

Charter School Renewal Guidelines – *Revisions to Policy CHTR 007*

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Charter School Renewals

Each charter school that the State Board of Education (SBE)/Charter Schools Review Board (CSRB) approves to operate has a time-limited charter term that is not guaranteed for renewal.

NC General Statute governs the renewals and review of charters. Administrative Code ("rules") and SBE Policy also speak to Charter School Renewals.

§ 115C-218.6. Review and renewal of charters.

(a) The Review Board shall review the operations of each charter school at least once prior to the expiration of its charter to ensure that the school is meeting the expected academic, financial, and governance standards.

2024 Renewal Timeline

- Began July 1, 2022
 - Training
 - Self-Studies
 - Data Analysis
 - Site Visits – interviews w/stakeholders
 - Compliance meetings/reviews
- October – final data analysis
- November 6-7 Interviews/Presentations
- December 11-12 Continued
- January 8-9 Continued – Tentative date for final votes on renewal terms by CSR.B.
- January 2024 – Renewals Team (OCS) begins site visits to 2025 Cohort (38 schools).

CHTR 007 Revision Timeline

- **May 2023 CSAB Meeting**
 - OCS presented proposed revisions to CSAB
- **June 2023 CSAB Meeting**
 - OCS presented second revisions following discussion and requests at May meeting.
 - Additional discussion with CSAB.
- **September 2023 CSRB Meeting**
 - CSRB approves final revisions to CHTR 007 Renewal Guidelines

CHTR 007 Revision Overview

- **Revision needed:**
 - Replace the current with General Renewal Guidelines ("Section A Requirements for Renewal") with the Revised General Renewal Guidelines which were approved by the Charter Schools Review Board (CSRB) September 2023.
- All other sections of CHTR 007 will be reviewed for revisions at a later date.

What is a Renewal Guideline?

- A General Renewal Guideline is used to determine renewal term recommendations.
 - 10 Year
 - 7 Year
 - 5 Year
 - 3 Year
 - Nonrenewal or Assumption
- The Charter School Review Board may make an alternate decision not included in the General Renewal Guidelines.

Current and Proposed Policy Guidelines

Recommendations For Improvement

- Reword the 10-year renewal to align exactly with the Renewal Statute.
- Align Non-renewal with the termination statute.
- Add specifications to the 7- and 5-year renewals to more clearly differentiate.
- Add Financial Noncompliance to the guidelines.
- Align the guidelines to what the SBE and Review Board do in practice such as additional factor consideration.

Comparability – Performance

- **Comparable** is defined as a proficiency score that is no less than 5 points of the LEA's Composite score based on the EOG/EOC courses offered.
- **Low-performing** charter schools are those that earn an overall school performance grade of D or F and a school growth score of "met expected growth" or "not met expected growth."
- A **continually low-performing** charter school is a charter school that has been designated by the State Board as low-performing for at least two of three consecutive years.

Current – 10 Year Renewal

- Ten Year Renewal Recommendation:
 - No Current Significant Compliance Issues
 - Financially sound audits last 3 years
 - Academic outcomes have been comparable to the local school administrative unit the last 3 years or have exceeded growth last 3 years

10 Year Renewal (Proposed)

§ 115C-218.6 Review Board **shall** renew a charter upon the request of the chartering entity for subsequent periods of 10 years if ...

(1) The charter school has provided financially sound audits for the immediately preceding three years.

(2) The charter school's student academic outcomes for the immediately preceding three years have been comparable to the academic outcomes of students in the local school administrative unit in which the charter school is located. For purposes of this section, if a school's charter results in it providing services to certain targeted subgroups, the school's academic performance shall be judged in comparison to the academic outcomes of students in the same subgroups in the local school administrative unit where the school is located.

(3) The charter school is substantially in compliance with State law, federal law, the school's own bylaws, and the provisions set forth in its charter granted by the Review Board.

**added language via SL2023-107 (Aug 16, 2023)

Current – 7 Year Renewal

- 7 Year Renewal Recommendation:
 - No Significant Compliance Issues last 2 years
 - Financially sound audits last 2 years
 - Academic outcomes have been comparable to the local school administrative unit at least 2 of 3 years or have exceeded growth last 2 of 3 years.

