

POLICY TITLE: Definition of School, Campus and Facility	
ADOPTION/EFFECTIVE DATE: November 19, 2012	MOST RECENTLY UPDATED: October 26, 2015

BACKGROUND

According to the School Reform Act (“SRA”), each school is its own Local Education Agency (“LEA”). Some public charter schools or LEAs have multiple campuses and/or operate in more than one facility. Pursuant to a school’s charter agreement, PCSB may close a single under-performing campus instead of revoking the entire charter, which would result in all campuses closing regardless of performance, if a charter school is designated as a multi-campus school.

This proposed policy defines school, campus, and facility to clarify PCSB's charter granting, expansion, replication, and closure policies.

DEFINITIONS

School

A school, operated by a School Corporation, is an entity that holds a charter and a charter agreement with PCSB, outlining the school's mission, goals, legal requirements, and responsibilities. A school is governed by a Board of Trustees, which generally hires a Chief Executive Officer, Executive Director, Head of School, or equivalent, to run the school and/or contracts with a management company. A school may either operate a single campus or multiple campuses. A School Corporation has a unique identifier from the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (“OSSE”) called an LEA identifier.

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. A single-campus school has distinct goals to measure progress and attainment. Students matriculate from one grade to the next in a clear progression that does not require internal lotteries. A single-campus may have a distinct grade-span, such as early childhood, elementary, middle, high school, adult education, or it may include a combination of the above (e.g. prekindergarten through 8th). A single-campus school may operate in multiple facilities, especially during times of transition and growth. A single-campus school will have an LEA identifier and a unique campus-identifier assigned to it by OSSE.

Multi-Campus School

A multi-campus school operates two or more campuses under one charter and each campus has a unique campus identifier assigned to it by OSSE. A multi-campus school may operate multiple campuses that each offers the same grade span. It may also operate multiple campuses each with different grade spans, whether in the same or different facilities.

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. A school may operate a single-campus among multiple facilities, or a school may operate multiple campuses in one facility. OSSE will assign a facility identifier for a School Corporation for transportation purposes only.

POLICY

Pursuant to the Office of the State Superintendent for Education's policy, a School Corporation will have a unique LEA identification number and EACH campus it runs will have a distinct and unique campus identification number. Each campus must have separate performance, attendance, and discipline data that it reports under its distinct and unique identification number to PCSB and on federal and state reports. Accordingly, each campus will be evaluated against specific goals and academic achievement expectations as detailed in the school's charter and charter agreement. Additionally, PCSB will evaluate a school in its entirety.

Each campus must have a distinct academic leader who reports to the head of school and is responsible for its staff. Students from one campus may matriculate to another campus of the same school automatically with priority over new applicants. If there are insufficient spaces, a campus may hold, prior to an external lottery, an internal school lottery for students from another or other campus(es). New students apply to each campus through a separate application and lottery process.

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 must be amended to include the campus name, grade levels served (or to be served at full capacity), and its location. It may 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 most recent five years, it cannot combine the campus with another campus that has never received federal startup funding.

Staff Recommendation For

Staff will generally recommend the Board approve campus reconfigurations (either from a single campus to a multi-campus or from a multi-campus to a single campus) if the school: (1) demonstrates a need for the change that will directly impact student performance and school

culture; (2) is not within two years of charter renewal or one year of charter review; and (3) can demonstrate through a staffing plan that each campus has only one principal who reports to the head of school/executive director.

Staff Recommendation Against

Staff will generally recommend against a campus reconfiguration if the school went through a reconfiguration within the most recent two years and/or cannot articulate a reason for the change that would directly impact students. If an LEA serves grades above pre-kindergarten (“PK”), PCSB will generally not approve that LEA to operate a PK only campus (a campus serving only grades PK-3 and PK-4).

Board Approval Acknowledged By:



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Darren Woodruff
DC PCSB Board Chair

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