



OPSB Charter Policy Bulletin: Guiding Principles & Process Update

August 17th, 2015

Charter Policy Bulletin Framework

HA (A126): School Board Chartering Authority

- 1st reading: June
- Collects all non-evaluative policies and guidelines for OPSB-authorized charter schools

HB (A127): Performance Framework & Evaluation

- 1st reading: August
- Incorporates Performance Framework (adopted in June 2014), identifies Critical Indicators and evaluative considerations

HAB (A128): Charter Extensions & Renewals – ADOPTED Dec 2014

- Review in October to determine if any changes needed
- Explicitly defines standards, timelines, and recommended renewal lengths (all renewals)
- Incorporates automatic renewals and automatic replication,

HC (A129): Charter Monitoring, Intervention, & Closure – ADOPTED Dec 2014

- Review in October to determine if any changes needed
- Establishes clear guidelines for district action when schools are not meeting standards
- Provides clear requirements for revocation of a school's charter, including processes for advance notification and community engagement prior to a school closure

Charter Policy Bulletin Revision Goals

1. Bring OPSB charter policies into compliance with law & best practices
2. Codify existing policies, which had been revised in an ad-hoc fashion over time
3. Provide clarity to school operators, new applicants, and other stakeholders on OPSB's expectations and standards for charter schools

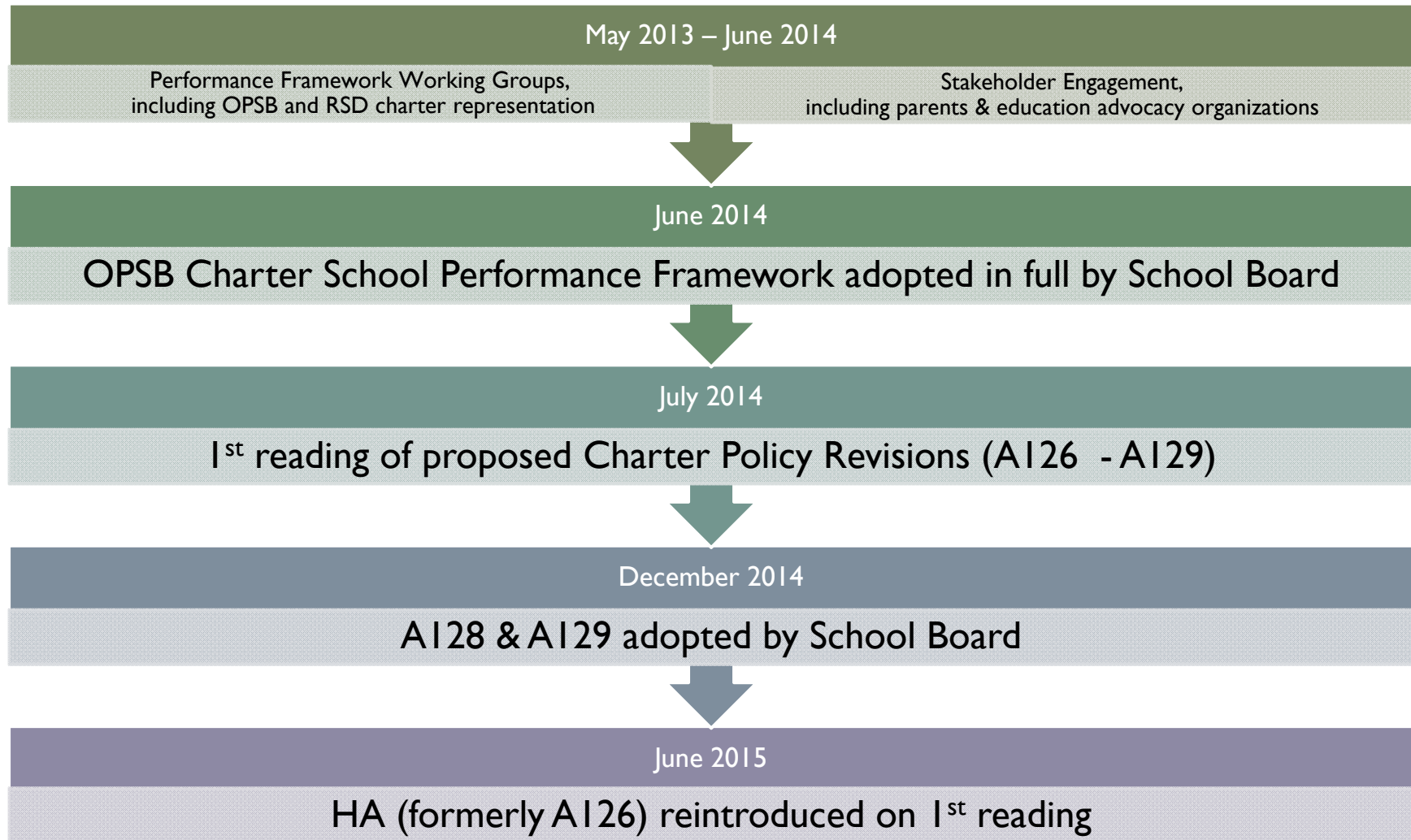
OPSB Administration Guiding Principles

- ▶ **Enrollment:** All schools must participate in a single, citywide enrollment process that respects the statutory role of OPSB and the autonomy of OPSB charter schools
 - ▶ 1) All existing schools required to participate in the citywide common enrollment system at renewal, per July 2012 OPSB resolution, December 2012 OPSB policy amendments, and 2014 OPSB-RSD CEA provisions
 - ▶ 2) Adoption of a shared governance structure for EnrollNOLA/OneApp that addresses systemic concerns, honors OPSB charter operating agreement terms, and protects the district's full statutory authority
- ▶ **Open Admissions:** No new academically selective admissions schools will be created, as required by statute
 - ▶ Existing programs with academic admissions requirements can remain, per statute
 - ▶ Portfolio program differentiation encouraged through other approaches, including non-selective specialized programs
- ▶ **Transportation:** All open-enrollment schools must provide transportation for all students > 1 mile from school, including safe and secure transportation for ES students
- ▶ **Autonomy:** All current statutory/contractual areas of autonomy must be honored, consistent with these guiding principles



