

Overview of the Charter Renewal Process 2014

Delaware Department of Education
Charter School Office

April 9, 2014

Topics to be discussed

- Charter Law - Quick review of changes to statute and regulation
- Overview of the Renewal Process and Timeline
- Renewal application
- Questions

HB 165

Core changes include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Creates a charter based upon a charter contract entered into after final approval –defines the roles, powers, and responsibilities of both school and authorizer
 - The Performance Agreement is a component of the charter contract
- Adds the opportunity for public comment and public hearings to be considered by the CSAC and requires that at least one hearing be held prior to the CSAC's final report
- Requires charters to have a satisfactory plan for board governance training for new members and a full board training at least once every three years
- Requires the school to have a satisfactory plan in the case of closure or dissolution that includes set aside funds to cover staff salaries paid over a 12 month period
- Renewing charters must submit their annual report by September 30th (in conjunction with their renewal application)
- Audits are due to the DOE by October 1

HB 165 continued...

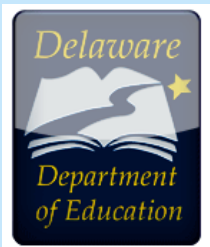
Renewal section added to Code (§514A) – was not previously specified as different than review of new applications

- Allows charters to be reviewed based on their performance and compliance with their charter. It utilizes the Performance Framework, terms of the charter contract, and the Performance Agreement as the basis for those decisions
- Allows the authorizer to renew for five years or in the case of high performing charters – two successive five year terms
- Requires the authorizer to provide a renewal report outlining the school's performance and provide notice of any weaknesses or concerns that may jeopardize their renewal. This is done by April 30th prior to their September 30th renewal application due date
- Changes the renewal timeline for decisions from 90 working days to 30 working days (this may change yet again....)

Regulation 275

- Defines
 - Annual Report for charter schools as outlined in §513
 - Charter Contract
 - Redefines Renewal to align with changes in code
- Provides that the decision to approve or disapprove a charter application is based upon a review of the record. The record includes:
 - the application and documents filed in support therewith,
 - the Charter Contract,
 - Performance Review Reports,
 - reports from the CSAC,
 - public comments,
 - compliance with the Performance Agreement,
 - renewal report,
 - audits,
 - student testing data, and
 - parent complaint documentation.
- Aligns deadlines for applications, annual reports, and audits with changes made in Code

Renewal Process and Timeline



2014-2015 Renewal Timeline

Date	Task
April 2014	Charter School Office (CSO) meets with leadership of renewing charter schools during last week of April to discuss performance to date and renewal application; charter renewal report and charter renewal application guidance issued to renewing schools by April 30; schools have 10 working days to respond to the renewal report; webinar to discuss the renewal process, the renewal timeline, and address any questions regarding the process.
May 2014	Charter renewal reports posted on the DDOE website; renewal application posted on DDOE website.
July 2014	Possible additional renewal information session (to be determined).
September 30	Deadline for the submission to the DDOE Charter School Office of renewal applications and all supporting documents, including appropriate curricular documents for review, Performance Agreement and Annual Report. Superintendents of respective districts informed of submissions of renewal applications with link to applications.
October 1	Renewal applications and all supporting documents, Annual Reports and Performance Review Reports submitted to the Charter School Accountability Committee (CSAC). Public comment period begins.
October 6 & 7	Hold first public hearings.
October 8 & 9	Initial CSAC meeting with applicants. Dialogue between members of the CSAC and representatives of the renewing charter school.
October 13	CSAC issues initial report.
October 28	Renewing charter applicants' responses to CSAC initial report due.
October 30	2nd CSAC meeting. This is a public meeting of the CSAC where discussion may occur regarding additional information provided <u>within</u> the applicant's response.
November 5	CSAC issues final report.
November 6	Hold 2 nd public hearings to be held in the county in which the schools are located.
November 10	Public comment period ends; expedited transcripts posted to DDOE website.
November 13	State Board of Education meeting at which the Secretary of Education will provide his decision on each renewal application.

Renewal Application

- Undergoing revisions for further streamlining
- Due September 30, 2014 (but this may change....)
- Academic and Organizational Performance Review Reports will be provided to renewing charter schools in late summer in order to inform their Annual Reports and renewal applications. As the Financial Performance Review Report is dependent upon the audit, please provide either a final or draft audit to the Charter School Office as soon as possible. The statutory deadline for the submission of audits is October 1.

The Performance Agreement – for Renewing Schools (due on September 30)

Academic Performance Expectations

{Insert charter school's name} overall academic rating is _____. By {insert year, no later than the next renewal year}, our expectation is to achieve the overall rating of "Meets" or "Exceeds" standard as measured by the Academic Performance Framework. Each year, we will show growth within our overall rating putting us on track to achieve our academic performance expectations. This progress will be monitored through our annual performance review.

Mission Specific Goals (optional):

Financial Performance Expectations

{Insert charter school's name} overall financial rating is _____. By {insert year of next renewal}, our expectation is to achieve the overall rating of "Meets" standard as measured by the Financial Performance Framework. Each year, we will be on track to demonstrate economic viability and achieve our financial performance expectation. This progress will be monitored through our annual performance review.

Organizational Performance Expectations

{Insert charter school's name} overall organizational rating is _____. By {insert year of next renewal}, our expectation is to achieve the overall rating of "Meets," as measured by the Organizational Performance Framework. Each year, we will be on track to demonstrate performance aligned with those organizational performance expectations. This progress will be monitored through our annual performance review.

Annual report – due September 30

DELAWARE CHARTER SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT

CHARTER SCHOOL INFORMATION

Charter School Name:

Mailing Address:
City/State/Zip:

Email:
Telephone:
Fax:
Website:

Head of School

Date

Head of School

Date



Board President

Date



SUBMISSION DEADLINE: December 1st (September 30th for renewing charter schools)

All schools submit one (1) signed copy (PDF via email preferred) to the DDOE Charter School Office

Renewal Decision – November State Board of Education Meeting

As stated in 14 Del. C. Ch. 5 §514A(g), in making charter renewal decisions every approving authority shall:

- Ground its decisions in evidence of the school's performance over the term of the charter contract in accordance with the performance agreement set forth in the charter contract;
- Ensure that data used in making renewal decisions are available to the school and the public; and
- Provide a public report summarizing the evidence basis for each decision.

Charter Contract Development Update

- DDOE consultant Paul O'Neill developed template
- Currently under review by DOE counsel
- Short (currently 4 pages)
- *Does not impose any new obligations on charter schools* – incorporates those already existing in law, regulations, and statute.
- Spells out DOE's obligations to charters as authorizer:
 - Articulating clear standards for charter performance
 - Consistent and transparent monitoring against defined standards
 - Notifying charters when using performance against standards to make quality-focused decisions in the best interests of kids
- Will share draft with Delaware Charter Schools Network when review is complete.

The End

- Questions?
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