

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD

Staff Proposal

- Charter Application Approval (Full)
- Charter Application Approval (Conditional)
- Charter Application Denial
- Charter Continuance
- Proposed Revocation
- Revocation
- Lift Board Action
- Board Action, Charter Warning
- Board Action, Notice of Concern
- Board Action, Notice of Deficiency
- Board Action, Notice of Probation
- Proposed Revisions to PCSB Existing Policy
- New PCSB Policy—Open for Public Comment
- New PCSB Policy—Vote
- Discussion Item

School Request

- Enrollment Ceiling Increase
- Change in LEA Status
- Lift Board Action
- Approve Accountability Plan
- Operate in a New Location
- Charter Amendment
- Approve E-Rate Plan

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SUBJECT: Open for Public Comment a Policy to allow schools to choose the Performance Management Framework as its Goals and Academic Achievement Expectations

DATE: December 4, 2012

Vote

PCSB staff recommends that the Board vote to open for public comment the a policy to allow schools to elect to adopt the PMF, as amended over time, for its charter goals and student achievement expectations. The policy proposes a method for setting short- and long-term goals that are achievable while still holding schools to high standards of performance.

Background

The School Reform Act of 1995 requires schools to commit to goals and student academic achievement expectations in their charter applications which become part of the charter agreement. These goals and student achievement expectations are to last for the life of the charter, which, unless a school relinquishes its charter or has it revoked, is 15 years. After a decade of measuring schools based on their goals through Accountability Plans that were created by schools and approved by PCSB's Board and amended to their charters, PCSB started the process of migrating to a standardized annual accountability system in order for similar schools to be held to the same performance standards. Currently, there are two Performance Management Frameworks ("PMFs") being used for annual accountability: the standard PMF, which is used to measure schools with grades 3 through 8 and a high school PMF for all diploma-granting, traditional high schools. In

addition, two PMF pilots are underway: one for early childhood schools serving up to grades 3; and one for adult education schools, offering GEDs, English as a Second Language certification, and/or Career and Technical Education programs that result in certification. In addition, PCSB is in the early stages of developing an Alternative Accountability PMF for K-12 schools serving significantly different populations than other K-12 schools.

These PMFs enable PCSB to measure similar schools against common standards of performance. However, the PMFs are currently not incorporated into each school's charter, causing a bifurcated accountability system wherein schools, by law, are held accountable to a separate set of goals and student academic achievement expectations for charter renewal and high stakes charter reviews while simultaneously being held to the standards of the PMF for annual accountability purposes. This proposed PMF Goals Policy is meant to provide schools with the opportunity to replace their current charter goals and student academic achievement expectations for PMF goals and expectations and thus have one set of goals and expectations they would be held accountable to.

Policy

Schools may choose to replace their charter goals and student achievement expectations with the Performance Management Framework(s), as amended over time, for the grade levels it serves. Upon the school's request, the following language will be added to their charter as an amendment, which will be approved by PCSB's Board.

The goals and student achievement expectations for students attending a given public charter school will be updated from those currently detailed in its charter, or subsequently created accountability plans, to the indicators listed in the Elementary/Middle, high school, adult education, early childhood, and/or alternative accountability PMFs. Any updates to the PMF(s), including changes in state assessments, performance indicators, floors, targets, and formulas will be automatically updated and accepted by the school without requiring a charter amendment as long as the PMF was updated through a fair and transparent process involving a task force that comprises school leaders, charter advocates, and PCSB staff and was officially adopted by PCSB's Board of Trustees in a public vote. Charter schools with mission-specific goals may also include these as supplemental goals and academic achievement expectations. Wherever possible these should be measurable and feasible to assess objectively.

Upon adoption, the new PMF-based goals will be used to evaluate a school's performance for the years beginning with the year the PMF was formally adopted by the Board (2010-11 for schools serving grades 3-8 and high schools, and the year of adoption for other PMFs). Along with adopting the PMF indicators as goals, the school will also agree to short- and long-term targets based on the percent of points earned on the PMF.

Schools will update their mission-specific goals and create short- and long-term targets to be measured along with the PMF results during high stakes reviews.

Fifth-Year Charter Review

A school undergoing its fifth-year charter review will need to earn at least 45% of the possible PMF points in at least two of the most recent three years in operation to be deemed as having met its goals and student academic achievement expectations during this review.

Tenth-Year Charter Review

A school undergoing its tenth-year review will need to earn at least 50% of the possible PMF points in at least two of the most recent three years and not under 45% in any of the previous five years to be deemed as having met its goals and student academic achievement expectations. In cases where a school has not achieved this, but has demonstrated consistent improvement over the course of the five years, the PCSB Board may determine it to have met its goals and student academic achievement expectations.

Charter Renewal

A school undergoing the 15-year charter renewal process will need to earn at least 55% of the possible PMF points in at least two of the previous three years and not under 50% for any of the past five years to be deemed as having met its goals and student academic expectations.

A school undergoing a five- or ten-year review within the first five years that its respective PMF was implemented will not be evaluated according to the above stated standards. Instead, it will need to demonstrate an upward trend in performance and earn at least 45% of the possible PMF points for the two years prior to the review.

A school undergoing the renewal process within the first five years that its respective PMF was implemented will not be evaluated according to the above stated standards. Instead, it will need to demonstrate an upward trend in performance and earn at least 50% of the possible PMF points for the two years prior to renewal.