



OPSB Charter Bulletin: Policy HA – 1st Reading

June 11th, 2015

Charter Bulletin Scope of Work

- ▶ The Orleans Parish School Board is being asked to consider the final portions of a comprehensive overhaul of the district's charter school policies, as a component of the overall Policy Manual Revision Project
- ▶ In full, the Charter Bulletin revisions includes full replacement of three existing policies (A126, A127, and A128), the addition of a new policy (A129), and recoding of all policies to align to the district's new policy manual coding schema as Section H
 - ▶ Existing policies are being replaced rather than revised due to the extensive nature of the proposed changes, as well as to permit the reorganization of related provisions among current policies
- ▶ Collectively, these four policies address general charter school guidelines, performance standards & evaluation, and charter extension/renewal, intervention, and closure
- ▶ *NOTE: Facilities policies relating to OPSB-authorized charter schools were not considered within the scope of this review; separate revisions to these policies will be considered within the OPSB Policy Revision Project*

Rationale for Charter Bulletin Revisions

- ▶ Current OPSB charter policies required updates due to
 - ▶ Changes in district status (e.g., “District in Academic Crisis”)
 - ▶ Changes to state law (e.g., Act 2 of 2012 Legislative Session)
 - ▶ Changes in practice from BESE, other Louisiana authorizers (e.g., LDE Charter Performance Compact, changes to renewal/extension standards for BESE-authorized charter schools)
 - ▶ Changes in national best practices (e.g., updates to NACSA *Principles & Standards*)
- ▶ Additionally, current policies had been revised in an ad-hoc fashion over time, and were either unclear or inconsistent in their treatment of key policy areas
 - ▶ Core charter areas of autonomy
 - ▶ OneApp/common enrollment & common expulsion
 - ▶ Charter Extension & Renewal standards and lengths

Goals of the Charter Bulletin Revision Process

1. Provide clarity & consistency to OPSB school operators, district staff, students & families, and the community at large regarding the established performance standards for OPSB charter schools
2. Provide clear incentives and increased autonomy for high-performing charter schools, and clear & escalating sanctions and supports for underperforming schools at risk of failure
3. Provide clarity to Type 5 school operators and other stakeholders regarding evaluative standards and other pertinent conditions relative to their decision to transfer (return) to OPSB
4. Provide the Board with objective, uniform standards to guide high-stakes evaluative decisions for OPSB-authorized charter schools

Proposed Charter Bulletin Framework

HA (A126): School Board Chartering Authority

- Collects all non-evaluative policies and guidelines for OPSB-authorized charter schools

HB (A127): Performance Framework & Evaluation FORTHCOMING

- Revises existing policy to align to adopted OPSB Performance Framework
- Identifies Critical Indicators and evaluative considerations (e.g., new schools, Type 5 transfer)

HAB (A128): Charter Extensions & Renewals – ADOPTED Dec 2014

- Moves from A127 and revises extension standards for 3rd year reviews (initial charter term)
- Explicitly defines standards, timelines, and recommended renewal lengths (all renewals)
- Incorporates automatic renewals and automatic replication, per Act 2 (2012)

HC (A129): Charter Monitoring, Intervention, & Closure – ADOPTED Dec 2014

- Establishes clear guidelines for district action in instances where charter schools are not meeting established performance standards
- Provides clear process for revocation of a school's charter, when such action is warranted
- Provides for orderly transition and dissolution process, including protections for students, families, and the community, when a school is closed (either revoked or non-renewed)

Overall Approach & Timeline

- ▶ Current window of opportunity to work with schools and stakeholders to clarify and update district policies in a transparent, cooperative fashion
 - ▶ Multiple OPSB-authorized charter schools are subject to high-stakes evaluation in each of 2015-16 SY (3 schools), 2016-17 SY (7 schools), and 2017-18 SY (7 schools)

- ▶ Planned timeline for consideration:
 - ▶ HA (A126): now – August
 - ▶ HB (A127) August – September
 - ▶ HAB and HC (A128 and A129): recoding of Dec 2014 adopted versions – no substantive revisions planned

