

## IQS Annual Review FY'25

School Name: Beacon Academy  
Report Date: 8/2/2025  
Report Compiled By: Traci Hess

The contract between Innovative Quality Schools (IQS) and the school outlines the criteria for the annual school review. In part, it states that IQS will evaluate whether the:

- a) school has been faithful to the terms of the agreement regarding the implementation of the school's design and the learning standards of the Commissioner. (Mission/Program Model)
- b) Board is performing its governance responsibilities. (Governance)
- c) performance of the students and the school meet the expectations as provided in the contract. (Student Performance)
- d) school is using its resources in compliance with the law and is planning for the future. (Finance)
- e) school is meeting the administrative requirements of the law relating to charter schools. (Operations)

Members of the IQS Cadre conducted numerous site visits and several virtual reviews of school records. IQS also provided support by sponsoring three school conferences and two board training workshops.

### **Cumulative Scorecard**

This review provides a summary of findings in each of the above noted performance areas based upon observations and direct interactions with the school. Additional information can be found in the [school's Cumulative Scorecard](#), which documents performance on every contracted measure on an annual basis. Please note that this document has one tab for each of the five performance areas outlined above as well as tabs for data and graphs.

### **Continuous Improvement Expectations**

The charter contract requires that all schools engage in continuous improvement efforts by developing an annual improvement plan, referred to as the School Continuous Improvement Plan. These plans must include action steps for *each measure* for which the school is *not yet meeting the target benchmark* (e.g. scoring below a 3.0).

### **Summary of Performance**

#### **Category 1: Mission/Program Model**

##### **Rating: 2.6**

##### Observed Areas of Positive Performance

- The revised student enrollment process involved the Data Assessment Coordinator and the intervention team, which ensures students are placed correctly and teachers receive the necessary information in a timely manner.
- Satisfaction survey data highlights students feel safe and accepted while engaged in learning.

##### Opportunities for Improvement

- Create and implement curriculum maps aligned to Minnesota Academic Standards.
- There is room for improvement within learning and/or parent communication of the learning that occurs at Beacon Academy.

- Please include questions aligned with the contracted goals around teacher satisfaction in the annual survey (professional roles, responsibilities, and professional development).

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| Scorecard Measures Not Meeting the Target Benchmark:   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 1.c Curriculum</li> <li>➤ 1.d Standards</li> <li>➤ 1.h Parent Satisfaction</li> <li>➤ 1.i Teacher Satisfaction</li> </ul> |

**Category 2: Governance**

**Rating: 3.2**

Observed Areas of Positive Performance

- Conflict of interest is an agenda item at every meeting and documented in the minutes.
- Board meeting dates, agenda, and minutes are posted in a timely manner on the website. Board packets are well-prepared, and Board discussions are purposeful and thorough.

Opportunities for Improvement

- Finalize and approve a strategic plan.
- Create and implement a development plan for the Board

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| Scorecard Measures Not Meeting the Target Benchmark:   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 2.g Strategic Plan</li> <li>➤ 2.i Board Training</li> </ul> |

**Category 3: Student Performance**

**Rating: 2.3**

Observed Areas of Positive Performance

- The majority (76%) of students were rated as low risk in the academic behavior domain by their teachers, which shows students have the skills necessary for preparing, participating, and benefitting from instruction.
- The majority (75.5%) of students were rated as low risk in the social behavior domain by their teachers, which shows students have the ability to understand social norms, empathize, and demonstrate perspective-taking skills.
- Students at Beacon maintain an average daily attendance of 91%.

Opportunities for Improvement

- Careful review of academic performance is critical for Beacon Academy; students are not performing in math and reading on FastBridge and the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments, as well as a gap in achievement for students who qualify for free or reduced meals.

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| Scorecard Measures Not Meeting the Target Benchmark:  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 3.a Reading Growth</li> <li>➤ 3.b Math Growth</li> </ul> |

- 3.c MCA Reading Proficiency
- 3.d MCA Math Proficiency
- 3.e Equity in Achievement
- 3.Early Literacy

**Category 4: Finance**

**Rating: 3.7**

Observed Areas of Positive Performance

- The Board maintains a collaborative relationship with its bond holder and management company.
- The full Board serves on the Finance Committee, which shows its commitment to the continued proactive and solid financial standing and ensures Beacon is able to fulfill its mission of serving students.

Opportunities for Improvement

- All scorecard measures were at least a 3.0, which is the target benchmark.

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| Scorecard Measures Not Meeting the Target Benchmark: |
| ➤ None   |

**Category 5: School Operations**

**Rating: 3.5**

Observed Areas of Positive Performance

- As the school navigated a reduction and restructuring of administrative staff, Beacon maintained its record of meeting all reporting requirements.
- The school remains responsive in securing licensed staff, which can be challenging in the current educational setting.

Opportunities for Improvement

- Ensure the school’s website includes the information required by statute for all schools.
- Complete and share an annual report with stakeholders.

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| Scorecard Measures Not Meeting the Target Benchmark:     |
| ➤ 5.f Website Compliance<br>➤ 5.h State and Federal Laws |

**Overall Performance Summary**

Beacon Academy has endured significant challenges since the COVID pandemic. The perseverance of the Board, administration, and school community is evident as the school ends the year with a positive fund balance and continued commitment to the mission and vision of the organization. Approving a strategic plan will secure this forward momentum. Looking ahead, it is critical for school leadership to investigate reasons behind students’ continued academic struggles. Creating a plan for increasing performance, careful monitoring, and recognizing successes is paramount. Consider applying for an IQS grant to help with the process.