



ORLEANS PARISH SCHOOL BOARD BOARD BUSINESS MEETING

McDonogh #35 High School, Mack Spears Auditorium
1331 Kerlerec Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70116
August 19, 2014
4:30 PM

Call to Order – Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

Purpose of Hearing

General Counsel Edward Morris

Orleans Parish School Board – Public Hearing on Public Hearing on Board policies:

OPSB Policies:

- 1. Policy A127- Charter School Performance Framework & Evaluation** (*Replacement of current policy*)
Rationale: Revises existing evaluation policy to align to adopted OPSB Charter School Performance Framework, including the identification of Critical Indicators and other evaluative considerations.
Recommendation: That Orleans Parish School Board approves the replacement of Policy A127.
- 2. Policy A128- Charter Extension & Renewal** (*Replacement of current policy*)
Rationale: Moves from A127 and revises extension standards for third-year review of schools in their initial charter term. Explicitly defines renewal standards, timelines, and recommended renewal lengths for all OPSB-authorized charter schools, in alignment with A127 and the OPSB Charter School Performance Framework. Incorporates automatic renewal and automatic replication provisions of La. R.S. 17:3992
Recommendation: That Orleans Parish School Board approves the replacement Policy A128.
- 3. Policy A129 -Charter Monitoring, Intervention, and Closure** (*New Policy*)
Rationale: Establishes clear guidelines for district intervention in instances where charter schools are not meeting standards, per A127, the OPSB Charter School Performance Framework, and/or the charter agreement. Provides clear process for revocation of a school's charter by the Board, when warranted based on performance
Provides for orderly dissolution process, including protections for students, families, and the community, in the event that a charter school is revoked, non-renewed, or otherwise closed
Recommendation: That Orleans Parish School Board approves Policy A129 as a new policy.

Q & A



ORLEANS PARISH SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC HEARING GUIDELINES

1. The public hearing will begin with proposed new and amended board actions by the Superintendent or his designee.
2. Anyone wishing to address the Board Policies should fill out a card located on the table and submit it to the Board Secretary. Cards will be received up to one-half hour after the meeting begins (**Notation: The Public Hearing begins at 4:30 PM**).
3. General Counsel to the Board will be responsible for the orderly and efficient conduct of the hearing and may set a reasonable time limit for each presentation depending on the number of cards received.
4. Each speaker will be limited to two (2) questions per item. General Counsel will recognize the speaker and give him/her permission to proceed. The speaker shall state his/her name and address for the Board records.
5. Those who have a group concern are encouraged to select a spokesperson from the group to address the concern.
6. Speakers are expected to be as concise as possible and to present their questions and comments in an objective manner in accordance with good taste and decorum and without reference to or insinuations against the Board, its members, or school system employees.
7. The Superintendent or his designee will serve as the official respondent to questions posed by the public.
8. Disruptions or disorderly conduct at the public hearing will constitute grounds for the presiding officer to ask security personnel to remove the offender.

A127 – CHARTER SCHOOL EVALUATION

The Orleans Parish School Board (the “School Board”) is committed to being a quality charter school authorizer by conducting operating agreement oversight that evaluates performance, monitors compliance, informs intervention and renewal decisions, and ensures autonomy provided under applicable law. To that end, it is the intent of the School Board to implement an evaluation system that collects the information needed to determine whether a charter school is meeting the goals and standards as set forth by the Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (“BESE”) accountability system, the performance frameworks, and each charter application and operating agreement.

In order to make fair and transparent decisions regarding contract revocations, extensions and renewals, the School Board has determined that it is in the best interests of the School Board, charter schools, students, parents, and the public to articulate clear performance standards for charter schools and to evaluate each charter school's level of achievement with respect to those standards.

Charter School Evaluation System

According to the *"Principles & Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing"* published by the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA), a quality authorizer “establish[es] the performance standards under which schools will be evaluated, using objective and verifiable measures of student achievement as the primary measure of school quality; [and] define[s] clear, measurable, and attainable academic, financial, and organizational performance standards and targets that the school must meet as a condition of renewal.” The School Board shall use the State of Louisiana's assessment and accountability programs as objective and verifiable measures of student achievement and school performance. Additional measures of charter school quality include financial and organizational performance measures, as well as supplemental academic performance measures, as described below.