Timeline: Summary of Actions To Date

June 2013 – January 2014

- Performance Framework Working Groups, including OPSB and RSD charters
 - Stakeholder Engagement, including parents & education organizations
- 

February 2014

- Organizational & Financial Performance Frameworks adopted by School Board
- 

June 2014

- Academic Performance Framework adopted by School Board
- 

July 2014

- 1st reading of proposed Charter Policy Revisions (A126 - A129)
- 

December 2014

- A128 & A129 revisions adopted by School Board

Stakeholder Engagement To Date

OPSB Charter School Leaders & Business Managers

OPSB Administration & District Leadership

Type 5 Charter School Leaders & Business Managers

Education Stakeholder Groups

- Cowen Institute, Tulane University
- New Orleans Education Research Alliance (ERA)
- New Schools for New Orleans (NSNO)
- Eastbank Collaborative of Charter Schools (ECCS)
- Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools (LAPCS)

Education Advocacy Organizations

- Parent Advocates
- Urban League of Greater New Orleans
- Stand for Children – New Orleans
- Black Alliance for Educational Options (BAEO)

Community Stakeholder Groups

- Partnership for Youth Development (PYD)
- Baptist Community Ministries Foundation (BCM)
- Orleans Public Education Network (OPEN)

Other Louisiana Charter School Authorizers

- Recovery School District – New Orleans
- Jefferson Parish Public School System



Proposed Policy HA

Overview: Replacement Policy HA

- ▶ The OPSB Policy Committee is being asked to consider the final two elements of the charter policy overhaul
 - ▶ HA (formerly AI26): School Board Chartering Authority (planned final adoption: August)
 - ▶ HB (formerly AI27): Charter School Evaluation (forthcoming)
- ▶ Based on additional feedback from a variety of stakeholders, Policy HA has been substantially revised and expanded to address key areas of concern
 - ▶ Autonomy
 - ▶ Charter Governing Board requirements & transparency
 - ▶ OneApp/common enrollment
 - ▶ Transportation
 - ▶ Early childhood (PK programs)

HA: Areas Addressed

1. Academic Excellence
2. Autonomy (*new*)
3. Governing Board (*new*)
4. Nonprofit Finances
5. Admissions & Student Population (*revised*)
6. Enrollment (*revised*)
7. Early Childhood (*new*)
8. Discipline
9. Transportation (*revised*)

HA Proposed Changes –

2. Autonomy & 4. Finances

▶ Autonomy

- ▶ Affirms and incorporates into district policy key areas of autonomy from charter operating agreements, including
 - ▶ Curriculum & instruction, including school calendars
 - ▶ Staff hiring, firing, and management
 - ▶ Financial management
 - ▶ Transportation

▶ Non-profit Finances

- ▶ Incorporates into district policy existing regulatory requirements and district administrative procedures regarding sound fiscal oversight, including requirement to hire a qualified & competent business professional



HA Proposed Changes –

3. Charter Governing Boards

- ▶ Generally, aligns governing board standards for all schools citywide and incorporates into district policy statutory requirements (Public Records Law, Open Meetings Law, Code of Governmental Ethics, Budget Act)

- ▶ Key changes
 - ▶ 7 member requirement
 - ▶ Background checks at appointment, annual financial disclosures
 - ▶ 75 percent Orleans residency requirement, effective at renewal
 - ▶ Restrictions on
 - ▶ elected officials and OPSB employees,
 - ▶ nepotism, and
 - ▶ employment/compensation of board members

HA Proposed Changes –

5. Student Population

- ▶ **At-risk requirements**: affirms the district’s commitment to adopting charter policy based on the best interests “at-risk” pupils, per the legislative intent of Louisiana Charter School Law (La. R.S. 17:3972)
 - ▶ Affirms existing statutory requirements and current district policy for pre-2011 Type 3 charters (R.S. 17:3991(B)(1)(b)(i))
 - ▶ Clarifies applicable statutory requirements for post-2011 charters, and incorporates these same requirements for returning Type 3B schools (R.S. 17:3991(B)(1)(a)(i))
- ▶ **Returning Type 3B schools**: incorporates into district policy existing statutory & regulatory prohibition on establishment of admissions requirements for Type 3Bs

