

**NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Policy Manual**

Item	Description
Policy Title	Charter School Renewal Process
Policy Category	Public School Employee Charter Schools Administration (CHTR)
Policy ID	CHTR-007
Policy Date	01/04/2024
Previous Policy Dates	06/01/2000, 09/13/2001, 12/04/2003, 10/05/2006, 03/02/2017, 10/04/2018
Statutory Reference	G.S. 115C-12; 115C-218(a)(6);115C-218.6; 115C-218.95
NC Administrative Code	16 NCAC 06G .0507 CHARTER SCHOOLS RENEWAL PROCESS

Formerly TCS-U-007

General Information

It is stated in G.S. 115C-218.5 that the original charter with the State Board of Education may be granted for up to ten years, although it is the policy of the State Board of Education that initial charters be granted for no more than five years. It is also stated in G.S. 115C-218.6 that the charter may be extended or renewed for up to ten years. Therefore, a process for exercising the renewal option is needed. This policy sets forth such process for the State Board of Education, Charter Schools Review Board, and the Department of Public Instruction.

A. Process for Renewal

The Office of Charter Schools will work with the charter school seeking renewal, various departments and sections within DPI, and any other relevant entity to facilitate the renewal policy and bring recommendations to the

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- Deleted: The North Carolina Charter Schools Renewal Report (NCCSRR) is intended to be such a document.
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- The NC Charter Schools Renewal Report (NCCSRR) is intended to permit the North Carolina State Board of Education (NCSBE) the time to review the information needed to evaluate the progress of the submitting charter school. The renewal process should also be one that will guide charter schools through a self-assessment that becomes an update to the original application and a "roadmap" to future improvement. Furthermore, as a public document, the NCCSRR shall be made available to federal, state, and local educators, policy makers, parents, and the community. It should be constructed with this in mind.
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- This section contains questions related to the viability of the charter school's academic
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Charter Schools Review Board. All Office of Charter Schools Actions (as described below) and the information, responses, and documents collected both historically and during the renewal process (the "Materials") will be compiled by the Office of Charter Schools and made available to the Charter Schools Review Board, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the State Board of Education prior to any recommendations on renewal of a charter.

Section 1: OFFICE OF CHARTER SCHOOLS ACTIONS

The Office of Charter Schools shall take the following actions and communicate a timeline (as well as any necessary corrections to said timeline) with respect to the renewal process:

1. Communicate with the administrators at each renewal school explaining the renewal process, renewal fees, and the Self-Study.
2. Collect the renewal fee payment and receive the charter school's Self-Study (in the form and substance as defined and described in 16 NCAC 06G.0507).
3. Provide training and support for administrators beginning the renewal process.
4. Schedule and conduct meetings and gather Materials with a Department of Public Instruction Compliance Team, which team shall consist of departments and sections within the agency as described more fully below.
5. Conduct in-person and remote site visits, as described more fully below, and gather Materials.
6. Prepare summaries of in-person and remote site visits and include with Materials.
7. Schedule interview(s) with the Charter Schools Review Board for schools seeking renewal.
8. Schedule date(s) the Charter Schools Review Board will meet regarding renewals.

Section 2: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION PORTFOLIO (submitted by the Office of Charter Schools, with the support of departments and sections of DPI).

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Section 2: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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This section will consist of

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NC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
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The DPI Portfolio will consist of the Materials compiled by the Office of Charter Schools with assistance from various departments and sections of DPI that may comprise the Department of Public Instruction Compliance Team, such as School Business, Accountability, Exceptional Children, Federal Programs, and any other office or service of the Department that may have Materials pertinent to the evaluation of the school. All Materials relevant to the charter school seeking renewal shall be provided to the Office of Charter Schools in a timely manner and the Office of Charter Schools will compile these submissions and create the DPI Portfolio, which is to be made available by the Office of Charter Schools to the Charter Schools Review Board, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the State Board of Education prior to any recommendation on renewal of a charter school.

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The following chart is an overview of possible sources of Materials. This is, in no way, an exhaustive list and is not meant to, in any way, limit the resources employed by the schools seeking renewal, the Charter Schools Advisory Board, or the State Board of Education (NCSBE) as they prepare for the future of charter schools.