Evaluation Standards

The performance of charter schools authorized by the School Board (Types 1, 3, 3B and 4) will be evaluated in the following categories:

- Academic Performance
- Financial Performance
- Organizational Performance

Within these three categories, the School Board has defined a common set of performance standards. These standards are established in the OPSB Charter School Performance Framework, as adopted by the School Board (including any modifications subsequently adopted by the School Board).

Academic Performance

Louisiana Charter School Law requires charter schools to make demonstrable improvements, using standardized test scores, in the academic performance of pupils over the term of the charter school's existence.

The School Board will annually evaluate charter schools using the following student performance indicators and related measures set forth in the OPSB Charter School Performance Framework:

- State and Federal Accountability Systems
- Subgroup Performance
- Math & Reading Goals
- Optional School-Specific Academic Goals

Charter schools shall participate fully in the Louisiana standardized testing and accountability programs, including the administration of all required state assessments.

Financial Performance

Louisiana Charter School Law requires charter schools to meet generally accepted accounting standards for fiscal management. This requirement has two underlying purposes:

- To ensure the proper use of public funds, and
- To ensure the financial viability of the school in the future.

The School Board will annually evaluate charter schools using the financial performance indicators and related measures set forth in the OPSB Charter School Financial Performance Framework for near-term financial health and financial sustainability. For organizations operating under multiple charters, reporting and evaluation of financial performance will be conducted separately for each charter agreement (contract).

The School Board shall use budget and cash flow statements and financial audit reports submitted pursuant to the contract between a charter school and the School Board to determine if the school has met the financial standards established by the OPSB Charter School Organizational Performance Framework.

Organizational Performance

Louisiana Charter School Law requires a charter school to be in compliance with the material terms of its contract with the School Board and all applicable laws and regulations.

The School Board shall assess a school's performance in relation to the legal requirements that are applicable to charter schools and to the terms of the contract. The School Board shall use the performance measures and indicators set forth in the OPSB Charter School Performance Framework to evaluate the performance of each school in the following areas:

- Education Program
- Financial Management and Oversight
- Governance and Reporting
- Students, Parents, and Employees
- School Environment
- Additional Obligations

In addition to the criteria established in the Organizational Performance Framework, the School Board will consider a standard not met if a violation:

- indicates a deliberate act of wrongdoing, reckless conduct, or fraudulent activity, or
- seriously jeopardizes the rights of students, safety of students, or continued operation of the school.

Critical Indicators & Deficiency Triggers

Within each Performance Framework, the School Board has identified one or more Critical Indicators, and associated Deficiency Triggers. Schools found to have a deficiency on a Critical Indicator shall be subject to Intervention, as provided for in OPSB Policy A129 and in accordance with the provisions of the school's operating agreement.

Measure	Area	Critical Indicator Deficiency Triggers
APF 1a	State Accountability	Letter Grade of F
APF 2a	School-Specific Goal	As jointly determined by school and authorizer
FPF 1b	Unrestricted Days Cash on Hand	<30 days COH, or <60 days COH and negative one-year trend
FPF 1d	Default	School is in default or delinquent with loan service
OPF 1a – 1d	Educational Program/Special Populations	Material & significant, or persistent failures (includes all measures of special education & ELL compliance)
OPF 2a	Financial Reporting (Audit)	Material & significant, or repeated failures (including any audit not receiving an unqualified opinion)
OPF 4a	Student Rights	Material & significant, or persistent failures
OPF 5b	Health & Safety	Imminent threats to health, safety, or welfare, as provided for by state statute

Evaluation Considerations

I. Schools In Initial Charter Term

The School Board recognizes that schools in their initial charter term face unique circumstances, which may require modification of the established standards in order to support the school's successful start-up. Accordingly, the School Board shall modify the Performance Framework for such schools as follows:

1. Schools in their first and second year of operation may elect not to receive a rating on the Academic Performance Framework. Data for such schools will be included in the district's Annual Report, but no rating will be assigned.

This policy shall not be construed to exempt a school receiving a letter grade of F from the reconsideration process provided for in School Board policy.

