

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT
OF PHILADELPHIA

SECTION: CHARTER SCHOOLS

TITLE: RENEWAL OF CHARTERS

ADOPTED: APRIL 24, 2014

REVISED:

405. RENEWAL OF CHARTERS

1. Purpose

Consistent with the SRC’s commitment to acting as a high-quality authorizer of high-performing charter schools, the SRC adopts this policy to ensure that charter school renewal processes and decisions will be transparent, merit-based, comprehensive, and equitable.

2. Renewal Application Process

The CSO may issue procedures describing the submission requirements, evaluation process, and timeline to be followed in reviewing all renewal applications. Based on these procedures, the CSO shall develop renewal applications that consider all necessary and appropriate factors relevant to the decision to renew a charter agreement, including academic, operational, and financial performance against defined performance framework standards. The procedures and applications shall be published and available on the District website.

A charter school shall notify the CSO, in writing, that the charter school is requesting renewal. Each charter school requesting renewal will be required to complete an application that demonstrates the charter school’s academic, operational, and financial performance against performance framework standards over the course of the charter term. Charter schools that have ranked in the “Exceeds Standard” or “Meets Standards” performance tiers for all four of the preceding years in their charter term may be eligible to submit a condensed renewal application form.

The CSO shall prepare and distribute a renewal application to all charter school candidates for renewal. The CSO shall set a deadline for submission of applications annually, however the deadline shall be no later than November 30 of the final school year in the charter school’s current charter agreement. The CSO shall inform the charter school of any additional information required for review.

At the end of each charter term, the CSO shall review the academic performance, operational compliance, and financial health of each charter school and make a recommendation to the SRC. The SRC shall consider the CSO recommendation and vote to either renew or issue a notice of nonrenewal of the charter school's charter.

The SRC may renew a charter for:

- (1) Five years; or
- (2) One (1) year if the SRC determines that there is insufficient data concerning the charter school's academic performance to adequately assess that performance and determines that an additional year of performance data would yield sufficient data to assist the SRC in its decision about renewing the charter agreement for five (5) years. The SRC may not renew a charter agreement for successive one (1) year terms.

3. Renewal Criteria

The CSO recommendation shall be based on the charter school's cumulative academic performance, operational compliance, and financial health over the charter term and shall use the CSO's charter school performance framework. The CSO will recommend renewal of schools that meet high expectations, as defined by the performance framework and charter agreement. The SRC may accept, reject, or modify CSO's recommendation.

The CSO may issue procedures describing the renewal process and evaluation criteria. The procedures shall be published and available on the CSO website.