

★ PRACTICE ASSIGNMENT #2 ★

SELECTING A PERFORMANCE TASK FOR AN ORGANIZER

Directions:

1. Read each of the Washington State Charter School Commission's performance task examples in full.
2. Refer back to the interview protocol you crafted for the "Whole Child Charter School" organizer group and use your notes, the categories you defined, and the questions you scripted to identify the most pressing area of capacity you would like to evaluate further:
 - a. Academic Performance
 - b. Finance
 - c. Governance
3. In a separate Word document, explain in 1-2 paragraphs:
 - a. Based on the proposal's identified strengths, weaknesses, and open questions, which area of capacity listed above you would prioritize to evaluate through a performance task, and why?
 - b. Several ways you might build upon/customize the sample task to best assess this organizer and inform your overall recommendation for or against approval for the "Whole Child Charter School."
4. Upload your response into Saba.

PERFORMANCE TASK

Scenario 1: Academic Performance

It is the summer of 2016 and school stakeholders (staff and the board) receive standardized test data from your school's first year of operation. Your students achieved only 3% growth in both English Language Arts and Math, falling short of established goal of 10% growth that you originally set for them.

Task:

As a group, take 25 minutes to discuss the scenario. Outline any assumptions you make, and address the following:

- Prioritize the issues your school is facing, identify strategies that the school leader and board might implement to address the issues and discuss how you will work with the broader community and Commission to address these issues.

PERFORMANCE TASK

Scenario 1: Finance

The Washington State Charter School Commission (Commission) has authorized your school and it is June 15th of the year you are planning to open. During the start-up period, your team has experienced some terrific accomplishments; yet, two challenges remain that have budgetary implications.

First, the school's enrolled student population includes a higher percentage of students that qualify for special education services (SPED) than anticipated. Currently, 18% of your enrolled students qualify for SPED, but you only budgeted for 14%. Furthermore, based upon the current Individualized Education Program (IEP) for five (5) of the students, they will require more intensive services such as nursing, mental health, and therapeutic interventions. This is causing you to rethink your budget, because one of your proposed partners, the True Measure Collaborative (TMC), is now projecting the costs associated with your SPED program to be twice as expensive as originally thought.

Second, the school's facility costs are coming in at \$15,000/year more than projected.

These two factors – increased SPED and facility costs -- have created a lot of anxiety amongst board members and the school leader as you enter the final weeks prior to school opening.

Task:

As a group, take 15 minutes to discuss the scenario. Prioritize the issues your school is facing, identify strategies that the school leader and board might implement to address the issues and discuss how you will work with the broader community and Commission to address these issues.

PERFORMANCE TASK

Scenario 2: Finance and Governance

Your school is entering its 3rd year of operation and has been 25% under enrolled since year one. While the school has been under enrolled it has met its academic targets and the student demographics are similar to the demographics projected. Unfortunately, the start-up grants that supported the school have ended. Your board had the foresight to recognize these financial challenges and established a fundraising goal during the past school year. Despite this foresight and planning, the board did not meet its fundraising goal resulting in the school's short and long-term financial viability being highly questionable.

Task:

As a group, take 15 minutes to discuss the scenario. Clearly identify the issues your school is facing, identify and prioritize the strategies that the school leader and board might implement to address the issues and discuss how you will work with the broader community and Commission to address these issues.