HA Proposed Changes –

6. Enrollment

- ▶ Moves from HB (AI27) and reaffirms existing district policy requiring all new, renewal, and extension charter operating agreements to include provisions requiring participation in common enrollment (EnrollNOLA/OneApp)
- ▶ Clarifies that enrollment policies adopted by the School Board supersede any conflicting provisions in charter school operating agreements (OPSB OA Template, Paragraph 15.7.1)
- ▶ Requires that all future neighborhood/geographic preferences granted by the School Board conform to a common set of standards, adopted per common enrollment policy

HA Proposed Changes –

7. Early Childhood

- ▶ Incorporates requirements of the Louisiana Early Childhood Education Act (Act 3 of 2012, as subsequently amended)
 - ▶ Specifically, requires participation in Early Learning Enrollment Coordination (R.S. 17:407.41 *et seq*), via the district's common enrollment process (OneApp)
- ▶ Affirms the district's commitment to equitable access to public Kindergarten seats for all students
 - ▶ PK participation in coordinated enrollment (OneApp) for all non-publically funded students beginning either in 2016-17 or at renewal,
 - ▶ All publically-funded PK students be permitted to matriculate to K at the school, and
 - ▶ For schools operating non-publically funded (tuition-based) PK programs, at least 50% of K seats be reserved for enrollment of economically disadvantaged students and/or via lottery (OneApp)

HA Proposed Changes –

9. Transportation

- ▶ **Explicit requirement that all new, renewal, and extension charter operating agreements include provisions requiring the provision of free transportation to all students, including**
 - ▶ All requirements pursuant to an IEP for a student with an identified exceptionality
 - ▶ Yellow school bus (or BESE-approved alternative means of student transportation) for students in grades PK – 6 who live more than one mile from the school
 - ▶ Yellow school bus or RTA reimbursement for students in grades 7 – 12

Summary: Rationale for Proposed Changes

Statutory & Regulatory Requirements

- ▶ 3a-c, g,j-k: Governing Boards
- ▶ 4: Governing Board Finances
- ▶ 5: At-Risk requirements, Type 3B admissions
- ▶ 7a: Early Childhood
- ▶ 8: Discipline

Citywide Charter Policy Alignment

- ▶ 1: Academic Excellence
- ▶ 2: Autonomy
- ▶ 3d-f, h-i: Governing Boards
- ▶ 6: Enrollment
- ▶ 7b-c: Early Childhood
- ▶ 8: Common Expulsion
- ▶ 9: Transportation

Summary: Timeline of Effective Dates for Proposed A126 Changes

- ▶ **Effective immediately**
 - ▶ 2. Charter Autonomy
 - ▶ 3. Governing Board requirements, except (e) residency
 - ▶ 5. At-risk requirements – two year grace period before required corrective action plans for existing schools

- ▶ **Effective for 2016-17 SY**
 - ▶ 7. Early childhood: economically disadvantaged enrollment set-asides, common enrollment participation

- ▶ **Effective at charter renewal**
 - ▶ 3e. Governing board residency requirement
 - ▶ 6. Common enrollment participation
 - ▶ 9. Transportation: school bus for ES, school bus or RTA for HS

- ▶ **No changes proposed**
 - ▶ 1. Academic Excellence
 - ▶ 4. Nonprofit Finances (moved into policy)
 - ▶ 8. Discipline

Summary: Additional Planned Stakeholder Engagement

- ▶ Policy Office Hours: June 17th @ 12:00pm, July 2nd @ 8am
- ▶ Superintendent's Policy Forum/Working Session: July TBD
- ▶ Charter Leader Meetings
 - ▶ OPSB
 - ▶ RSD
 - ▶ Joint
- ▶ Charter & Education Stakeholder Groups
 - ▶ LAPCS
 - ▶ ECCS
 - ▶ OPEN
 - ▶ NSNO
 - ▶ Special Education advocates
- ▶ Community & Advocacy Stakeholders
 - ▶ Citizens for I
 - ▶ Forward New Orleans Education
 - ▶ Urban League