
Charter School Authorizer Policies – 6.800 and 6.900

The Background:

Pursuant to Public Chapter 850 of the 108th General Assembly, the State Board of Education has become an appellate authorizer for charter schools who apply to an LEA that contains a priority school as well as an authorizer if an LEA sponsors a charter school.

New policies are needed in the areas of charter school renewal and LEA as a sponsor of a charter school, and these policies were not ready to be presented to the State Board of Education with the other authorizer policies presented at the meeting on July 25, 2014. These policies are in agreement with national standards for authorizing.

State Board staff has made a few non-substantive changes to Policy 6.800 since first reading, clarifying the process to be applied when a governing body appeals from an LEA's decision to deny renewal, when a governing body is applying directly to the State Board for renewal, and when a governing body of a State Board authorized school applies for renewal to an LEA and appeals the decision to deny renewal.

The only substantive change made to Policy 6.800 since first reading is in Section 2(e)(iv) with regard to public hearings in the event that the State Board is the authorizer. This change clarifies the process to be followed during this public hearing since an LEA is not involved. The policy has been updated to clarify that a State Board staff member will first present the preliminary renewal recommendation. The governing body will then have the chance to address the preliminary renewal recommendation.

Further, in Policy 6.900 it was clarified that the decision of the State Board to deny a charter application shall be final and not subject to appeal when an LEA is the sponsor of a charter school.

The Fiscal Analysis Impact:

This item has no financial impact on an LEA.

The Recommendation:

SBE staff recommends adoption of this item on final reading.