



Delaware Application for New Charter Schools

Technical Assistance Session
October 29, 2015

Agenda Overview

- Welcome & Introductions
- Review Agenda & Overview
- DOE Mission & Goals
- Charter School Office Mission, Vision & Goals
- Charter Overview
- Performance Framework
- The Authorizing Process
- Resources
- Questions

DDOE Mission Statement

The Delaware Department of Education is committed to promoting the highest quality education for every Delaware student by providing visionary leadership and superior service.

Charter School Office Mission, Vision and Goals

Our Mission

- To provide high-quality public school options for all Delaware students and their families through:
- Upholding charter school autonomy;
- Clear and transparent requirements and systems;
- Rigorous application processes;
- Renewing of only schools that meet or exceed high performance standards; and
- Protecting student and public interests.

Our Vision

Be a nationally-recognized charter school authorizer by creating a diverse portfolio of high-achieving schools that strike a balance between academic rigor and joy and that offers genuine educational alternatives for all students and their families.

- Our Core Values**
- Students First
 - Accountability
 - Collaboration
 - Transparency
 - Integrity
 - Excellence
 - Dedication

CHARTER OVERVIEW



Charter School Law

- Enacted in 1995, the charter school legislation is intended to:
 - Improve student learning;
 - Encourage the use of different and innovative or proven school environments and teaching and learning methods;
 - Provide parents and students with improved measures of school performance and greater opportunities in choosing public schools within and outside their school districts; and
 - Provide for a well-educated community.
- Through charter schools, DDOE expects to provide families with innovative and proven educational options but with one thing in common: ***quality education***.
- See 14 *Del. C. Ch. 5* (Click [here](#))

Delaware Charter School Landscape

- **27** Charter Schools
 - 20 New Castle County
 - 6 Kent County
 - 1 Sussex County
- **24** State-authorized charter schools
- **3** District authorized charter schools (Red Clay)
- **14,541** Students enrolled in charter schools
- **2** New School set to open in Fall 2016

Charter Application Approval Rates

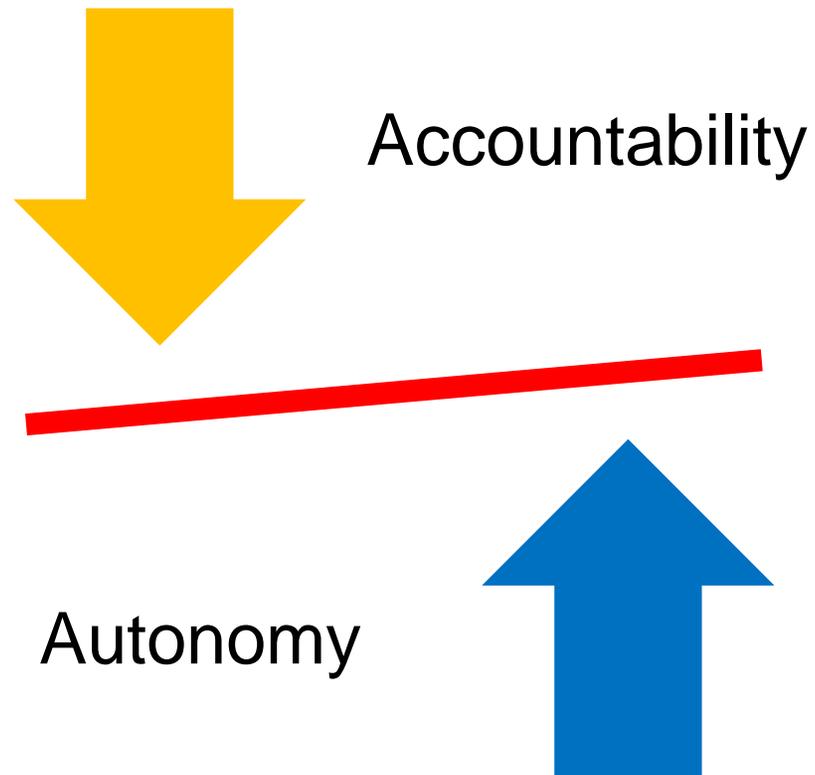
Year	# of Applications	# Approved	# Denied
2007-08	3	0	3
2008-09	4	4	0
2009-10	9	2	7
2010-11	6	1	5
2011-12	5	3	2
2012-13	4	3	1
2013-14	8	4	4
2014-15	2	0	2
Total	39	17	22
Pct.		44%	56%

PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK



What is a Performance Framework?

