

# Delaware Department of Education



## Academy of Dover Charter School Renewal Report

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## Charter School Renewal Report Requirements Under the Law

The charter school law (14 *Del. C.* § 514A) outlines the provisions that the Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) follows for charter renewal and nonrenewal. The DDOE is required to review the preliminary performance of the charter school to determine its compliance with its charter and its satisfaction of the criteria set forth in this title for the purposes of renewal or nonrenewal<sup>1</sup>. 14 *Del. C.* § 514A (c) states that,

(c) No later than April 30, the approving authority shall issue a charter school renewal report and charter renewal application guidance to any charter school whose charter will expire the following year. The renewal report shall summarize the charter school's performance record to date, based on the data required by 79 *Del. Laws*, c. 51 and the charter contract, and shall provide notice of any weaknesses or concerns perceived by the approving authority concerning the charter school that may jeopardize its position in seeking renewal if not timely rectified. The charter school shall have 10 working days to respond to the renewal report and submit any corrections or clarifications for the report.

## Academic Performance

### Changes in the Academic Framework

From School Year (SY) 2010-11 through SY 2013-14, the academic performance of all charter schools were evaluated using the Delaware Academic Framework Reports that were publishing annually. In July of 2015, the DDOE received approval from the United States Department of Education to use 2014-15 as a flexibility year for all schools in order to transition to a new accountability framework<sup>2</sup>. This new accountability report is referred to as the Delaware School Success Framework (DSSF).

For the purposes of reporting the academic achievement for charter schools during this transition period, academic performance is broken down into reporting categories. These categories include:

- ❖ Academic Framework Reporting (2010-11 through 2013-14): This report includes percentages reflecting: Student Progress Over Time (Growth), Student Achievement Status, State and Federal Accountability, Post-Secondary Readiness (High Schools Only), and Mission-Specific Academic Goals which were an optional measure.

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<sup>1</sup> A full copy of 14 *Del. C.* Chapter 5 can be found at: <http://delcode.delaware.gov/title14/c005/>

<sup>2</sup> US DOE Flexibility Letter can be found at [http://www.doe.k12.de.us/cms/lib09/DE01922744/Centricity/domain/232/esea/DEESEA\\_Flex\\_Renewal\\_Letter\\_7-9-15.pdf](http://www.doe.k12.de.us/cms/lib09/DE01922744/Centricity/domain/232/esea/DEESEA_Flex_Renewal_Letter_7-9-15.pdf).

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- ❖ DSSF Reporting (2014-15): This report includes two systems for ratings. Metric ratings represented by a one to five star rating for Academic Achievement, Academic Growth, On-Track to Graduation, and College and Career Readiness. This report also includes Academic Performance ratings in the four core subject areas (English Language Arts (ELA), Math, Science, and Social Studies as well as Academic Growth, On Track to Graduation, and College and Career Preparation that are represented as a percentage.

Because these reports differ in how individual reporting categories are calculated, it would not be appropriate to incorporate the data from the DSSF into the Academic Framework utilized from 2010 through 2014. Because SY14/15 was a flexibility year, the charter school data is reported in relationship to the state for comparison purposes only.

### Delaware Academic Framework Report

Year	1.a. Growth		1.b. Bottom 25%		1.c. Growth to Prof		2.a. Prof		2.b. Overall Subgroup		2.c. District		2.d. Similar Schools		3. AYP	4.a. SAT	4.b. Grad Rate	5.a. Mission Sp	Overall Rating/Scale	
	Math	ELA	Math	ELA	Math	ELA	Math	ELA	Math	ELA	Math	ELA	Math	ELA						
2011-2012	D	M	D	M	D	M	M	D	M	M	D	D	M	M	M	N/A	N/A	N/A	M	55.6
2012-2013	F	D	D	M	D	M	M	M	M	M	D	D	M	E	M	N/A	N/A	N/A	M	55.9
2013-2014	F	F	D	D	D	M	M	D	D	M	D	D	D	M	M	N/A	N/A	N/A	D	39.1

Legend	E = Exceeds Standard	M = Meets Standard	D = Does Not Meet Standard	F = Falls Far Below Standard

\*Grey shading indicates that the number of students tested was insufficient to include results in the overall ratings; results are presented but not included in overall school rating.