2. Notwithstanding the standards set forth in the OPSB Academic Performance Framework, schools in their initial charter term earning a letter grade of either C or T under the state accountability system will be deemed to have met the standard for Measure 1 on this Framework (State Accountability).
3. Notwithstanding the standards set for in the OPSB Financial Performance Framework, schools in their initial charter term will be deemed to have met the standard for all Financial Framework based on demonstrated commitment and progress towards meeting the established standard by the end of the school's initial charter term.
This policy shall not be construed to exempt a school from a Critical Indicator deficiency, as provided for in this policy.

II. Schools Transferring from the Jurisdiction of Another Authorizer (Types 1B and 3B)

The School Board recognizes that schools transferring from the jurisdiction of another authorizer may have been subject to standards other than those established by the Board. Accordingly, the School Board shall modify the Performance Framework for such schools as follows:

1. Notwithstanding the standards set forth in the OPSB Academic Performance Framework, schools earning a letter grade of C or T under the state accountability system will be deemed to have met the standard for Measure 1 on this Framework (State Accountability).
2. Notwithstanding the standards set for in the OPSB Financial Performance Framework, schools in their initial charter term under the jurisdiction of the School Board will be deemed to have met the standard for all Financial Framework measures based on demonstrated commitment and progress towards meeting the established standard by the end of the school's initial charter term under the School Board.
This policy shall not be construed to exempt a school from Critical Indicator deficiencies, as provided for in this policy.

III. School Transformation, Whole-School Takeover/Turnaround, and Reconfigured Schools

The School Board wishes to incentivize high-quality school operators to serve additional students, and recognizes the unique evaluative challenges presented by these circumstances. Additionally, the School Board recognizes that schools subject to significant changes in student population due to whole-school takeover or reconfiguration may require additional accommodations. Accordingly, the School Board shall modify the Performance Framework as follows

1. Definitions: Schools are eligible for this considerations based on the following conditions
 - a. Opening as a turnaround school, as established in BESE Bulletin 111, §1105
 - b. Conducting a full takeover (either merger or addition) of a program under an existing site code, that would otherwise meet the definition of turnaround school as established in BESE Bulletin 111, §1105
 - c. Opening as a reconfigured school, as defined in BESE Bulletin 111, §3303, or
 - d. Opening in the initial growth phase for a newly-authorized school, as outlined in the school's approved application materials or Operating Agreement.

2. Transitional evaluations for such schools shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of any Board-approved amendment to the school's Operating Agreement; at a minimum, such schools shall be eligible to opt-out from receipt of rating on the Academic Performance Framework for a period of two years. Data for such schools will be included in the district's Annual Report, but no rating will be assigned to the school for the period of time defined in the amended operating agreement.
This consideration shall not be construed to exempt a school receiving a letter grade of F from the revocation review process provided for in Board policy.
3. Notwithstanding the standards set forth in the OPSB Academic Performance Framework, schools eligible for this consideration under the definitions set forth above, and earning a letter grade of either C or T under the state accountability system, will be deemed to have met the standard for Measure 1 (State Accountability).
This consideration shall be extended for a period not to exceed three years or the duration of the school's current charter agreement, whichever is shorter.

IV. Alternative Education Schools

The School Board wishes to incentivize charter schools to provide educational environments suitable for all students, including students who may best be served outside of the traditional school context. Moreover, the School Board recognizes that schools whose mission primarily focuses on the provision of services to students in alternative educational settings face unique evaluative circumstances. Accordingly, the School Board shall modify the Performance Framework standards for such schools as follows:

1. Schools are eligible for this consideration based on the following conditions:
 - a. Identification in the school's Operating Agreement as an alternative school, AND
 - b. Approval by BESE of the school's designation as an alternative education school, pursuant to BESE Bulletin 111, §3501 *et seq.*
2. Schools eligible for this consideration are exempted from ratings on the OPSB Academic Performance Framework, and shall instead be evaluated based on the measures and standards established in the BESE Performance Framework for Alternative Schools. Such schools shall remain subject to the OPSB Financial and Organizational Frameworks.
3. Schools eligible for this consideration are exempted from the provisions of OPSB Policy A126 pertaining to revocation review for schools identified as Academically Unacceptable (letter grade of F). Automatic revocation review criteria for such schools shall be governed by the terms of the school's operating agreement with the School Board.