- Document that sets forth *agreed upon* expectations of performance and compliance
- Established in the charter agreement
- Basis for school evaluation, monitoring, and intervention that informs an authorizer's high stakes decision-making



Performance Framework Sections

Academic

Is the
academic
program a
success?

Financial

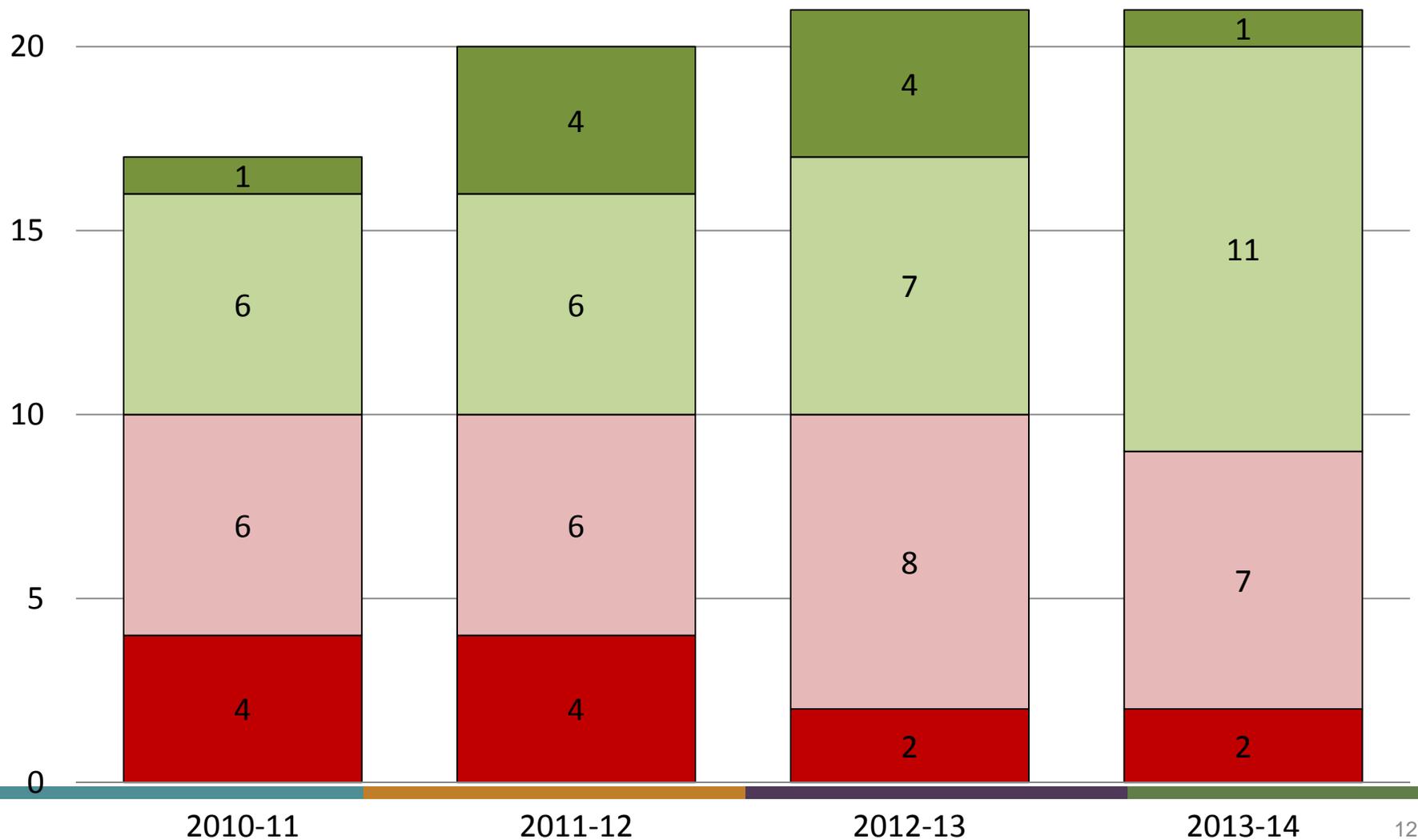
Is the school
financially
viable?

