



Board of Education Informational Report

MEMORANDUM

Date: February 2, 2021
To: Members of the Board of Education, Charter Schools and Alternative Programs Committee
From: Korinna Wolfe, Area Senior Director, Multiple Pathways to Graduation
Subject: Charter Schools Renewals

This memorandum provides a brief explanation of the charter school renewal purpose and criteria.

Sponsors of charter schools in Oregon are responsible for evaluating charter school performance and determining whether or not to renew the contract of the charter school based on its compliance with the law and the contract, and its performance in three domains: academic, financial, and organizational.

The National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) recommends in its *Principles & Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing* that a formal renewal application be used as part of a fair and transparent process. This renewal application ensures that all charter schools entering the renewal process have an equal opportunity to present data and information relevant to their request for contract renewal. It also ensures that the renewal decision is based on the renewal criteria specified in ORS 338.065 and OAR 581-026-0400.

Charter school renewal evaluation includes a review of annual performance reports, annual financial audits, annual site visit, and any other information mutually agreed upon by the sponsor and the charter school. The annual Performance Framework and Report is the tool used to formalize this review.

ORS 338.065: Charter Schools Renewal Criteria

(8)(a) The sponsor shall base the charter renewal decision on a good faith evaluation of whether the public charter school:

- (A) Is in compliance with this chapter and all other applicable state and federal laws;
- (B) Is in compliance with the charter of the public charter school;
- (C) Is meeting or working toward meeting the student performance goals and agreements specified in the charter or any other written agreements between the sponsor and the public charter school governing body;
- (D) Is fiscally stable and has used the sound financial management system described in the proposal submitted under ORS 338.045 and incorporated into the written charter under this section; and
- (E) Is in compliance with any renewal criteria specified in the charter of the public charter school.

(b) The sponsor shall base the renewal evaluation described in paragraph (a) of this subsection primarily on a review of the public charter school's annual performance reports, annual audit of accounts and annual site visit and review as required by ORS 338.095 and any other information mutually agreed upon by the public charter school governing body and the sponsor. [1999 c.200 §8; 2005 c.522 §1; 2009 c.691 §10; 2011 c.695 §4; 2013 c.136 §1; 2013 c.265 §8]