

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD

Staff Proposal	School Request
<input type="checkbox"/> Charter Application Approval (Full)	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrollment Ceiling Increase
<input type="checkbox"/> Charter Application Approval (Conditional)	<input type="checkbox"/> Change in LEA Status
<input type="checkbox"/> Charter Application Denial	<input type="checkbox"/> Lift Board Action
<input type="checkbox"/> Charter Continuance	<input type="checkbox"/> Approve Accountability Plan
<input type="checkbox"/> Proposed Revocation	<input type="checkbox"/> Operate in a New Location
<input type="checkbox"/> Revocation	<input type="checkbox"/> Charter Amendment
<input type="checkbox"/> Lift Board Action	<input type="checkbox"/> Approve E-Rate Plan
<input type="checkbox"/> Board Action, Charter Warning	
<input type="checkbox"/> Board Action, Notice of Concern	
<input type="checkbox"/> Board Action, Notice of Deficiency	
<input type="checkbox"/> Board Action, Notice of Probation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Proposed Revisions to PCSB Existing Policy--Vote	
<input type="checkbox"/> New PCSB Policy—Open for Public Comment	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New PCSB Policy—Vote	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	

PREPARED BY: Naomi Rubin DeVeaux, Deputy Director

SUBJECT: Definition of School, Campus, and Facility

DATE: November 19, 2012

BACKGROUND

This policy was originally introduced to the board on July 16, 2012 and was approved to open for public comment for 30 days on PCSB website. A public hearing was held on August 20, 2012. We received no public comment and no individual spoke at the hearing. Therefore, staff recommends that the board vote to approve this policy as it was originally received.

According to the School Reform Act, the PCSB has the authority to award charters to applicants to operate public charter schools in the District of Columbia. By law, each school is its own Local Education Agency (LEA). Some of the schools or LEAs that PCSB has chartered have multiple campuses and/or exist in more than one facility. On June 18, 2012 the PCSB Board voted to approve that PCSB may close a single campus rather than revoke the charter, which would require all campuses the school operates to close.

This proposed policy defines school, campus, and facility to build consistency across the sector and transparency in PCSB’s charter granting, expansion, replication, and closure policies.

PROPOSAL

Staff recommends that the Board vote to open public comment on the following proposed policy:

Definition of School

The PCSB awards a charter to a school or local education agency (LEA). A school has a charter agreement with the PCSB that outlines the school's mission, goals, legal requirements, and responsibilities. The school is run by a Board of Trustees who hires a Chief Executive Officer, Executive Director, Head of School, or equivalent, or a management company to run the school. There are two types of schools: Single campus schools and multi-campus schools.

Single-Campus School

A single-campus school operates a distinct grade range with a single school leader responsible for the academic program for the entire grade span of the campus. The school has distinct goals to measure progress and attainment at that campus. Students matriculate from one grade to the next in a clear progression that does not require internal lotteries. A single-campus school may operate on multiple facilities, especially during times of transition and growth.

Multi-Campus School

A multi-campus school operates two or more campuses under one charter.

Each campus must have distinct and unique performance, attendance, and discipline data and must report these data separately to the PCSB and on federal and state reports. Under PCSB's closure policy of June 18, 2012, each campus will be evaluated against specific academic and other goals for accountability purposes. This is in addition to PCSB's evaluation of the entire school. These goals against which a campus is evaluated may be school-wide goals or specific goals for the campus, depending on the language in the school's charter and subsequent amendments.

A campus has a distinct grade-span, such as early childhood, elementary, middle, or high school, or a combination of the above. A multi-campus school may operate multiple campuses that each offers the same grade span on different facilities. It may also operate different but distinct grade spans, whether on the same or different facilities.

Each campus typically has a distinct academic leader and a largely separate staff.

Students from one campus may matriculate to another campus automatically with priority over new applicants. If there are insufficient spaces the campus may hold, prior to an external lottery, an internal school lottery for students from other campus. New students apply to each campus through separate applications with each campus holding a separate and distinct lottery process.

Facility

A facility is a building that houses a part of a campus, an entire campus, or multiple campuses. It may be temporary or permanent. Campuses may be split among multiple facilities. And a school may operate multiple campuses in one facility.

Applying For Multi-Campus Status

A public charter school may apply to PCSB to operate multiple campuses if each campus meets the criteria above. Once a school is considered a multi-campus school, the charter can be amended to allow PCSB to close just one campus.

Applying to Convert from Multi-Campus to Single Campus Status

If a multi-campus school changes its operating structure to meet the definition of a single-campus school, it may apply to the PCSB for single-campus status. However, if a school has received federal startup funding for a campus within the past five years, it cannot combine the campus with another campus that has ever received federal startup funding.