

Houston County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in August	Descriptor Term: Charter School Agreements	Descriptor Code: 1.902	Issued Date: 12/11/23
		Rescinds:	Issued: 11/14/22

GENERAL

Charter agreements shall articulate the rights and responsibilities of each party regarding school autonomy, funding, administration and oversight, outcomes, measures for evaluating success or failure, performance consequences, and other material terms. These agreements shall be separate from the application and contain terms and performance standards under which the school shall operate.¹

All charter agreements shall:¹

1. Clearly state the rights and responsibilities of the school and the authorizer;
 2. Define the material terms of the agreement as being those relevant to renewal;
 3. Allow amendments subject to the approval of both parties;
 4. State and respect the autonomies to which schools are entitled (e.g. programming, staffing, budgeting, and scheduling);
 5. Define performance standards, criteria, and conditions for renewal, intervention, revocation, and non-renewal;
 6. State the amount of the authorizer fee and when it will be collected;
 7. Establish the consequences for meeting or not meeting standards as outlined by the Board;
 8. State the statutory, regulatory, and procedural terms and conditions for the school's operation;
 9. State reasonable pre-opening requirements or conditions for new schools to ensure that they meet all health, safety, and other legal requirements prior to opening;
 10. State the responsibility and commitment of the school to adhere to essential public education obligations, including admitting and serving all eligible students so long as space is available, and not expelling or counseling out students except pursuant to a legal discipline policy approved by the Board; and
 11. State the responsibilities of the school and the authorizer in the event of school closures.
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PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Charter agreements shall include clear academic, financial, and organizational performance standards. Sources for obtaining this information shall be outlined in the agreement. At a minimum, these agreements shall include the following:

1. Academic performance standards that set expectations for student achievement and growth, incorporate state and federal accountability systems, and set expectations for postsecondary readiness (for high schools);
2. Financial performance standards that enable the Board to evaluate the charter's financial stability; and
3. Organizational performance standards that define the vital components of the educational program, the financial management standards, state and federal legal requirements, and school environment expectations for which the Board shall hold the charter accountable.

The performance standards included in the charter agreement shall establish specific expectations using objective measures of student achievement. This shall be the primary measure of school quality.

FEE-BASED SERVICES

Any fee-based services shall be outlined in a separate agreement. The provision of any such fee-based services shall not be a condition of charter approval, continuation, or renewal.²

Legal References

1. TCA 49-13-110; State Board of Education Policy 6.111
2. State Board of Education Policy 6.111