Schools eligible for this consideration are exempted from the provisions of OPSB Policy A129 pertaining to Intervention for Sustained Academic Decline. Intervention for such schools shall be determined by the standards set forth in the BESE Performance Framework for Alternative Schools, and shall be governed by the terms of the school's operating agreement with the School Board.

**Authority: Charter School Demonstration Program Law, La. R.S. 17:3971 *et seq.*
BESE Bulletin 126, §306, §307**

A128 – CHARTER RENEWALS & EXTENSIONS

At the conclusion of a charter school's operating agreement, the operator no longer has a continuing right to operate the school. Charter schools may apply for renewal, in accordance with the timelines and procedures established by the School Board and district administration. The School Board shall grant renewals and extensions to charter schools authorized by the Board in accordance with the school's performance, as measured by the standards established in OPSB Policy A127 and the Charter School Performance Framework. As student performance is the primary indicator of school quality, the School Board will heavily factor a school's achievement on the academic performance standards in conducting evaluations, and when making charter extension and renewal decisions.

In accordance with La. R.S. 17:3992(2)(a), no charter shall be renewed unless the operator seeking renewal can demonstrate, using standardized test scores, improvement in the academic performance of pupils over the term of the charter school's existence.

Schools identified as Academically Unacceptable per the state accountability system (assigned state letter grade of F, or Falls Far Below Standard on OPSB Academic Performance Framework Measure 1a) in the year prior to the end of the school's current charter term shall not be eligible for renewal. Such schools shall be automatically recommended for closure, according to the process established in OPSB Policy A129.

Renewal Pathways & Standards

Two renewal review pathways are available to charter schools:

1. **Automatic Renewal**: In accordance with the provisions of Louisiana Charter School Law (La. R.S. 17:3992(A)(1)(c), schools deemed to be high-performing based on the benchmarks established for them by the school and district accountability system, are eligible for automatic renewal.
For the purposes of this section, a high-performing school is defined as a school not in its initial charter term that meets all of the following criteria:
 - a. Letter Grade of A or B, per the Louisiana School & District Accountability system, in the year prior to the end of the school's current charter term
 - b. Three consecutive years of academic growth, as measured by School Performance Scores OR three consecutive years of academic performance in the top 5% of all schools in the state, as measured by School Performance Scores.
 - c. Acceptable performance on other Performance Framework measures, defined as the school not being subject to Intervention at the time the renewal application is submitted, nor subject to Intervention for more than one year during the preceding charter term.
2. **Renewal Review**: Schools not meeting the standards for Automatic Renewals, as set forth above, are eligible for Renewal Review if they meet the following criteria:
 - a. *Meets Standard* on OPSB Academic Performance Framework Measure 1a (State & District Accountability) in the year prior to the end of the school's current

- charter term
- b. Subject to Intervention
 - i. in the year prior to the end of the school’s current charter term, OR
 - ii. for more than two years during current charter term, for any reason, OR
 - iii. for schools in their initial charter term, for more than one year during the current term.

Renewal Application Timeline

Renewal applications for all schools not eligible for Automatic Renewal shall be issued by no later than September 1st of the final school year of a school’s current charter agreement. Renewal applications will be due in accordance with the timelines established by district administration, but no later than November 15th.

Schools eligible for Automatic Renewal are not required to complete a renewal application, unless the school proposes a change to the terms of its existing operating agreement with the district. The length of any renewal recommendation for an eligible school shall be determined using the standards established in this policy.

All renewals shall be presented by district administration to the School Board for approval by not later than December 1st of the final year of school’s current charter term. The Board shall take final action on all renewal applications by not later than January 31st of the final year of the school’s current charter term.

Recommended & Maximum Renewal Lengths

In accordance with Louisiana Charter School law, the School Board may grant renewal charters for a period not to exceed ten years. In determining the length of charter renewals, the School Board shall follow the following standards, unless otherwise governed by law or policy:

Letter Grade	Base Recommendation	Maximum Length
A	9 years	10 years
B	6 years	10 years
C	4 years	7 years
D	3 years, with comprehensive review	5 years, with comprehensive review
T	3 years, with comprehensive review	5 years, with comprehensive review
F	Not eligible for renewal	

A charter school shall only be eligible for the renewal available for schools earning a letter grade of D once during the term of the school’s existence. In addition to the renewal length standards established above, the School Board shall provide for the following modifications to the base renewal lengths:

1. Growth Incentive: An additional year shall be added to the base renewal recommendation for each letter grade of growth achieved by a school during its current charter term, provided that the total recommended renewal length shall not exceed the

maximum length established in this policy.