According to the Delaware Academic Framework Report, Academy of Dover did not meet State Academic Standards for one of the three years they were assessed. In 2013-14, Academy of Dover did not meet standards on 10 out of 15 measures and showed regression on six measures which had higher ratings the previous year. Additionally, the school's overall rating declined by slightly over 16 percentage points in the 2013-14 School Year.

Delaware School Success Framework

DSSF Year 2014/2015	Academic Performance % Proficiency				Academic Growth		Growth to Proficiency		Track to Gradu ation
	Math	ELA	Science	Social Studies	Math	ELA	Math	ELA	Attendance
Academy of Dover	26.1	38.5	N/A	44.5	29.8	32.6	1.6	10.2	93.3
Delaware	36	50.4	41.6	46.1			23.8	49.9	94.2

\*Academic Growth has a norm of 50%.

According to the DSSF overall rating system, Academy of Dover scored the following ratings for overall school performance:

### School Overall Performance

**Academic Achievement**  
30% of Overall Performance

Students that are proficient have a greater likelihood of entry and success in education and career training beyond high school.

**Academic Growth**  
40% of Overall Performance

Schools with strong growth demonstrate a greater ability to improve student learning over time.

**On Track to Graduation**  
10% of Overall Performance

Students who are on-track are more likely to complete high school on time, as well as succeed in education and training beyond high school.

**College & Career Preparation**  
20% of Overall Performance

Students that maintain or grow to proficiency are more likely to be prepared for success in education and career training beyond high school.

**Legend: What do the stars mean?**

Far Below	Needs Improvement	Approaching	Meets	Exceeds

## Organizational Framework

Year	1a	1b	2	3a	3b	3c	4a	4b	4c	4d	5a	5b	6	OVERALL RATING
11-12	M	M	DNM	M	M	M	DNM	DNM	N/A	M	M	M	M	Meets Standard
12-13	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	DNM	M	M	M	M	M	Meets Standard
13-14	DNM	M	DNM	DNM	M	DNM	M	M	DNM	M	M	DNM	M	Does Not Meet Standard
14-15	M	M	DNM	DNM	DNM	M	DNM	M	DNM	N/A	M	M	M	Does Not Meet Standard

Legend	M = Meets Standards	D = Does Not Meet Standard
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For SY 11-12 and 2012-13, Academy of Dover had overall ratings of ‘Meets Standard’ for the organizational framework reporting. For 2013-14 and 2014-15, the school’s organizational performance regressed with overall ratings of ‘Does Not Meet Standard’ for two consecutive years. In 2013-14, there were 6 out of 13 measures where Academy of Dover received ratings of ‘Does Not Meet Standard’. For 2014-15, there were 5 out of 13 measures where Academy of Dover received ratings of ‘Does Not Meet Standard’.

### Non-Material Violations

In 2012-13, Academy of Dover failed to meet standards for its attendance goals in Measure 4b. The following was noted for the 2011-12 and 2012-13 reporting years:

- Noncompliant with the attendance goal of 95%.

Based on information available to the DOE during the 2013-14 and 2014-15 school years, the charter school materially complied with applicable laws, rules, regulations, and provisions of the charter relating to attendance goals.

In 2013-14 and 2014-2015, Academy of Dover failed to meet standards in staff credentialing requirements. The following was noted.

- Highly-Qualified Teacher (HQT) requirement not met (93.5%)

Based on information available to the DOE during the 2012-13 school year, the charter school materially complied with applicable laws, rules, regulations, and provisions of the charter (including the federal Highly Qualified Teacher requirements within Title II of the ESEA) relating to state certification requirements and background checks.

In 2013-14, Academy of Dover failed to meet standards in health and safety requirements in Measure 5b. The following was noted.

- Noncompliant with the statutory requirements of the Comprehensive School Safety Plan.

### Material Violations

In 2012-2015, Academy of Dover has struggled with meeting Measure 2 by failing to materially comply with applicable laws, rules, regulations, and provisions of the charter relating to financial reporting requirements in 2011-12, 2013-14 and 2014-15. In 2014-15, the following was noted.

- Misuse of funds by now-former School Leader identified by Delaware Auditor of Accounts in June 23, 2015 report
- Poor internal controls identified by Delaware Auditor of Accounts in June 23, 2015 report
- Did not submit payroll internal control plan to Division of Accounting upon request
- Ongoing Charter School Office monitoring of the charter school's website found that documents relating to financial oversight were not posted as required by code at multiple points during the reporting period. These included monthly financial statements, audited financial statements, Citizen Budget Oversight Committee (CBOC) agendas, CBOC minutes, and CBOC meeting notice
- FY15 Audit Results:
  - Qualified opinion
  - 2 material weaknesses (#2014-003 and #2015-001)
  - 1 instance of noncompliance (#2015-001)

For the past two years, Academy of Dover has struggled with meeting Measure 3a by failing to materially comply with applicable laws, rules, regulations and provisions of the charter relating to governance by its board. In 2014-15, the following was noted.

