

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD

Charter Actions Requiring a Vote

- Approve a Charter Application
- Approve a Charter Renewal (15 yrs.)
- Approve Charter Continuance (5 or 10 yrs.)
- Approve a Charter Amendment Request
- Approve a Charter Agreement
- Give a Charter Notice of Concern
- Lift the Charter Notice of Concern
- Commence Charter Revocation Proceedings
- Revoke a Charter
- Board Action, Other_____

Non-Voting Board Items

- Public Hearing Item
- Discussion Item
- Read into Record

Policies

- Open a New Policy or Changes to a Policy for Public Comment
- Approve a New Policy
- Approve Revisions to an Existing Policy

PREPARED BY: **Jessica Taguding – Senior Data Analyst, Equity and Fidelity**

SUBJECT: **Revisions to the Business Rules of the DC Public Charter School Board Enrollment Ceiling Increase Policy**

DATE: **April 22, 2019**

Proposal

The DC Public Charter School Board (DC PCSB) staff recommends that its Board open for public comment three proposed updates to the business rules that accompany DC PCSB’s Enrollment Ceiling Increase Policy (ECI Policy). DC PCSB is scheduled to hold a public hearing on the proposed updates on May 20, 2019 and will close the public comment period after the hearing is held. The Board will vote on the proposed revisions on June 17, 2019.

Written comments may be submitted until 5:30 p.m. on May 20, 2019 by mail or email to:

DC Public Charter School Board
3333 14th Street NW, Suite 210
Washington, DC 20010
public.comment@dcpcsb.org

Summary of Revisions

DC PCSB staff proposes three updates to the business rules of the ECI Policy:

- Update #1: For Indicator 9 (out-of-school suspension rates), add additional safeguards to prevent outlier over-identification. These safeguards are already used by DC PCSB staff during the internal monthly identification of outliers; therefore, the policy revision would align the ECI Policy with current DC PCSB practices.
- Update #2: Revise grade band groupings in Indicator 9 to better describe campuses opening one grade at a time.
- Update #3: Correct a typo in footnote 1 of the business rules document regarding state and consortium Student Growth Percentiles.

These changes, further described below, may be seen in Attachment A: Revised ECI Policy Business Rules (Redlined).

Background

In June 2018, DC PCSB released an updated ECI Policy (Attachment B) that describes criteria against which schools will be assessed when seeking to increase their enrollment ceilings. Three components (Indicators A-C) are mandatory; of an additional ten components (Indicators 1-10), schools may miss up to two in order to be recommended for an ECI. The ECI Policy links to a business rules document,¹ which describes the calculations used for all components.

Indicator 9 requires that the rate of out-of-school suspensions for all students, at-risk students, and students with disabilities not be outliers relative to the charter sector. “Outlier” is calculated through a statistical method known as the Interquartile Range,” as further described in the business rules.

Out-of-school suspension rates in the charter sector have decreased by half over the past six years, from 14.2% in School Year (SY) 2012-13 to 7.1% in SY 2017-18, and there are many fewer schools in each grade band that have high rates. As a result of this change, the Interquartile Range has compressed, and now often identifies outliers whose rates are not significantly above average. This phenomenon occurs when most schools in a particular grade band have a rate close to zero, and a small number of schools have higher, but similar, rates. As a result, schools with a non-zero suspension rate are flagged as outliers despite low suspension rates that fall within a few points of the grade band average.

¹ The Business Rules Document can be found at this link:
<https://dcpcsb.egnyte.com/dl/Y6nAZqYxgk/>

DC PCSB has identified three changes to the business rules for Indicator 9 of the ECI Policy that can be implemented to the Interquartile Range to prevent outlier over-identification:

1. In cases where the grade band Outlier Threshold is within 5 percentage points of the grade band Average, campuses with out-of-school suspension rates within 5 percentage points of the average will not be considered outliers.
2. In cases where there are fewer than 5 suspended students in the monitored student population, the school will not be considered an outlier.
3. Schools will only be evaluated for outlier status if the school has at least 25 students in the monitored student population.

Attachment C provides a data analysis of the impact of the Interquartile Range revision.

Regarding grade band groupings, the current business rules state the following:

Schools which serve similar grade bands are grouped together for the purposes of calculating the outlier threshold. The groupings are:

- **PK-5:** Charter schools ending in PK4, K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6, excluding alternative
- **Middle School:** Charter schools ending in 7 or 8, and schools serving exclusively grades 6 – 9, excluding alternative
- **High School:** Charter schools ending in 10, 11, or 12, excluding alternative
- **Adult:** All adult education charter schools
- **Alternative:** All alternative education charter schools

As a result, high school campuses that have opened to serve only a ninth-grade class have been incorrectly labeled as middle schools, and middle school campuses that have opened with only a fourth-grade class have been incorrectly labeled as elementary schools. The revision would ensure more appropriate grade band assignments, and allow flexibility for future non-traditional grade bands that may arise.

Attachments

Attachment A: Revised ECI Policy Business Rules (Redlined)

Attachment B: ECI Policy (also found here:

[https://www.dcpsb.org/sites/default/files/report/Redacted ECI Policy 2018.pdf](https://www.dcpsb.org/sites/default/files/report/Redacted%20ECI%20Policy%202018.pdf))

Attachment C: Data Analysis of Interquartile Range Revision

Date: _____

DC PCSB Action: _____ Approved _____ Approved with Changes _____ Rejected

Changes to the Original Proposal:

Signature: _____