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AREAS OF COMPLIANCE	SOURCES OF DOCUMENTATION	SOURCES OF INFORMATION
FINANCIAL	Audit report, financial records, reporting schedule, student accounting, etc.	Office of Charter Schools <u>School Business</u> <u>Federal Programs</u>
GOVERNANCE	Concerns brought to the Office of Charter Schools, board agendas and minutes, review of policy making committees, interviews, <u>conflicts of interest policies and adherence to those and other legal requirements</u>	Office of Charter Schools <u>Office of the General Counsel</u>

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AREAS OF COMPLIANCE	SOURCES OF DOCUMENTATION	SOURCES OF INFORMATION
SITE VISITS	School site visits are scheduled as needed throughout the life of a charter term and the Office of Charter Schools will keep records of Materials and summaries. Site visits may include, but are not limited to, the following: instructional observations, facility observations, in-person staff discussions, and student services observations.	Office of Charter Schools Exceptional Children Division School Business Federal Programs
ACCOUNTABILITY	NC accountability results, EC compliance records, Student Information System	Division of Accountability Services Exceptional Children Division Federal Programs *SIS dept

B. GUIDELINES FOR DECISIONS

To receive a recommendation for renewal, the school must meet the requirements outlined in 115C.218.6 and the General Renewal Guidelines below. Absent exceptional and documented circumstances, the General Renewal Guidelines set forth below are used to determine renewal recommendations and decisions. For purposes of these Guidelines:

- The term "Financially Sound Audit" shall mean an audit following generally accepted practices that find financial statements to be presented fairly in all material respects, and provide reasonable assurance that the charter school is financially viable and fiscally responsible.

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G.S.115-218.100 Funds Reserved: ¶

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G.S. 115C-218.100 addresses Funds Reserved for charter schools choosing to participate in the North Carolina Retirement System. All entities should read the statute in its entirety to fully understand any implications for your charter school. ¶

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Reports from the above DPI departments will be sent to the Office of Charter Schools, copied to the charter schools, and forwarded to the Charter Schools Advisory Board.¶

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TENTATIVE TIMELINE

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- The term "Compliance Issues" may include, but is not be limited to, findings of violations of law, policy, or mandatory practices within the following programs and divisions: Exceptional Children, Federal Programs, Beginning Teacher Support Program, Child Nutrition, School Business, the Office of the General Counsel, Accountability, and the Office of Charter Schools.
- The term "Comparable" is defined as a proficiency score that is no less than 2 points of the LEA's Composite score based on the EOG/EOC courses offered.
- A school's charter is considered to result in it providing services to certain targeted subgroups if the charter, as presented in the initial application, directly states an intent to target certain subgroups and its admissions policy and actual enrollment reflect this intent.
- Pursuant to G.S. 115C-218.95(b)(1), the Charter Schools 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 Charter Schools Review Board and is making measurable progress toward student performance goals. It is the policy of the State Board of Education that an approved strategic improvement plan (hereafter "Strategic Improvement Plan") be first approved by the State Board of Education and measurable progress (hereafter "Measurable Progress") toward meeting the Strategic Improvement Plan shall mean evidence of meaningful, positive change in student performance and growth.
- The local school administrative unit shall be considered the local school administrative unit in which the charter school is physically located.
- In the case of a charter school that has been designated as an alternative school for purposes of accountability pursuant to policy CHTR-020, the Charter Schools Review Board shall consider the charter school's performance under the accountability model approved for the school pursuant to policy ACCT-038.

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The State Board of Education shall renew a charter upon the request of the chartering entity for subsequent periods of 10 years, unless one of the following applies:¶
The charter school has not provided financially sound audits for the immediately preceding three years.¶

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If one of the conditions set forth in subdivisions (1) through (3) of this subsection applies, then the §... [7]

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GENERAL RENEWAL GUIDELINES*

▪ 10 Years

1. The charter school has provided Financially Sound Audits for the immediately preceding three years; an

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. If a school's charter results in it providing services to certain targeted subgroups, The Charter Schools Review Board may also consider the comparison to the academic outcomes of students in the same subgroups and in the local school administrative unit where the school is located. Comparability in grade level academic outcomes may also be considered; and

3. The charter school is is currently in compliance, and has been in compliance for the immediately preceding three years, with State law, federal law, the school's own bylaws, and the provisions set forth in its charter granted by the Charter Schools Review Board; and

