

DCSD Charter School Intervention Protocol

INTRODUCTION

A fundamental responsibility of the DeKalb County School District is ensuring the following: quality charter school oversight that maintains high standards of school performance, upholds school autonomy, and safeguards student and public interests. One of the primary mechanisms for fulfilling this purpose is a comprehensive accountability system that sets clear standards of performance and includes oversight to evaluate said performance and monitor compliance.

Through its ongoing monitoring of schools' performance, the District may from time to time uncover academic, financial, or operational performance that does not meet its established standards. As a quality authorizer, the District must establish a process for how it responds fairly, transparently, and consistently to areas of deficiency.

TIERED INTERVENTION PROCESS

DeKalb County School District fully intends to address performance deficiencies by entering schools into a tiered intervention process that increasingly sanctions schools until deficiencies are either sufficiently resolved or, ultimately, results in termination (as necessary).

A few key assumptions are the basis for a quality intervention protocol. First, all schools earn good standing until a performance deficiency constitutes the school formally entering a level of intervention. Second, an intervention ladder is not always linear: while schools could progress from one level to the next in subsequent order, escalation (or de-escalation) among its tiers may be non-sequential based on many factors, including especially the extent or severity of a performance deficiency. Finally, once a school resolves performance deficiencies to the extent they no longer constitute additional monitoring or sanctions, a school exits the intervention ladder and earns its good standing back. However, a school's cumulative record of performance reviewed during renewal should reflect any previous interventions.

CONDITIONS THAT MAY TRIGGER INTERVENTION

DeKalb County School District has developed an intervention plan that is aligned to obligations set forth in law, regulation, rule, best practice and charter contracts. Conditions that triggering intervention will be transparently established in an intervention protocol. These common conditions could include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Failure to meet academic or organizational performance expectations, as defined by the charter school contract
- Failure to meet indicators of financial viability or sustainability
- Violations of federal or state statutes and applicable board policy and/or breaches of contract
- Issues pertaining to student safety, rights, or access
- Adverse findings in routine oversight
- Substantiated breach of policies and procedures and/or negligence related to industry standards
- Substantiated constituent concerns

WHAT WILL INTERVENTION LOOK LIKE

If DeKalb County School District identifies a potential concern at a school, DCSD will contact the school to gather more information and to determine whether or not to formally enter intervention. The school will be asked at the time of the initial contact for a written summary of the situation. If the DCSD does initiate intervention for a school, the department will detail the concern and potential consequences in a written notice. Written documentation of the deficiency may include DCSD's specific expectations for remedy, including a timeline including, if applicable remedial plan submission. To allow for school autonomy remedial plans are authored by the school and DCSD will only provide clarity around the expected outcomes. Once a school enters formal intervention, a written notice will be sent to the school's board, in addition to its school-level leadership, as the board is ultimately responsible for the charter.

Range of Interventions		
Status	Conditions That May Trigger Status	Possible Consequences
Level 1: Notice of Concern	- Indications of weak or declining performance identified through routine monitoring, site visits, or other means - Repeated failure to submit requirements on a timely basis	- Written notification to charter school board detailing severity of concern - DCSD requirements for resolution, timeline, and consequences, if not satisfactorily remedied
Level 2: Notice of Breach	- Failure to satisfactorily remedy or make substantial progress toward remedying previously identified concern(s) - Failure to meet multiple performance targets - An overall "Does Not Meet" rating per charter school contract - Failure to comply with applicable law or breach of contract	- Written notification to charter school board detailing severity of concern - DCSD requirements for resolution, timeline, and consequences, if not satisfactorily remedied - Specialized site visit(s), as necessary - Meeting(s) with charter school board, as necessary - Corrective action plan developed by the school and approved by DCSD, as necessary

Level 3: Notice of Probationary Status	- Any overall “Falls Far Below” rating on any key Performance metrics - Continued failure to comply with applicable law or with the charter - Failure to meet or make sufficient progress toward meeting terms of corrective action plan,	- Remedial action plan developed by the school and approved by DCSD - Meeting with charter school board - Specialized site visit(s), as necessary
Level 4: Notice of Revocation Review	Noncompliance with an applicable health or safety standard	- Written notice stating intent to consider revocation - Meeting with charter school board - Corrective action plan developed by the school and approved by the authorizer
Level 5: Notice of Revocation	- Extended pattern of failure to comply or to meet performance targets - Continued failure to comply with applicable law or with the charter contract - Failure to satisfactorily address or make sufficient progress toward meeting terms	<i>Revocation review process will be conducted in accordance with state law and may include:</i> - Written notice from DCSD stating reason for proposed revocation - Specialized site visit(s), as necessary - Decision to revoke or not revoke by DCSD and the state

DeKalb County School District reserves the right to skip levels of intervention, as necessary, and to move toward immediate revocation in the case of a school’s financial insolvency or if the school poses a significant risk to the health or safety of its students.