailed description of the practices that other schools can replicate.



Signature: Director

9/29/17

Date