



POLICY TITLE:	
Policy to Amend Charter Agreement to Allow Single Campus Closures	
ADOPTION/EFFECTIVE DATE:	MOST RECENTLY UPDATED:
April 23, 2012	N/A

PURPOSE

Many DC charter schools operate multiple campuses, some with widely varying performance. DC PCSB’s board policies around the Performance Management Framework make a campus eligible for closure if it is low-performing. Presently the board lacks the authority to close an individual campus, whether under the School Reform Act or the charter agreements we have with our schools. DC PCSB’s only authority is to revoke the charter for an entire school, and the only way to effect the closure of a campus is to threaten the closure of an entire school unless that school’s board on its own closes the low-performing campus.

POLICY

1. That PCSB staff seek the voluntary agreement of multi-campus charter schools to amend their charter on terms consistent with the attached template amendment.
2. That PCSB staff include terms consistent with the attached template amendment to any amendment to a school’s charter establishing or approving any new campus.
3. That PCSB staff include terms consistent with the attached template amendment to any renewal of a charter of a multi-campus school.

It is in the PCSB’s interest to have the authority to close individual, low-performing campuses using the same criteria set forth in the SRA to close a school.

It is also, we believe, in multi-campus schools’ interests that the board has this authority. We have heard from several schools that the current situation raises a school’s risk profile with lenders and others. Individuals considering lending to, working for, doing business with, or enrolling a child in a campus need to consider the risk that that campus might close not only because of its low performance or mismanagement but because of the low performance of any other campus operated by the school. This higher risk profile is not helpful to schools.



We therefore believe that multi-campus schools will agree to sign the attached amendment giving PCSB the authority to close an individual campus using the same authority the PCSB has to revoke the charter of the entire school. Should a school not voluntarily sign the amendment, we would not compel them to do so until the time of their charter renewal. Schools requesting to establish multi-campus operations for the first time would be required to agree to this amendment as a condition for approval.

Nothing in this amendment limits the Board's authority or ability to close an entire school if it concludes this is the appropriate step under the SRA.

Board Approval Acknowledged By:

Darren Woodruff
DC PCSB Board Chair

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