- a. Schools earning a letter grade of A shall be eligible for this growth bonus for each year they either meet the state-established SPS growth goal for the school, or are ranked in the top 5% of all schools in the state by SPS.
 - b. Schools eligible for Extension/Renewal Consideration III (Turnaround/Takeover Schools), as defined in this policy, shall be eligible for this growth bonus for each year they meet the state-established SPS growth goal for the school, in addition to any other years to which they may otherwise be entitled.
2. **Financial & Organizational Performance:** District administration may modify the recommended renewal length for a school by up to one year (added or subtracted) from the base recommendation, based on district administration's assessment of the school's overall performance against the standards established in the OPSB Financial & Organizational Performance Framework. In determining any modifications, the administration shall clearly communicate the reasons for any proposed changes, and the school shall be afforded an opportunity to respond and address any identified concerns prior to the recommendation being forwarded to the School Board for consideration.
3. **Intervention:**
- a. A school subject to Intervention at Tier 2 (Intensive) for any reason during its current charter term shall have one year subtracted from the base renewal recommendation for each year the school was in such status.
 - b. A school subject to Intervention at Tier 3 (Pre-Revocation) for any reason during its current charter term shall have the length of any renewal recommendation halved, with a maximum recommended length of five years. Such school shall also be ineligible for any automatic or expedited renewal processes for the length of the renewal charter term.

Automatic Replication

A school not in its initial charter term, and meeting the standards for Automatic Renewal as defined above, shall also be deemed eligible for automatic replication, as provided for in La. R.S. 17:3992(D) and BESE Bulletin 126, §532. Schools eligible for Automatic Replication are not required to complete an application, unless the school proposes a material change to the terms of its existing operating agreement with the district.

Written notification of intent to replicate shall be provided to the district by January 1st of the school year prior to the replication. Once notification has been provided, the replicating charter school and district administration shall present a new charter agreement to the School Board for approval by not later than April 1st.

The term of any new charter school created by this provision shall be set to equal the lesser of either five years, or the remaining length of the charter agreement of the replicating school, in accordance with the provisions of this policy. The new (replicated) school shall be subject to the Third Year Review & Extension standards established in this policy.

Extensions & Regular Reviews

I. Third Year Extension, for schools in initial charter term

Pursuant to Louisiana Charter School Law, a charter school in its initial term is authorized for an initial term of four years, subject to review and extension to a maximum of five (5) years at the conclusion of the school's third year of operation.

Third Year Reviews will be conducted according to the standards set forth in OPSB Policy A127 and the OPSB Charter School Performance Framework, as adopted by the School Board. The Board shall take final action on all extensions, based on the results of the Third Year Review by not later than June 30th following the conclusion of an eligible school's third year. The Board shall grant extensions according to the following standards:

1. **Full Extension**: A school meeting the standards for full extension during its Third Year Review shall be granted an unconditional extension of two years, to complete the maximum five year initial charter term provided for under state law. Such school shall also be eligible to apply for charter renewal during its fourth year of operation, and shall be eligible to receive an expedited renewal review, if otherwise qualified under the standards set forth in this policy.

Full Extension Standards

- a. School has met all Academic Performance Framework standards, as these are modified in OPSB Policy A127 for schools in their initial charter term
 - b. School has satisfactory performance on all Financial and Organizational Performance Framework standards. Satisfactory performance is defined as no material or repeated deficiencies, and no deficiencies on any indicators designated as "Critical Indicators" by the Board.
2. **Probationary Extension**: A school not meeting the standards for full extension during its Third Year Review may be granted a probationary extension of two years, provided it meets the standards set forth below. Such school shall be eligible to apply for renewal during its fifth year of operation, and shall not be eligible for any expedited or automatic renewal reviews.

