Innovative Quality Schools

An approved authorizer of chartered schools in Minnesota

IQS Annual Review FY'26

School Name: Kalon Prep Academy
Report Date: July 31, 2026
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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 a board training workshop.

Cumulative Scorecard

This review provides a summary of each performance area based upon data, 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. 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). IQS has an optional template that can be used and expects that schools develop and communicate their improvement plans to IQS no later than October 1.

Summary of Performance

Category 1: Mission/Program Model
Rating: 3.6

Observed Areas of Positive Performance

- Curriculum and educator reviews ensure alignment to state standards and fidelity of implementation. Educators receive coaching through backward planning and modeling. Formal reviews are supplemented by weekly informal observations and student feedback. Students report appreciation for the support and teacher quality.
- REACH (Relationships, Education, Accountability, Character, and Hard Work) continues to be embedded throughout Kalon — in classes, goal-planning sessions, restorative circles, and daily interactions. This integration is supported by the director's coaching of new staff in relationship-building and the founders' orientation to the school's history and philosophy. Documentation of evidence-based activities, including the weekly restorative circles, could be improved.

Opportunities for Improvement

- IQS commends the school for successfully meeting the target benchmark across all measures in this category. To explore potential opportunities for further improvement, please refer to the cumulative scorecard.

Scorecard Measures Not Meeting the Target Benchmark:
➢ All Scorecard measures were at or above the 3.0 target benchmark.

Category 2: Governance
Rating: 4.0

Observed Areas of Positive Performance

- During this school year, the Board incorporated legislative changes and feedback from IQS to add 'no clear majority' to their bylaws. These bylaws are considered a model for charter school organization, reflecting best practices in governance and compliance.
- The Board continued to implement the strategic plan approved on January 16, 2023. The plan includes action plans and qualitative measurements to support attainment of the school's goals.
- The Board continues to maintain strong retention, which helps preserve institutional knowledge. Membership aligns with the school's bylaws and Minnesota charter school law.

Opportunities for Improvement

- IQS commends the school for successfully meeting the target benchmark across all measures in this category. To explore potential opportunities for further improvement, please refer to the cumulative scorecard.

Scorecard Measures Not Meeting the Target Benchmark:
➢ All Scorecard measures were at or above the 3.0 target benchmark.

Category 3: Student Performance

Rating: 3.1

Observed Areas of Positive Performance

- Consistent attendance was up 14% from last year, thanks to a school-wide effort that included a new counselor. Survey data shows that students feel safe and want to be at school.
- The school consistently demonstrates a strong commitment to college and career readiness. Nearly all students participate annually in work experiences, job shadows, internships, or postsecondary coursework, reflecting sustained success in preparing students for individualized postsecondary and career pathways through hands-on learning and mentorship support.

Opportunities for Improvement

- Just under half of students met or exceeded their individual projected growth goals on NWEA MAP Math, as measured from fall to spring.
- Overall student satisfaction is lower than the target benchmark, particularly in the areas of student learning and acceptance.
- Teacher satisfaction is also lower than the target benchmark, particularly concerning satisfaction with their professional roles

Scorecard Measures Not Meeting the Target Benchmark:
➢ 3f. NWEA MAP Growth, Math ➢ 3h. Student Satisfaction ➢ 3j. Teacher Satisfaction

Category 4: Finance

Rating: 3.9

Observed Areas of Positive Performance

- Financial reports and expenditures continued to be reviewed regularly by the Finance Committee, school leadership, and the Board. Monthly Board meeting records reflected ongoing review and approval of expenditures and financial reports.

- Kalon's leadership team regularly provides input on facilities and the school's needs and wants, such as food choices, library books, and kitchen needs. The school is committed to aligning expenditures with its goals and mission/vision, as reflected in the proposed, revised, and approved budget expenditures approved by the Board.

Opportunities for Improvement

- IQS commends the school for successfully meeting the target benchmark across all measures in this category. To explore potential opportunities for further improvement, please refer to the cumulative scorecard.

Scorecard Measures Not Meeting the Target Benchmark:
➢ All Scorecard measures were at or above the 3.0 target benchmark.

Category 5: School Operations

Rating: 3.5

Observed Areas of Positive Performance

- This year, the school established onboarding and oversight procedures for staff qualifications, licensure, and criminal background checks. Background checks are conducted annually, and the school verifies paraprofessional qualifications prior to employment.
- Kalon uses one provider for all school insurance policies, which meets state and IQS contractual requirements. Kalon regularly requests bids for insurance quotes.

Opportunities for Improvement

- Despite a strong policy review process, the school lacks two required policies: Lead and Student Journalism; both policies are currently being developed.
- While the school shares information about their offerings and has enrollment procedures on their website, they did not document dissemination activities in accordance with 124E.17 subd.1(a). Such efforts must be summarized in future charter school annual reports.

Scorecard Measures Not Meeting the Target Benchmark:
➢ 5f. School Board Policies Implementation ➢ 5k. State Reporting Requirements

Overall Performance Summary

Kalon Prep Academy had a strong FY26 review, with average scores above the target benchmark in all five categories. Highlights include strong governance, sound financial management, high-quality instructional support, and a positive school culture centered on the REACH model. The school also made meaningful progress in student attendance and continues to excel in college and career readiness. While a few student performance and operational measures remain areas for improvement, the overall review reflects a well-managed school committed to continuous improvement and student success.