



# Introduction to Developing a Geographic Adaptation of CHPS Criteria For Public or Private Entities

Welcome to the only customizable high performance building criteria specifically for learning environments! This primer describes how public and private organizations can work with the Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS) to create a local version of the CHPS Criteria adapted to work for their schools. State agencies, private firms including utilities, funders, energy organizations, and any other entity interested in sponsoring and/or adopting a high performance school criteria tailored to a specific location or region is eligible to partner with us.

The CHPS philosophy is that successfully creating high performance schools involves collaboration among stakeholders and adoption of best practices, including criteria, tailored to local climate, regulations, and policies. Our ability to work with local partners to provide adaptations is a hallmark of high performance that results in better learning environments and better outcomes for students and the adults who work with them. We look forward to every opportunity to bring our criteria to new areas.

CHPS was incorporated in 2002 as a nonprofit to assist California's PK-14 schools with creating the best possible learning environments while conserving natural resources and lowering operating costs. Almost immediately, CHPS received inquiries from education and energy organizations in other states regarding how they could apply the same approach. In response, CHPS started offering licenses for our content for use outside of California. When demand grew in number and substance, CHPS, in 2009, expanded into a national organization. We now offer partner entities multiple options based on a national template to suit their needs and interests.

## Framework

The CHPS Criteria framework is a 250-point system across seven building performance categories that recognizes achievement when a school project reaches a minimum threshold. CHPS has set thresholds for each project type at both a basic recognition and superior recognition level.

The seven categories of high performance are Integration, Indoor Environmental Quality, Energy, Water, Site, Materials & Waste, and Operations. Each category contains a mix of prerequisites that form the foundation of a high performance school and optional credits that allow each project to achieve what is most important in that particular school. Points are weighted across the categories according to the three long-standing priorities of CHPS that put the health and well-being of the students first, emphasize the school's or district's ability to operate the building affordably and appropriately, and foster good environmental outcomes.

To facilitate the development of adaptations, CHPS provides two templates of the framework: the CHPS Core Criteria and US-CHPS.

- The **Core Criteria** is a set of essential prerequisites and accompanying credits totaling 200 points that allows for the highest level of customization. CHPS works with partners to complete the criteria and bring the total points to 250. The Core Criteria is not for end users (school projects); the local criteria must first be finalized .

- **US-CHPS** is a fully enabled version of the criteria totaling 250 points that can be adopted as is or modified to a limited extent to fit local building codes, priorities, regulations, etc. US-CHPS is ready for end users.

## Pathways for Adaptation

CHPS offers adaption options with negotiable terms for flexibility in customization and engagement.

1. **Service Agreement:** Available to any entity. CHPS retains primary ownership and management of the criteria and the partner provides funding, advisory services, some content oversight, and any applicable administration at the local level. Partners choose to start with US-CHPS or the Core Criteria, depending on their desired level of customization. The partner has a greater or lesser role as co-manager, depending on terms.
2. **License:** Available for state agencies involved in school construction or education only. The agency owns and customizes the criteria with assistance and guidance from CHPS. The agency maintains the product over time, with CHPS retaining a role as an advisory partner. License holders may choose to start with the Core Criteria or US-CHPS.

## What to Expect under Service Agreements only

Full details of all Service Agreement terms, responsibilities, and expectations will be part of discussions and negotiations. Basic terms are as follows:

- Fees include meetings, criteria development time, initial outreach, and initial trainings. Fees cover the costs for CHPS staff to participate in-person during key meetings and trainings.
- All customizations are done in collaboration with a local advisory committee established for that purpose. CHPS and the partner will jointly assemble and lead the advisory committee.
- CHPS sets parameters around what can be customized, and all modifications require approval by the CHPS Board of Directors before they become effective. In general, partners are allowed to set more stringent standards than in the template and to substitute equivalent or stricter local codes for national ones. Partners are not allowed to weaken criteria or to remove prerequisites.
- Partners are expected to contribute to annual criteria maintenance and scheduled updates. CHPS conducts a full update of the criteria every five years and interim, moderate revisions every two years. Minor corrections and updates are made on an ongoing basis. CHPS is available to work with partners to obtain funding for updates, if needed.
- CHPS is available to provide additional services, such as program materials development or additional training.
- Annual membership with CHPS is required during the life of the adaptation.

## Working with CHPS Recognition Programs

CHPS offers two national discretionary recognition programs for new and renovated schools, known as CHPS Verified™ and CHPS Designed™. Fees for the programs are paid to CHPS project-by-project by the registrants. Some state agencies cover the fees; some do not.

CHPS never requires participation in CHPS Verified or CHPS Designed as a condition of using the criteria. State agencies (i.e. program administrators) may opt to have schools participate or may operate their own form of recognition. The terms *CHPS Verified*, *CHPS Verified Leader*, and *CHPS Designed* are trademarked and therefore cannot be used by any program not operated by CHPS.

CHPS is available to provide services in support of recognition, such as training on CHPS programs or development of a partner's proprietary program. For general information on how the CHPS programs work, see <https://chps.net/recognition-programs>.

## Fees\*

### A. License (state agencies or regional entities serving states only)

- License Fee: based on student population, starting at \$7,500
- Annual Membership Fee\*\*: as published each year on <https://chps.net/join-us>, currently \$4,999 for state agencies
- Criteria Update Fees: optional to involve CHPS, rate in effect at time of update (currently \$125 per hour), flat fee may be negotiated

### B. Service Agreement for Custom Version based on Core Criteria

- Development Fee: based on student population, starting at \$50,000
- Annual Membership Fee\*\*: per member category, see <https://chps.net/join-us> for current dues
- Annual Maintenance Fee\*\*\*: per agreement, starting at \$5,000
- 5-Year Update Fee (at time of update): starting at \$20,000

### C. Service Agreement using US-CHPS Criteria with Local Amendment

- Development Fee: based on scope and student population, starting at \$25,000
- Annual Membership Fee\*\*: per member category, see <https://chps.net/join-us> for current dues
- Annual Maintenance Fee\*\*\*: per agreement, starting at \$2,500
- 5-Year Update Fee (at time of update): starting at \$10,000

### D. Service Agreement using US-CHPS Criteria with No Customization

- Development Fee: none
- Annual Membership Fee\*\*: per member category, see <https://chps.net/join-us> for current dues

### E. Optional Additional Services

- Support and Consulting: per scope at rate of \$125/hour. Examples: outreach, training, materials, studies/reports, analysis, custom tools, and program design.
- CHPS Recognition (for school projects, see above): fees paid by registrant at time of registration, see <https://chps.net/recognition-programs> for current fees

\*All fees are subject to revision.

\*\*Annual Membership Fees must be paid to retain all licenses and service agreements. For license holders, a portion of the membership covers the partner's subscription to future editions of the CHPS Criteria.

\*\*\*Annual maintenance fees may be reduced or waived if the volume of participation in CHPS recognition programs supports the adaptation or if the partner's membership fee is determined to cover the costs.