Probationary Extension Standards

- a. School has demonstrated academic growth, using a combination of School Performance Scores, state-mandated assessments (both must be used, if available), or other standardized test scores.
 - b. School has met Academic Performance Framework standards, but fails to demonstrate satisfactory performance on Financial and Organizational Performance Frameworks. Satisfactory performance is defined as no material or repeated deficiencies, and no deficiencies on any Critical Indicators, as designated in Board policy.
3. **Closure**: A school failing to meet the standards for Full or Probationary Extension shall be subject to closure at the end of the school's fourth year of operation, in accordance with the provisions of state law and School Board policy.

II. Mid-Term Review, for schools not in initial charter term

In accordance with state statutes and NACSA's *Principles & Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing*, the School Board shall require a Mid Term Review for all charter schools not in their initial charter term. For charter schools first authorized by the School Board prior to June 2014, the provisions of this section shall become effective upon renewal of the school's operating agreement.

Mid-Term Reviews will be conducted according to the standards set forth in OPSB Policy A127 and the OPSB Charter School Performance Framework, as adopted by the School Board. The Board shall take final action, based on the results of the Mid-Term Review, by not later than June 30th of the school year following completion of one-half of the school's current charter agreement term.

The Board shall take action based on the following:

1. Meets Expectations: A school meeting the standards for full extension during its Mid-Term Review shall be granted an unconditional extension to complete the remainder of the charter term granted at the school's last renewal.

Meets Expectations Standards:

- a. School has met all Academic Performance Framework Critical Indicator standards
 - b. School has satisfactory performance, as previously defined, on all Financial and Organizational Performance Framework Critical Indicator standards.
2. Probationary Period: A school not meeting the standards for Meets Expectations during its Mid-Term Review may be granted a Probationary Period, provided it meets the standards set forth below. A school may only be recommended for Probationary Period once during the duration of its current operating agreement. If a school is recommended for a Probationary Period more than once, such school shall also be placed into Intervention, as provided for in district policy.

Probationary Period Standards

- a. School has demonstrated academic growth, using a combination of School Performance Scores, state-mandated assessments, or standardized test scores
- b. School has met Academic Performance Framework Critical Indicator standards, but "Does Not Meet Standard" on all Financial and Organizational Performance Framework Critical Indicator standards.

A school granted a Probationary Period shall be placed either Tier 1 or Tier 2 Intervention, as outlined in Policy A129. The length of any Probationary Period, and the conditions required for the removal of probationary status, shall be established by the Board at the time such Probationary Period is granted; such Probationary Period shall not exceed the greater of either 1) two school years or 2) the end of the school's fifth year of operation under its current charter agreement.

3. **Intervention:** A school either rated “Falls Far Below Standard” at its Mid-Term Review, or failing to timely meet the conditions provided for in a Probationary Period, shall be immediately subject to Intervention at Tier 3, as provided for in district policy.

Termination of any school’s Operating Agreement at its Mid-Term Review shall only be for reasons permitted by the provisions of La. R.S. 17:3992, OPSB Policy A129, and/or the Revocation/Termination provisions of the school’s Operating Agreement.

Renewal & Extension Considerations

I. Schools Transferring From the Jurisdiction of Another Authorizer (Types 1B, 3B)

The terms and length of any initial renewal for a school transferring from the jurisdiction of another authorizer shall be governed by the provisions of this policy, unless otherwise provided for in state statute or BESE policy.

II. School Transformation, Whole-School Takeover/Turnaround, or Reconfiguration

The standards for renewal of any extension or renewal for a school engaged in transformation, whole-school turnaround/takeover, or reconfiguration shall be modified as follows:

1. **Definitions:** Schools are eligible for these modifications if one or more of the following criteria apply
 - a. Opening as a turnaround school, as defined in BESE Bulletin 111, §1105
 - b. Conducting a full takeover (either merger or addition) of a program under an existing site code, that would otherwise meet the definition of turnaround school as defined in BESE Bulletin 111, §1105
 - c. Opening as a reconfigured school, as defined in BESE Bulletin 111, §3303
2. Schools eligible for these modifications, not otherwise qualified for renewal, and not earning a rating of *Falls Far Below Standard* (letter grade of F) on OPSB Academic Performance Framework Measure 1a, shall be eligible for renewal under the standards established for schools receiving a letter grade of T.
 - a. **Turnaround Bonus:** Existing schools meeting the criteria established in 1a or 1b above, and earning a rating of *Meets Standard* or *Exceeds Standard* on OPSB Academic Performance Framework Measure 1a shall be awarded an additional year at the time of renewal of the existing school, as recognition for the school’s willingness to serve additional students.
 - b. **Growth Incentive:** Schools eligible for these modifications may receive a Growth Incentive, as established in this policy, for each year the school achieves the SPS growth standard established for it under the state accountability system.
3. The modifications provided for under this section of policy may only be applied once during each renewal period. Such modifications shall not be construed to exempt a school receiving a letter grade of F from the revocation review process provided for in district policy.

