

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

Policy Identification

Priority: Twenty-First Century Systems

Category: Charter Schools Administration

Policy ID Number: TCS-U-001

Policy Title: Charter School Accountability Requirements ~~Policy outlining the accountability procedures for charter schools~~

Current Policy Date: 12/3/2009; 07/10/1997

Other Historical Information: 07/10/1997

Statutory Reference: G.S. 115C-238.29F(d)(2) and (3)

Administrative Procedures Act (APA) Reference Number and Category:

Each year all eligible students must take state-required assessments. All charter schools shall comply with the North Carolina ABCs Accountability Model, unless otherwise approved by the State Board of Education.

~~Each year all eligible students must take required state tests.~~

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~~In the **first year** of operation there are two options for accountability:~~

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~~▪ **Option 1** applies to schools where less than 75 percent of students have end of grade/end of course (EOG/EOC) test scores from the previous year. Results of student performance from these schools will be reported.~~

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~~▪ **Option 2** applies to schools where 75 percent or more of the students have EOG/EOC test scores from the previous year. These schools will follow the ABCs Accountability Model for rewards that is used in the North Carolina public schools. If, however, the school is designated as low performing (as determined by the ABCs Accountability Model) the State Board of Education may revoke the charter.~~

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~~In the **second year and subsequent years** of operation, all schools will follow the ABCs Accountability Model for rewards that is used in the North Carolina public schools. If, however, the school is designated as low performing (as determined by the ABCs Accountability Model) the State Board of Education may revoke the charter.~~

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Policy Identification

Priority: Twenty-First Century Systems

Category: Charter Schools Administration

Policy ID Number: TCS-U-010

Policy Title: Revocation of Charter for Lack of Academic Performance Policy
~~delineating assistance and program evaluation of low performing charter schools~~

Current Policy Date: 12/3/2009; 10/04/2001

Other Historical Information: 10/04/2001

Statutory Reference: G.S. 115C-238.329F(d); G.S. 115C-238.29G

Administrative Procedures Act (APA) Reference Number and Category:

- (a) The State Board of Education shall revoke the charter of any charter school when, for two of three consecutive school years, the charter school does not meet or exceed expected growth and has fewer than 60% of its students scoring at or above grade level.
- (b) For purposes of this policy, the first year test scores will be from the 2009-2010 school year.
- (c) This policy does not prohibit the State Board from taking any action against a charter that is otherwise legal and appropriate pursuant to G.S. 115C-238.29G.

First Time Low-Performing (LP) Designation

- ~~_____ The LP school shall submit a corrective action plan to the Office of Charter Schools within 60 days of the official notification of its low performing status. The corrective action plan shall address all areas of academic deficiency and state specific actions to correct these deficiencies. The Office of Charter Schools may request that experts in leadership, curriculum, and instruction review the action plan prior to acceptance. Contracted persons or DPI personnel may make these reviews.~~
- ~~_____ The school shall participate in workshops and staff development programs as directed by the Office of Charter Schools. The Office of Charter Schools will present a report of these activities and school participation to the CSAC and the SBE.~~

~~Second Time Low Performing or Repeated Low Performance Designation~~

- ~~• The school shall undergo a program evaluation, staff development, and leadership training as prescribed by the evaluation team.~~
 - ~~1. The school shall be assigned a program evaluation team that will consist of persons with expertise in the areas of leadership, curriculum, and instruction as necessary. The team may consist of contracted personnel or DPI personnel with expertise in the previously stated areas.~~
 - ~~2. Every effort shall be made to select an evaluation team that has expertise in the style of instruction focused on in the school's charter and mission.~~
 - ~~3. The program evaluation team in coordination with the school shall perform the following functions:
 - ~~a) assess the deficiencies of the school;~~
 - ~~b) develop a corrective action plan which will encompass program evaluation, curriculum design, curriculum integration with the NC Standard Course of Study, instructional methodology, leadership training, and any other areas the program evaluation team deems appropriate;~~
 - ~~c) assist in the implementation of the action plan;~~
 - ~~d) submit a written and oral evaluation of the report of the school's progress to the CSAC prior to its submission of a final recommendation to the SBE; and~~
 - ~~e) the SBE in its discretion may request a detailed oral presentation from the evaluation team.~~~~
- ~~• Any school refusing to cooperate in this process may be subject to revocation.~~

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Policy Identification**Priority:** Twenty-First Century Systems**Category:** Charter Schools Administration**Policy ID Number:** TCS-U-011**Policy Title:** ~~Process for a charter school to be designated as an alternative charter school~~**Current Policy Date:** ~~12/3/2009 (Delete)~~**Other Historical Information:** ~~09/11/2003; 03/04/2004~~**Statutory Reference:****Administrative Procedures Act (APA) Reference Number and Category:**

~~In order for a charter school to be eligible to participate in the alternative schools' accountability model in the ABCs (see HSP C 013), the Charter School Advisory Committee (CSAC) must determine that the school is eligible and make a recommendation to the State Board of Education (SBE).~~

~~Eligibility for charter schools' inclusion in the ABCs as an alternative school is to be based on these criteria:~~