Policy HA

Charter Policy Revisions: Timeline of Actions Taken To Date



Charter Policy Revisions: Stakeholder Engagement To Date

OPSB Charter School Boards, School Leaders & Business Managers

OPSB Administration & District Leadership

Type 5 Charter School Leaders & Business Managers

Education Stakeholder Groups

- Cowen Institute, Tulane University
- New Orleans Education Research Alliance (ERA)
- New Schools for New Orleans (NSNO)
- Eastbank Collaborative of Charter Schools (ECCS)
- Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools (LAPCS)

Education Advocacy Organizations

- Parent Advocates
- Urban League of Greater New Orleans
- Stand for Children – New Orleans
- Black Alliance for Educational Options (BAEO)

Community Stakeholder Groups

- Forward New Orleans – Education
- Business Council of New Orleans & the River Region
- Partnership for Youth Development (PYD)
- Baptist Community Ministries Foundation (BCM)
- Orleans Public Education Network (OPEN)

Other Louisiana Charter School Authorizers

- Recovery School District – New Orleans
- Louisiana Department of Education

Policy HA Key Changes Since 1st Reading: Schools with Academic Admissions Requirements

▶ Four Commitments:

1. Commitment to **Academic Excellence**

- ▶ Higher Academic Performance Framework standard (A letter grade OR top 10% of schools in state serving same grade levels)

2. Commitment to **Open Access** for all qualified students

- ▶ Existing admissions preferences (except as noted below) to be maintained and administered via the common enrollment process at renewal
- ▶ Citywide equal access – no neighborhood/geographic preferences, effective at renewal

3. Commitment to **Serving At-Risk Students**

- ▶ Schools must adhere to statutes, per Act 467 (SB 267) enforcement requirements

4. Commitment to **Meaningful Accountability**

- ▶ Failure to comply results in Intervention per operating agreement provisions and district policy, with additional remedies and sanctions available (including potential loss of academic selectivity)

▶ Policy Accommodations:

- ▶ Enrollment: permitted to retain waitlists, provided exemption from midyear enrollment process
- ▶ Transportation: maintains current transportation provisions for these schools, since they will not have neighborhood/catchment preferences

HA: Other Changes Since 1st Reading

- ▶ Revision of admissions provisions and incorporation of relevant statutory provisions
 - ▶ No new academically selective admissions schools
 - ▶ Existing schools with preferences permitted to retain
 - ▶ Clarified rules for schools seeking to offered specialized programs based on student interest
- ▶ Modified governing board residency requirement to align with BESE policy (lower %, includes adjacent parishes)
- ▶ Moved provisions addressing standards for alternative schools and schools undergoing turnaround/transformation from HB

Policy HA: Responses to Key Stakeholder Concerns – Enrollment

▶ Concerns:

- ▶ Broad support for all schools to be in common enrollment among non-OPSB charter stakeholder and participating OPSB charter schools
- ▶ Concerns that OPSB needs to be an equal partner with RSD in implementing a common enrollment system, and that the statutory authority of the School Board and Superintendent be protected
- ▶ Schools with existing admissions requirements in their operating agreements wanted assurances they could maintain their criteria, and the ability to maintain waiting lists
- ▶ Four open enrollment schools currently have a zip code preference within their Operating Agreement terms

▶ Response:

- ▶ Policy HA restates and codifies that all OPSB charters will be in the common enrollment system when their charter is renewed, while also recognizing the needs of schools with admissions requirements (including academically-selective schools)
- ▶ OPSB and RSD are meeting regularly to work together to refine and improve EnrollNOLA's operations for all schools in the city
- ▶ The four schools with a zip code preference can continue to use this zip code as their neighborhood preference (50% of seats) – any new neighborhood preferences must conform to standard boundaries adopted by the School Board

Policy HA: Key Stakeholder Concerns – Transportation & Other Areas

▶ Transportation

▶ Concerns:

- ▶ Cost burden on authorized charter schools authorized prior to 2011
- ▶ Differing interpretations of operating agreement provisions
- ▶ Strong parent & community demand for all schools to provide transportation

▶ Response:

- ▶ Revisions ensure equitable access to all open-enrollment schools for all students, regardless of parent circumstances;
- ▶ Schools with admissions requirements granted additional flexibility, in exchange for ending all geographic admissions preferences

▶ Other Concerns that cannot be addressed within OPSB Charter Policy Bulletin

- ▶ Finances (TRSL cost burden, differentiated funding) – BESE (Act 467)
- ▶ Facilities assignments/SFMP – RSD, Master Plan Oversight Committee

Next steps:

- ▶ **Planned timeline for consideration:**
 - ▶ **HA (A126):**
 - ▶ Discussion: August
 - ▶ Adoption: September
 - ▶ **HB (A127)**
 - ▶ 1st reading: August
 - ▶ Adoption: September
 - ▶ **HAB and HC (A128 and A129):**
 - ▶ Recoding: September
 - ▶ 1st reading (if necessary): October
 - ▶ Adoption (if necessary): November

- ▶ **Feedback through Policy Office Hours, Policy Revision portal at www.opsb.us**