III. Alternative Education Schools

The standards for renewal of any extension or renewal for an alternative education charter school, as defined by BESE and OPSB policies, shall be governed by the provisions of the school's operating agreement with the School Board. Unless otherwise provided for, renewal eligibility for such schools shall be modified as follows:

1. Definitions: Alternative schools are eligible for these modifications if both of the following criteria apply
 - a. Identification in the school's Operating Agreement as an alternative school, AND
 - b. Approval by BESE of the school's designation as an alternative education school, pursuant to BESE Bulletin 111, §3501 *et seq.*
2. The recommended base and maximum renewal lengths for alternative education schools eligible for this modification shall be determined as follows:
 - a. SPS less than 30: Not eligible for renewal, unless the charter school meets the renewal standards set forth in the BESE Performance Framework for alternative schools
 - b. SPS between 30 and 50: 3 year base renewal (maximum of 4 years), provided the charter school meets the renewal standard set forth in the BESE Performance Framework for Alternative Schools
 - c. SPS greater than 50: either a 3 year base renewal (maximum of 5 years), or as provided for in district policy governing non-alternative schools, provided the charter school meets the renewal standard set forth in the BESE Performance Framework for Alternative Schools.
3. Schools eligible for these modifications may receive a Growth Incentive, as established in this policy, for each year the school achieves the SPS growth standard established for it under the state accountability system, or as otherwise provided for in the school's operating agreement. Such incentives shall not extend the length of a school's renewal recommendation beyond the maximum length set forth in this policy.
4. Schools eligible for these modifications shall be eligible for Automatic Renewal and Automatic Replication, as these terms are defined in this policy, if they meet the renewal eligibility standards set forth above, and can demonstrate three consecutive years of academic growth. For such schools, academic growth may be demonstrated either by growth in the school's SPS, or by growth in student-level assessment performance as measured using the state value-added model, or another similar growth model approved by the OPSB Superintendent.

**Authority: Charter School Demonstration Program Law, La. R.S. 17:3971 *et seq.*
BESE Bulletin 126, §306 – 307, 519; Bulletin 129, §505**

A129 – CHARTER SCHOOL MONITORING, INTERVENTION, & CLOSURE

It is the responsibility of the School Board to hold charter schools accountable for achieving the performance standards set forth in district policy, the OPSB Performance Framework, and the school’s operating agreement.

Monitoring & Reporting

The School Board, through its Accountability Committee, shall receive at least annually a report detailing the performance of each charter school against the standards established in district policy and the OPSB Charter School Performance Framework. The report may be used by the school, its students and families, and the public to ascertain the effectiveness of the charter school, and shall be used by the School Board as the primary basis for any action involving the charter school.

The annual report may be transmitted to the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in compliance with state law and policy.

Intervention Triggers

Intervention is a tiered series of escalating sanctions and supports for charter schools that fail to meet the performance standards adopted by the School Board. Schools shall automatically enter Intervention for the reasons provided below:

- **Critical Indicators**: Schools may be required to enter Intervention based on the Critical Indicator Deficiency Triggers, as these are defined in Policy A127.
- **Performance Framework**: Schools may enter Intervention by earning a rating of “Does Not Meet Standard” or “Falls Far Below Standard” on the OPSB Charter School Performance Framework, as provided below:
 - 2 or more Academic Performance Framework indicators
 - 4 or more Organizational or Financial Performance Framework indicators
 - Any single Performance Framework indicator for multiple years
- **Sustained Academic Decline**: Schools may enter Intervention based on sustained academic decline, measured by the School Performance Score. A school eligible for Evaluation Consideration I (New Schools), III (Turnaround/Transformation Schools) as they are defined in Policy A127, shall not enter Intervention under this provision during the period provided for in that policy and/or the school’s operating agreement.

