

Authorization of Charter Schools

BOARD MISSION AND VISION FOR AUTHORIZING CHARTER SCHOOLS

The Board seeks to authorize high quality charter schools with innovative, unique, and effective academic programs that are in alignment with the strategic priorities of the Board as set forth in the District's strategic plan.

The Board expects charter school applicants to:

- Demonstrate the capacity of such academic programs to close achievement gaps between high-performing and low-performing groups of public school students; and
- Increase high-quality educational outcomes for exceptional children and youth as defined by KRS 157.200 or students at-risk of academic failure as defined in 701 KAR Chapter 8; and
- Close such achievement gaps and increase such educational outcomes at an accelerated pace so as to exceed the student and school performance and achievement of the non-charter schools in the District.

The Board will enforce the foregoing high expectations for the charter schools it authorizes and will hold them accountable to the terms of their charter contracts.¹

AUTHORIZER ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

The Board shall commit the human and financial resources necessary to conduct its authorizing duties effectively and efficiently. The Superintendent, assisted by the Office of School Choice (Office), shall work with the Board in its capacity as authorizer to ensure quality authorizing in compliance with the duties of a charter school authorizer as set forth in KRS 160.1590 to KRS 160.1599, KRS 161.141 and 701 KAR Chapter 8.²

The Superintendent, assisted by the Office, shall make recommendations to the Board regarding all charter school applicants. With respect to charter school applications and monitoring of existing charter schools, the Superintendent shall not recommend a charter school contract to be executed or continued if fiscal jeopardy or failure to make consistent progress towards the stated objectives of the charter school is evident or a likely outcome. In addition, the Superintendent and Office shall not allow an existing charter school to operate in a manner that would jeopardize the learning, safety, or well-being of its students and shall take appropriate intervention as warranted, up to and including revocation of the charter contract.

The Board shall allow the Superintendent to file a letter objecting to approval of each charter application received based on substantial hardship and shall allow comments at the public hearing from the Superintendent/designee if he or she has filed objections to the charter application. Any letter and supporting evidence filed by the Superintendent/designee must be published on the District website within three (3) days.

The Superintendent, assisted by the Office, shall:

- Receive, review, and recommend to the Board action concerning all complete and properly submitted charter school applications within the timelines established by all applicable statutes and regulations.
- Provide the Board with a comprehensive analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of each charter school application based on the work of the application reviewers.³

Authorization of Charter Schools**AUTHORIZER ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (CONTINUED)**

- Upon positive action by the Board, and approval of an application by the Commissioner of Education, develop for Board approval, in cooperation with the applicant, a charter contract that will be in compliance with all applicable statutes and administrative regulations.⁴
- Submit all required reports to the Kentucky Department of Education within the required timeframe, as established by all applicable statutes and regulations.
- Monitor each charter school's progress towards the goals, objectives, and performance framework established in its charter contract, including but not limited to:
 - Ensuring the charter school is fully compliant with all applicable statutes and regulations, including but not limited to the Kentucky Open Records and Open Meetings laws.
 - Holding the board of directors and officers of the charter school accountable to the Board through student achievement, financial, governance, operational, and climate and culture data that shall be collected throughout the year and provided to the Board at least quarterly.
 - Monitoring the charter school's academic, fiscal, and operational health, as well as school climate and culture, through a transparent accountability system, to include periodic reporting, monitoring visits, and publication of reports via the websites of the Board and the charter school.
 - Documenting, in writing, any discrepancies or deficiencies whether fiscal, educational, operational, or related to school climate and culture of the charter school and the steps and timelines developed by the charter school for correction, and conduct additional monitoring. Copies of the documentation shall be provided to the charter school board of directors and to the Board.⁵
- Make relevant recommendations as may be appropriate for Board consideration, including but not limited to amendment, renewal or nonrenewal, and revocation of a charter contract.⁶
- Ensure the publication of required information on the District website as well as each charter school's website, including but not limited to, the charter school's original application, charter contract, and any contract amendments.
- Ensure compliance by each charter school with its charter contract.⁷

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

Pursuant to Board Policy 01.51, the Superintendent shall prepare administrative procedures designed to facilitate the implementation of this Policy, including procedures governing the Board's performance of its duties under KRS 160.1590 to 160.1599, 161.141, and 701 Chapter 8, as required by 701 KAR 8:020, Section 2.

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RELATED POLICY:

01.911

REFERENCES:

¹KRS 160.1591; 701 KAR 8:020, Section 2

²KRS 160.1594; 701 KAR 8:020, Sections 2 through 8

³KRS 160.1593

⁴KRS 160.1596

⁵KRS 160.1598

⁶KRS 160.1593; KRS 160.1598

⁷KRS 160.1598