- ~~1. The school serves students in grades 6-12, or serves students in a residential setting. A non-residential school applicant must have a high school component to be eligible to apply to use the Alternative School Accountability Model.~~
- ~~2. At least three-fourths of the school's population, i.e., 75% of students, are at risk as defined in HSP Q 001, I.B. of academic failure and must exhibit one or a combination of the following descriptors:

 - ~~a. historically truant,~~
 - ~~b. exhibiting significant behavioral problems,~~
 - ~~c. involved in the juvenile justice system,~~
 - ~~d. returning from juvenile justice settings or mental health treatment facilities, or~~
 - ~~e. suspended or dropped out from traditional schools.~~~~

~~If the CSAC determines that a charter school is eligible, it will recommend the school to the SBE for inclusion in the ABCs using the alternative school model. The CSAC will review each school thus designated on a three-year cycle. Upon review of each school applying for a three-year renewal of its designation, the CSAC will use the criteria listed in this policy to make a recommendation to the SBE whether or not the charter school will continue under this designation.~~

**NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
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Policy Identification

Priority: Twenty – First Century Systems

Category: Charter Schools Administration

Policy ID Number: TCS-U-012

Policy Title: Charter School Application and Review Process

Current Policy Date: 12/3/2009

Other Historical Information:

Statutory Reference: G.S. 115C-238.29A, G.S. 115C-238.29C

Administrative Procedures Act (APA) Reference Number and Category:

(a) Deadline for Filing Charter School Applications.

(1) Applications for charters must be received in the Office of Charter Schools, Room 229, 301 N. Wilmington Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, no later than 5:00 p.m. on the date specified in the charter school application packet for that year.

(2) Applications received in the Office of Charter Schools after the deadline specified in (a)(1) will not be considered.

(b) Prohibition on Contacting Members of the State Board of Education (SBE).

From the deadline for applications specified in (a)(1) until after the SBE makes a final decision on the award of charters:

(1) No applicant or agent of an applicant shall communicate with any member of the SBE regarding a pending charter school application, except during scheduled interviews or in response to requests from the SBE; and

(2) All communications regarding applications, other than communication during scheduled interviews with applicants or responses to requests from the SBE, shall be directed to the Office of Charter Schools.

(c) Rejection of Incomplete Applications

(1) The Office of Charter Schools shall review all timely applications and shall reject incomplete applications.

(d) Application Review Committee Responsibilities.

(1) The SBE shall appoint an Application Review (AR) Committee of no more than seven (7) persons. At least one member of the AR Committee shall have expertise in curriculum and one member shall have expertise in business management. Membership on the AR Committee should include persons who are or have been:

(i) members of a local board of education;

- (ii) members of a board of a private nonprofit that operates a charter school or officers or employees of a charter school; and
- (iii) members of the business community.

(2) The AR Committee shall review each complete application and determine whether the application:

- (i) meets all the requirements of the Charter School Act, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 115C-238.29A et seq.;
- (ii) would achieve one or more of the purposes set forth in G.S. 115C-238.29A;
- (iii) contains viable governance, business, and education plans; and
- (iv) satisfies any other requirements adopted by the SBE.

(3) Of the applications which meet the requirements in (d)(2), the AR Committee shall forward to the SBE those applications which a majority of the AR Committee agrees warrant SBE review.

(e) SBE Review of Applications and Award of Charters

(1) The SBE may interview or request information from applicants, their officers, agents or employees or other persons having information regarding the charter application reviewed by the AR Committee.

(2) When awarding charters, the SBE will give priority consideration to the applicants who demonstrate potential for significant, meaningful innovation in education.

(3) When determining whether to award a charter, the SBE may consider any factor that it determines will promote the purposes of the Charter School Act, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 115C-238.29A et seq., including but not limited to the extent to which the application:

- (i) Reflects the applicant's commitment to the purposes of the charter school law stated in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 115C-238.29A;
 - (ii) Promotes innovation through charter schools;
 - (iii) Reflects the applicant's planning, research and understanding of educational issues, including budgeting, financing and accounting;
 - (iv) Demonstrates the applicant's commitment to strong governance, including active participation of a large, diverse and locally-based board;
 - (v) Contains proper articles of incorporation and by-laws;
 - (vi) Contains a sound budget that accurately reflects anticipated revenues and costs; including costs associated with maintenance of the school facilities and projected growth;
 - (vii) Describes student admission requirements that comply with N.C. Gen. Stat. § 115C-238.29F(g), including a lottery system that satisfies N.C. Gen. Stat. § 115C-238.29F(g)(6);
 - (viii) Describes a sound plan for acquisition and utilization of an adequate facility;
 - (ix) Describes a sound five (5) year marketing plan that promotes the enrollment of a student population that reasonably reflects the racial and ethnic composition of the general population residing within the local school administrative unit in which the school is located or the special population that the school seeks to serve residing within the local school administrative unit in which the school is located;
- and

(x) any other factor that it determines will promote the purposes of the Charter School Act, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 115C-238.29A et seq.

(4) The SBE may award a charter to any applicant that submits an application that meets the requirements set forth in the statute and adopted by the SBE and when awarding the charter would achieve one or more of the purposes set forth in NC. Gen. Stat. 115C-238.29A.