On Dec. 16, the IPS Board of School Commissioners voted to not renew Ignite Achievement Academy’s Innovation Agreement. This means the school will no longer use the name Ignite Achievement Academy and will have new school leadership, starting with the 2022-23 school year.

This difficult decision was made for a variety of reasons, all of which are rooted in the belief that all students deserve the best the district has to offer.

To help staff, students, families and community partners better understand the transition process, we have developed the following FAQs.

**Why is IPS not renewing its Innovation Agreement with Ignite Achievement Academy for the 2022-23 school year?**

The decision for non-renewal includes:

- Four years into its turnaround status, Ignite remains below the IPS average and the average for similar schools for ISTEP/ILEARN proficiency in both math and ELA. **Note:** There was no testing in 2020.
  - In ELA, Ignite scores dropped considerably (25% in 2018, 6% in 2019, and 4% in 2021) placing the school in the bottom 20% of the IPS family of schools for both 2019 and 2021. More specifically, the school was third from the bottom in 2019 and fourth from the bottom in 2021.
  - In math proficiency, Ignite dropped from 10% proficiency in 2018 to 4% in 2019 and 4% in 2021.
  - In both subject areas, Ignite's proficiency was 8% in 2018, dropped to 2% in 2019 and recovered to 5% in 2021. Despite the recovery, the school has remained in the bottom 20% for both subject areas every year since 2018.

- While Ignite did see gains in IREAD (11%), the school only had a 56.4% pass rate with 24 of its 55 third graders not passing IREAD. This percentage is only 1.7% higher than the year prior to Ignite’s restart in school year 2016-17.

- Enrollment has declined over the years, reaching a low of 354 students (from approximately 500) at ADM this year. These changes in enrollment do not correspond to the changes in neighboring populations.

- Ignite has a high suspension rate, placing it in the Top 10 in the district among K-12 schools.

- Staff retention for the 2021-22 school year is 46% — nearly 20 percentage points lower than any of the IPS direct-run schools.
  - District data shows Ignite has the lowest staff retention of any of the schools in the IPS portfolio of schools.

- Other factors for non-renewal include findings during a joint site visit at Ignite in Fall 2021 between IPS and the Office of Education Innovation (OEI) — Ignite's charter authorizer:
  - Lack of application of school-adopted curricula, especially in language arts.
  - Limited parent stakeholder engagement.
  - Need for stronger adult-to-student culture and productive interactions, particularly within the classrooms.
  - Concerns with special education and English Learner instruction compliance and efficacy.

- Overall, the school’s outcomes have remained flat or declined and inputs have not improved over the course of several years.
Ignite Achievement Academy Transition
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What will happen at Ignite for the remainder of the 2021-22 school year?
The current staff and leadership will remain in place and students should not experience any dramatic changes. The school will also continue to run as Ignite Achievement Academy through the end of the 2021-22 school year.

The Office of Education Innovation (OEI) will continue its regular academic, finance and governance meetings with Ignite leadership to help ensure minimal disruptions for students. IPS will work with the school leadership team to prepare for a transition in operations.

What is the plan for the school moving forward — with the 2022-23 school year?
The school is not closing next year and will remain open to serve students. We hope to have a plan finalized in early winter – late January or early February — regarding what families and students can expect next school year. The choices are to either return the school back to an IPS direct-run school or to partner with a different Innovation operator for future management of the school.

Current Ignite students or those who reside within the school's boundary next year have a guaranteed right to return/attend the school.

Ignite has a charter. What happens to the charter?
Ignite holds a charter that authorized by the Mayor’s Office of Education Innovation (OEI). The IPS recommendation to not review the schools Innovation Agreement with the district is moving forward — independent of the status of the charter.

For questions regarding next steps from OEI, families can call 317.327.3601 or email oei@indy.gov.

Why is the school — under its current leadership — allowed to continue through the end of the school year if IPS is ending the Innovation Agreement?
The Innovation Agreement runs through the end of this year school, and it is a legally binding contract. While performance at the school has not been satisfactory and we believe students deserve more, current circumstances at the school do not necessitate a mid-year shift in operator. Starting a new chapter for the school at the beginning of next school year allows IPS to thoughtfully plan next steps for the school in partnership with the community.

IGNITE TRANSITION TIMELINE: 2022–23 SCHOOL YEAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK OF JANUARY 10</th>
<th>WEEK OF JANUARY 18</th>
<th>END OF JANUARY</th>
<th>FEBRUARY</th>
<th>MARCH</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community meetings to determine desired characteristics in next school leader/features of school</td>
<td>Community meetings to engage with school leader applicants</td>
<td>IPS leadership makes decision about path forward for Ignite – Innovation partner or direct-run, based off of community input and internal selection process</td>
<td>Continued individual and/or small group meetings with final leader candidate or prospective Innovation leader</td>
<td>IPS Board must take action, either on hire of principal for IPS direct-managed route or new Innovation agreement route</td>
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MORE INFORMATION
For more FAQs, please visit the Ignite Transition webpage at www.myips.org; click on the Central Services tab then the Portfolio Management tab.

You can email questions to ignitetransition@myips.org.