7 Year Renewal (Proposed)

- No evidence of compliance issues in the past 2 years that would show a pattern of unresolved or consistent issues.
- Financially sound audits last 2 years.
- The school has not been on Financial Noncompliance Disciplinary Status the last 2 years.
- Academic outcomes have been comparable* to the local school administrative unit for the last 2 out of 3 years or has met or exceeded growth in 2 out of the last 3 years. CSRB may also consider the comparability of student subgroups or grade levels to the LEA.
- Not Currently Designated as Low-Performing

Current – 5 Year Renewal

- 5 Year Renewal Recommendation:
 - No Significant Compliance Issues last 2 years
 - Financially sound audits last 2 years
 - Academic outcomes have been comparable to the local school administrative unit at least 2 of 3 years or have met or exceeded growth last 2 of 3 years. *
 - Not currently designated as continually low performing

5 Year Renewal (Proposed)

- No evidence of compliance issues in the past year that would show a pattern of unresolved or consistent issues.
- Financially sound audits last 2 years.
- The school is not currently on Financial Noncompliance Disciplinary Status.
- Academic outcomes comparable* to the local school administrative unit for the last 1 out of 3 years or has met or exceeded growth for the last 1 out of 3 years. CSRB may also consider the comparability of student subgroups or grade levels to the LEA.
- Not currently designated as continually low performing

Current – 3 Year Renewal

- 3 Year Renewal Recommendation:
 - Compliance Issues more than 1 year creating a pattern
 - Inability to provide sound audits for the immediately preceding year
 - Academic outcomes have been comparable to the local school administrative unit at least 1 year of the last 3 years or met growth 2 of 3 years

3 Year Renewal (Proposed)

- Compliance Issues in the past 3 years that show a pattern of unresolved or consistent issues.
- Inability to provide sound audits for the immediately preceding year or the school is currently on Financial Noncompliance Disciplinary Status.
- Academic outcomes have not been comparable* to the local school administrative unit but the school has met growth 1 year out of the immediately preceding 3 years. CSR may also consider the comparability of student subgroups or grade levels to the LEA.

Current – Non-Renewal

- Non-Renewal Recommendation:
 - Current and persistent pattern of compliance issues
 - Financially unsound audits last 2 years of the immediately preceding 3 years
 - Academic outcomes have not been comparable to the local school administrative unit in any of the immediately preceding 3 years and the school has not met growth in the last 2 years
 - Recurring low-performance grade of D or F and a growth score of "met expected growth" or "not met expected growth" for the immediately preceding 3 years

Non-renewal or Assumption (Proposed)

§ 115C-218.95.

The Review Board may terminate, not renew, or seek applicants to assume the charter upon any of the following grounds:

- (1) Failure to meet the requirements for student performance contained in the charter; **
- (2) Failure to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management;
- (3) Violations of law;
- (4) Material violation of any of the conditions, standards, or procedures set forth in the charter;
- (5) Two-thirds of the faculty and instructional support personnel at the school request that the charter be terminated or not renewed; or
- (6) Other good cause identified.

Non-renewal or Assumption

(b1) If a charter school is **continually low-performing**, the Review Board is authorized to terminate, not renew, or seek applicants to assume the charter through a competitive bid process established by the State Board. **However, the Review Board shall not terminate or not renew the charter of a continually low-performing charter school solely for its continually low-performing status if the charter school has met growth in each of the immediately preceding three school years or if the charter school has implemented a strategic improvement plan approved by the Review Board and is making measurable progress toward student performance goals.**

Additional Factors

- Additional Factors that may affect Renewal Recommendation:
 - Persistent patterns of issues and/or unresponsiveness
 - Feedback from Site Visits
 - Declining or Increasing ADM
 - Pattern of high, or low, student and/or staff attrition
- The Charter School Review Board may make an alternate decision not included in the General Renewal Guidelines.
- Any renewal of the Charter can be revoked according to SBE Policy CHTR-010 and statute.
- CSRB and NCSBE reserve the right to add stipulations to any renewal period. *



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