

Considerations for Possible Changes to the District's 2014-2015 Charter Application Review Process

Current Statutory Requirements

Related to providing feedback or written notice to applicant:

- Must use the *Florida Charter School Application Evaluation Instrument*
- Must allow applicant 7 days to correct technical or non-substantive changes/corrections
- Must provide in writing to the applicant the results/analysis of the review using the state evaluation tool
- Must approve/deny within 60 calendar days after application is received
- Must provide in writing to the applicant the specific reasons for Board denial of the application

Currently there is no statutory requirement to interview applicants; no requirement to permit the applicant to clarify information or submit additional/new information to the original application.

Current district application review process

See chart on page 3 for 2013-14 procedures and timeline

Factors to consider

- Statutory time limits – 60 day turn around
- Limited district resources
- Increase in number of applications received
- Nature and extent of feedback to applicants
- Benefits and limitations of allowing applicants submit responses (written or verbal) subsequent to original application.

Other Florida Districts' Procedures

- Procedures vary from county to county
- Majority of counties meet with or interview applicants

- Many do not provide applicants with the opportunity to clarify or amend the application

Options for next year’s procedures

1. No changes to process
2. Provide a final written report/rating based on application and capacity interview but eliminate preliminary report and applicant written responses
 - Preliminary Report – no
 - Capacity Interview – yes
 - Opportunity for applicant to respond or submit addenda - no
 - Combine analysis of written and oral responses = Final Report to Board
3. Discontinue Capacity Interview and allow for applicant’s written responses for clarification
 - Preliminary Report – yes
 - Applicant responds to CRC concerns/questions - yes
 - Capacity Interview – no
 - CRC re-analyses of applicant’s written responses = Final Report to Board
4. Provide a preliminary and a final written report based on application and capacity interview but not allow applicant written responses
 - Preliminary Report – yes
 - Applicant responds or submit addenda - no
 - Capacity Interview – yes
 - Combine analysis of written and oral responses = Final Report to Board

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Preliminary Report | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |
| Applicant responds | Yes | No | Yes | No |
| Capacity Interview | Yes | Yes | No | Yes |

| Current Charter Application Review Process | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Key Activity | Date(s) in 2013 |
| Applications received | August 1 |
| Staff review for “technical errors” in application | August 1 – 8 |
| Charter Review Committee (CRC) analysis and review of applications | August – October 3, 2013 |
| CRC meeting dates | August – October (up to 10 meetings) |
| CRC Initial Evaluation Findings and requests for clarification sent to applicants | September 11, 2013 |
| Sarasota County School Board workshop with charter applicants | September 17, 2013 |
| Applicants submit revisions/addenda to the district’s School Choice Office | September 18, 2013 |
| CRC evaluates charter application responses and determines if ratings changed; develops interview questions | 2 – 3 CRC meetings |
| Clarification Interviews (CRC with applicants) | September 26, 2013 |
| CRC reviews findings from Interviews and determines final ratings (no additional feedback given to applicant) | 2 CRC meetings |
| Staff prepares final reports | October 2 - 4 |
| Agenda is published. Final evaluation packets sent to applicants | October 8, 2013 |
| School Board action on charter school applications (on the regular consent agenda) | October 15, 2013 ** |