Organizational

Is the
organization
effective and
well-run?

2013-14 Academic Framework Overall Ratings

■ Falls Far Below Standard ■ Does Not Meet Standard ■ Meets Standard ■ Exceeds Standard

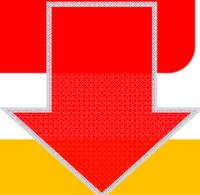


THE AUTHORIZING PROCESS



The Authorizing Process

The purpose is to improve the educational options available to children and families by...



Approving only strong, demonstrably viable applications



Renewing schools only if they meet or exceed performance expectations.

Key Highlights of the Application

- The Department will not accept any applications that propose new charter schools located in the City of Wilmington in this application cycle.
- Consider the potential positive and negative impact of the proposed new school on the schools and the community from which the charter school's new students will likely be drawn.
- Delaware Performance Appraisal System (DPAS II)

Timeline & Process

Date	Event
<p>October 29, 2015 10:30 a.m. November 17, 2015 1:00 p.m.</p>	<p>During the technical assistance meetings for applicants, DDOE personnel will explain the application process, format and timelines, and address applicant questions about the process.</p>
<p>January 4, 2016 12:00 pm EST (recommended submission time)</p>	<p>The deadline for applications to be received by the DDOE Charter School Office (CSO). The deadline for the Department to inform the superintendents of the district in which a new charter school is proposed.</p>
<p>January 4 – 21, 2016</p>	<p>The DDOE conducts an Initial Review of all applications for completeness and viability. Applicants who do not warrant full review will be notified by January 22, 2016.</p>
<p>January 25 – 29, 2016</p>	<p>The CSO provides an opportunity for an interview to those applicants with submissions deemed to be sufficient for a full review.</p>

Timeline & Process

Date	Event
February 1 – 5, 2016	Public Hearings are held for each application undergoing full review.
February 5, 2016	The CSO issues the accountability committee initial reports.
February 29, 2016	The applicants submit their responses to the initial reports.
March 8 – 11, 2016	Accountability committee final meetings.
March 18, 2016	The accountability committee's final reports and recommendations are released for each application.
March 21 – 24, 2016	Final public hearings are held for each application.
April 14, 2016	The public record closes.
April 21, 2016	The Secretary of Education makes a decision on each application. If an application is approved, it is submitted to the State Board of Education for assent.

Application Review Criteria

Rating: **Meets the Standard**

- The applicant provides a clear, complete, and convincing response for the section under review.
- Reflects a thorough understanding of key issues.
- Aligns with the legislative intent and approval criteria of the Charter School Law.
- Is fully developed and complete.
- Addresses the criterion with specific and accurate information.
- Demonstrates a high degree of preparation in developing the response.
- Presents a clear, realistic picture of how the school expects to operate.
- Inspires confidence in the applicant's capacity to carry out the plan effectively.
- Each section of the application aligns with the overall mission, vision, budget, and the other sections of the application.

Application Review Criteria

Rating: **Does Not Meet the Standard**

- The applicant provides a limited, incomplete, and unconvincing response for the section under review.
- Reflects a minimal understanding of key issues.
- Minimally aligns with the legislative intent and approval criteria of the Charter School Law.
- Is significantly undeveloped or incomplete.
- Addresses the criterion with vague and/or inaccurate information.
- Demonstrates minimal preparation in developing the response.
- Presents a vague, general picture of how the school expects to operate.
- Raises substantial concerns about the viability of the plan and/or the applicant's ability to carry out the plan effectively.
- Each section of the application does not or minimally aligns with the overall mission, vision, budget, and the other sections of the application.

CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS



BUDGET & FINANCE OVERVIEW



Resources

- Next TA Session: November 17, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. at DDOE – Townsend Building – 2nd Floor Cabinet Room
- [Charter Performance Framework](#)
- Performance Framework Guidance Documents:
 - [Academic Guidance & Methodology Document](#)
 - [Financial Guidance & Methodology Document](#)
 - [Organizational Guidance & Methodology Document](#)
- Applicable Statutes & Regulations
 - [14 Del. C. Ch. 5](#)
 - [14 DE Admin. Code 275](#)
- [Charter School Reference Manual](#)

Contact Information

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Questions