- Non-compliance with State Employees', Officers', and Officials' Code of Conduct by now-former School Principal
- Ongoing Charter School Office monitoring of the charter school's website found that documents relating to governance were not posted as required by code at multiple points during the reporting period. These included Board of Directors meeting minutes, Board of Directors meeting agendas, and Board of Directors meeting notice

In 2011-12 and 2014-15, Academy of Dover has struggled with meeting Measure 3b by failing to materially comply with applicable laws, rules, regulations and provisions of the charter relating to oversight of school management. In 2014-15, the following was noted.

- As noted in formal review, started year without accountability systems for school leader - put in place after school leader departed

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In 2013-14, Academy of Dover received a rating of 'Does Not Meet Standard' for Measure 3c by failing to materially comply with applicable laws, rules, regulations and provisions of the charter relating to relevant reporting requirements to the school's authorizer, state education agency, district education department, and/or federal authorities. The following were noted.

- Noncompliant with the statutory reporting requirements of Title II A.
- Noncompliant with the federal and statutory reporting requirements of Title I, Race to the Top funding, and the Technology Block Grant.
- Noncompliant with the federal reporting requirements of the Children's Internet Protection Act.

Based on information available to the DOE during the 2014-15 school year, the charter school materially complied with applicable laws, rules, regulations and provisions of the charter relating to relevant reporting requirements to the school's authorizer, state education agency, district education department, and/or federal authorities.

In 2011-12 and 2014-15, Academy of Dover received a rating of 'Does Not Meet Standard' for Measure 4a by failing to materially comply with applicable laws, rules, regulations, and provisions of the charter relating to the rights of students. In 2014-15, the following were noted.

- Substantiated incident involving teacher violence against student



## Financial Framework

Year	1a	1b	1c	1d	2a	2b	2c	2d	Overall Rating
11-12	M	D	D	M	NR	F	NR	NA	Does Not Meet Standard
12-13	D	D	D	M	D	F	D	NA	Does Not Meet Standard
13-14	M	M	M	M	M	F	M	NA	Meets Standard
14-15	M	D	M	M	M	D	D	NA	Does Not Meet Standard

  

Legend	E = Exceeds Standard	M = Meets Standard	D = Does Not Meet Standard	F = Falls Far Below Standard	NR = Not reported
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For the Financial Reporting Framework, Academy of Dover failed to meet standards for four of the five years of review.

In 2012-13, Academy of Dover struggled with Measure 1a (Current Ratio) because the school failed to demonstrate that it could pay its obligations for each of the reporting periods. However, the school was able to meet the standards for Measure 1a in 2011-12, 2013-14 and 2014-15.

In 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2014-2015, Academy of Dover struggled to with Measure 1b (Days Cash) because the school failed to meet the 60 day threshold for cash on hand. However, the school was only able meet standards for the measure in 2013-14.

In 2011-12 and 2012-13, Academy of Dover struggled with Measure 1c (Enrollment Variance) because the school failed to meet its authorized projected enrollment targets. However, the school was only able meet projected enrolment targets in 2013-14 and 2014-15. The results of this comparison in relationship to the desired 95% equated to:

- 2011-12 – 85%- Does not meet standard
- 2012-13 – 94% - Does not meet standard

For the past five years, Academy of Dover struggled with Measure 2b (Debt to Asset Ratio) because the school’s liabilities exceeded its assets beyond the .90 threshold for this measure. The following shows the school’s debt to asset ratio for the past five years.

- 2011-12 – 2.49 – Falls Far Below Standard
- 2012-13 – 2.67 – Falls Far Below Standard
- 2013-14 – 1.64 – Falls Far Below Standard
- 2014-15 – 0.95 – Does Not Meet Standard

In 2012-13 and 2014-15, Academy of Dover failed Measure 2c (Cash Flow) because the school failed to demonstrate long-term stability based on both three year cumulative cash flow and

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annual cash flow. Academy of Dover received a rating of 'Does Not Meet Standard' in 2012-13 and 2014-15.