

Attachment A

POLICY TITLE: Accreditation Policy	
ADOPTION/EFFECTIVE DATE: December 20, 2010	MOST RECENTLY UPDATED: October 14, 2014 <u>October 23, 2017</u>

PURPOSE

The D.C. Public Charter School Accreditation policy applies to all authorized public charter schools in the D.C Public Charter School Board ([DC PCSB](#)) portfolio.

POLICY

All ~~newly authorized~~ charter schools must ~~have the goal of seeking and obtaining accreditation from an accrediting body approved by DC PCSB~~ by the end of ~~the its first five ninth~~ years of operation. ~~Non-accredited charter schools existing as of the effective date of this policy (December 20, 2010) must seek and obtain accreditation within five years. A school (1) must begin the accreditation process and enter into a contract with an approved accrediting agency by December of its seventh year of operation.~~

Failure to Comply

~~A school will be considered "out of compliance" and may be subject to board action if it fails Failure to seek accreditation by executing a contract with an approved accrediting agency by December of its seventh year of operation or fails to secure accreditation by the completion of the school's fifth ninth year of operation. Failure to have or maintain accreditation is grounds for charter non-continuance or non-renewal at a school's ten-year review and all subsequent reviews and renewals will be considered as a negative factor in schools' annual compliance reviews and periodic charter reviews and could lead to board action.~~

References

The D.C. School Reform Act of 1995 § 38-1802.02 requires as part of the petition for a charter to operate a charter school "An assurance the

proposed school will seek, obtain, and maintain accreditation from at least one of the following:

1. The Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools;
2. The Association of Independent Maryland Schools (*no longer active*);
3. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (*now AdvancED*);
4. The Virginia Association of Independent Schools (*no longer active*);
5. Association Montessori Society International/ USA (*no longer active*);
6. The American Montessori Society;
7. The National Academy of Early Childhood Programs (*now The National Association for Education of Young Children*);
8. American Academy for Liberal Education (AALE)
9. KIPP Foundation
10. National Commission for the Accreditation of Special Education (NCASES)
11. International Primary Curriculum (IPC)

12. Any other accrediting body deemed appropriate by the eligible chartering authority that granted the charter to the school"¹

- ~~a. American Academy for Liberal Education (approved by PCSB in 2003)~~
- ~~b. KIPP Foundation (approved by PCSB in 2013)~~
- ~~c. National Commission for the Accreditation of Special Education Services (NCASES) (pending PCSB approval 2014)~~
- ~~d. International Primary Curriculum (IPC) (pending PCSB approval 2014)~~

Standards for Adding Additional Agencies to Add to the List

Each agency on the approved list and any agency wishing to be added to the list of approved accreditors must meet the following standards:

1. Standards: The accrediting agency, in collaboration with educational institutions, establishes standards.

¹ Per its policy, DC PCSB deemed the following agencies appropriate accrediting bodies, in the year noted: AALE (2003); KIPP Foundation (2013); NCASES (2014); IPC (2014)

2. Self-study: The institution or program seeking accreditation prepares an in-depth self-evaluation study that measures its performance against the standards established by the accrediting agency.
3. On-site Evaluation: A team selected by the accrediting agency visits the institution or program to determine first-hand if the applicant meets the established standards.
4. Monitoring: The accrediting agency monitors each accredited institution or program throughout the period of accreditation granted to verify that it continues to meet the agency's standards.
5. Reevaluation: The accrediting agency periodically reevaluates each institution or program that it lists to ascertain whether continuation of its accredited or pre-accredited status is warranted.