Sustained academic decline is defined based on the standards set forth in the following table:

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Sustained Academic Decline</u>
A	4 consecutive years OR 5 total years of decline during current charter term
B	3 consecutive years OR 4 total years of decline during current charter term
C	2 years during current charter term
D	1 year during current charter term
F	Critical Indicator – school subject to immediate Board reconsideration

Notwithstanding the above provisions, a charter school may be placed in Intervention by district administration for reasons other than those provided for here. Such action shall require written notification to the school of the reasons for the recommendation, and an opportunity for the school to respond and correct all identified issues prior to such action. Such administrative placement may be appealed by the school to the Accountability Committee of the School Board.

Intervention Tiers & Required Actions

Unless otherwise provided for in policy, schools enter Intervention at Tier 1, and remain in Intervention for either one year, or until the identified issues are satisfactorily addressed, as determined by district administration. The tiers and required actions for schools subject to Intervention are defined below:

Tier	Triggers	Required School Actions
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Sustained academic decline (current letter grade of A or B) b. Does Not Meet/Falls Far Below Standard on APF Measures 2, 3 c. Below Standard on 4-5 OPF/FPF indicators d. Below Standard for 2+ years on any single indicator 	<p>Corrective Action Plan, to be submitted to Superintendent</p>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Sustained academic decline (current letter grade of C or D) b. Below Standard on 6 or more OPF/FPF indicators in a single year c. Previously subject to Intervention during current charter term 	<p>Corrective Action Plan, to be presented to OPSB Accountability Committee & Superintendent</p> <p>Quarterly follow-up meeting with Superintendent to assess progress</p>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Falls Far Below Standard on APF Measure 1 (F letter grade) b. Below Standard on 10 or more PF indicators in a single year c. Below Standard for 3+ years on any single indicator d. Previously subject to Intervention twice during current charter term (Three Strikes) 	<p>All Tier 1 and Tier 2 Required Actions</p> <p>Reconsideration of charter, including hearing before OPSB, following the guidelines established in this policy</p>

Revocation, Non-Renewal, and Closure

When a school remains unable to meet the performance standards established for it, it is the obligation of the School Board to close the school. In addition to the Intervention process as set forth in this policy, a charter school may also be subject to reconsideration of its operating agreement and potential revocation or closure for the following reasons, as identified in statute and/or the terms of the school's operating agreement:

- Imminent threat to the health, safety, or welfare of students
- Commission of a material violation of the Operating Agreement
- Failure to substantially achieve within the agreed timelines the academic results specified in the Operating Agreement
- Failure to meet generally accepted accounting standards for fiscal management
- Egregious and/or consistent violations of federal, state, or local laws
- Gross mismanagement of public funds
- Financial malfeasance
- Failure to retain adequate facilities
- Failure to retain sufficient enrollment to meet financial obligations

The School Board has established the following guidelines to provide clarity to students, families, school employees, and the community regarding the school closure process.

- The School Board shall act on all potential school closures (revocations, non-extensions, and non-renewals) by not later than December 31st of each school year.
- Written notice of proposed school closure, including the findings and reasons for the proposed action, shall be provided to the school's governing board by the method identified in the school's operating agreement, not later than 45 days prior to any School Board action.
- Written notice of proposed school closure shall be provided to all school staff, and the parents or guardians of all current school students, not later than 30 days prior to any School Board action.
- Prior to any revocation of a school's operating agreement, the Board shall conduct one or more Pre-Revocation hearings, following its established procedures for public hearings. Whenever possible, at least one such Pre-Revocation hearing shall be held at the facility currently occupied by the school proposed to be closed, once the required public notice has been provided, and prior to taking any final action in regard to the school's closure.
- Prior to any revocation of a school's operating agreement, the school shall have the opportunity to appear before a meeting of the School Board, recorded and transcribed at the school's expense, with witnesses if necessary, to answer all identified findings and reasons for the action.

Notwithstanding the foregoing guidelines, the School Board reserves the right to immediately terminate a school's operating agreement upon a determination by the Board that the health, safety, or welfare of students is threatened, in accordance with state statutes and BESE policy.

**Authority: Charter School Demonstration Program Law, La. R.S. 17:3971 *et seq.*
BESE Bulletin 126, §306 – 307, 1701**