4. The charter school is not designated as low-performing.

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□ **7 Years**

1. No evidence of Compliance Issues in the past 2 years that would show a pattern of unresolved or persistent issues; and

2. The charter school has provided Financially Sound Audits for the immediately preceding 2 years; and

3. The school has not been on Financial Noncompliance Disciplinary Status at any time in the immediately preceding three years; and

4. 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 each of the immediately preceding 3 years. If a school's charter results in it providing services to certain targeted subgroups, The Charter Schools Review Board may also consider the comparison to the academic outcomes of students in the same subgroups and in the local school administrative unit where the school is located. Comparability in grade level academic outcomes may also be considered; and

5. The school is not currently designated as low-performing.

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5 Years

1. No evidence of Compliance Issues in the past year that would show a pattern of unresolved or persistent issues; and

2. The charter school has provided Financially Sound Audits for the immediately preceding 2 years; and

3. The school is not currently on Financial Noncompliance Disciplinary Status at any time in the immediately preceding two years; and

4. Academic outcomes have been Comparable to the local school administrative unit for 1 out of the last 2 years or has met or exceeded growth in each of the past 3 years. If a school's charter results in it providing services to certain targeted subgroups, The Charter Schools Review Board may also consider the comparison to the academic outcomes of students in the same subgroups and in the local school administrative unit where the school is

located. Comparability in grade level academic outcomes may also be considered.

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3 Years

1. No Compliance Issues in the past year that shows a pattern of unresolved or persistent issues, or, if Compliance Issues exist, there is a Strategic Improvement Plan in place and is making Measurable Progress toward meeting it; and

2. Inability to provide sound audits for the immediately preceding year, but the Strategic Improvement Plan addresses this and there is evidence provided to convince the State Board of Education and Charter Schools Review Board that adequate and successful corrective measures are in place; and

3. Academic outcomes have not been Comparable to the local school administrative unit, but the school has met growth in each of the immediately preceding 3 years, or if the charter school has a Strategic Improvement Plan and is making Measurable Progress toward meeting it. If a school's charter results in it providing services to certain targeted subgroups, The Charter Schools Review Board may also consider the comparison to the academic outcomes of students in the same subgroups and in the local school administrative unit where the school is located. Comparability in grade level academic outcomes may also be considered.

NON- RENEWAL OR ASSUMPTION

1. A Failure to meet the requirements for student performance contained in the charter and 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 **or exceeded** growth the last 2 years **(with either no Strategic Improvement Plan or Measurable Progress identified toward meeting the plan); or**
2. A persistent pattern of failure to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management and **Jack of Financially Sound Audits in 2 of the preceding 3 years; or**
3. A pattern of unresolved, persistent and/or intentional material violations of law; or
4. A pattern of unresolved, persistent and/or intentional material violation of any of the conditions, standards, or procedures set forth in the charter; or
5. Two-thirds of the faculty and instructional support personnel at the school request that the charter be terminated or not renewed; or
6. Current and persistent patterns of material noncompliance with directives of the Office of Charter Schools, the Charter Schools Review Board and/or the State Board of Education; or
7. Other documented good cause identified.

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<p><u>ADDITIONAL FACTORS THAT MAY AFFECT RENEWAL RECOMMENDATION</u></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Feedback from Site Visits</u> 2. <u>Declining or Increasing ADM</u> 3. <u>Pattern of high, or low, student and/or staff attrition</u>
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***Any renewal of the Charter can be revoked according to SBE Policy CHTR-010.
 *CSRB and NCSBE reserve the right to add stipulations to any renewal period.**

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Charter Schools Review Board may at any time initiate revocation proceedings of the charter of any school in accordance with 115C-218.6.

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 B. CORRECTION OF DEFICIENCIES[↑]

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 Any areas of noncompliance requires a charter school to create a Corrective Action Plan. The action plan shall address what the deficiencies are, how the school will proceed in correcting the deficiencies, which parties will be responsible for implementation of the plan, and when implementation will take place. The CSAB and the appropriate division(s) of DPI shall set the parameters for completion of the action plan and its implementation. The period for completion of the action plan and its implementation may not extend beyond the end of the first semester of the final year of the school's current charter. If the CSAB and the DPI determine that implementation of the action plan has corrected the school's deficiencies the CSAB may recommend renewal of the school's charter.[↑]

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