

# School-Specific Measures FAQs

August 4, 2014

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1. What is the purpose/origin of School-Specific Measures?

School-Specific Measures allow each charter school to define educational goals and measures that are specific to each school's unique mission.

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2. What is the benefit of having a School-Specific Measure to a school?

The benefit of the School-Specific Measure indicator is that the Commission will have additional measures to analyze a school's academic performance where state accountability measures do not.

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3. When are School-Specific Measures due?

For the SY2014-2015 cycle, School-Specific Measures are due to Commission Staff Tuesday, September 2nd, 2014. Proposals submitted after this deadline will be considered for the SY2015-2016 cycle. They will be accepted on a rolling basis and submitted to the Commission in cycles (i.e. Winter, Spring, Summer). The final due date for the SY2015-2016 cycle is TBD.

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4. Do the measures have to be academic?

The measures should be focused on student-centered-outcomes that answer the question: Is the academic program of this school a success?

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5. Can we submit an academic goal that can't be captured by a standardized test?

Yes. *Making the Mission Matter* details how to develop qualitative measures into quantitative measures for this purpose.

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6. What are some examples of School-Specific Measures that aren't standardized tests?

There is an extensive list of goals in *Making the Mission Matter*. Measures can include performance-based assessments like oral proficiency or demonstration of a skill.

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7. Why aren't there are a lot of examples of School-Specific Measures?

Though we have found authorizers investigating the process of School-Specific Measures, few authorizers have implemented them into their respective contracts and performance frameworks. Altogether, these kinds of measures are fairly new.

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8. What would make a school set a high bar for measurement where it would really struggle to reach it, rather than a low bar which it knows it can attain?

There are no high or low bars, as targets are set relative to baseline data.

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9. Is there a rubric that schools can have in advance?

Staff has prepared guidance regarding the School-Specific Measure process; please review this document for detailed information regarding the development and approval of measures.

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10. How many measures are required?

At the time of this publication, School-Specific Measures are optional. Schools that believe important aspects of their educational mission or success are not fully captured by other elements of the Academic Performance Framework are encouraged to try to develop at least one high-quality School-Specific Measure. We discourage taking on too many, because each measure must be rigorous and well-developed.

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11. How will the success (or failure) of these measures affect our school?

School-Specific Measures are weighted within the Academic Performance Framework at 10% or 25% of the Framework, pending the Commission's approval

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12. Do School-Specific Measures become part of our contract?

Yes; they are an amendment to the contract.

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13. How are School-Specific Measures approved?

They are reviewed by Staff and approved by the Commission, much like the Essential Terms process.

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14. Is Margaret Lin available as a resource?

Schools will need to contract with her individually on their own.

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15. How can schools collaborate with each other on developing School-Specific Measures?

The Commission will make the submittals available to all schools.

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16. Can a request for additional funding be based on a School-Specific Measure?

We do not have an answer at this time.