



POLICY TITLE: COVID-19 Impact Policy	
ADOPTION/EFFECTIVE DATE:	Adopted: May 19, 2020

PURPOSE

The COVID-19 public health emergency resulted in all DC public charter schools physically closing and implementing distance learning programs. As such, DC PCSB will cease collection, aggregation, and publication of academic data for school year (SY) 2019-20 and will not produce a School Quality Report (also known as the Performance Management Framework, or PMF) for SY 2019-20.

DC PCSB may continue to collect some non-academic data (e.g., attendance and discipline rates) in order to meet federal and local reporting requirements but will not use these data in accountability decisions. DC PCSB will also adjust implementation of certain existing policies and practices, as outlined below.

POLICY

2019-20 Charter Goals

DC PCSB will not collect data for the purpose of assessing a school's SY 2019-20 charter goals and academic achievement expectations.¹ DC PCSB will not report on or consider SY 2019-20 goal attainment in charter review and renewal reports.

Amendments to the PMF as Goals Policy

The Elect to Adopt the PMF as Charter Goals Policy (PMF as Goals Policy) will be revised to clarify implementation of the improvement provision (revisions that were planned prior to the health emergency), and to clarify how the policy is implemented if a school is not awarded a PMF score in a given year. These changes are summarized below².

¹ Note that DC PCSB may still collect data related to a school's SY 2019-20 charter goals, depending on the nature of the goals. For example, if a school has a goal around financial performance, DC PCSB may still collect financial data as part of its regular financial monitoring, separate and apart from goal assessment.

² For the full text of all proposed changes, see the PMF as Goals board memo: <https://dcpcsb.egnyte.com/dl/8ZRy7gNKWR/>



- Clarification regarding how this policy applies if a school is not awarded a PMF score in a given year: In the event a school is not issued a score or tier on the PMF in a given year (meaning DC PCSB issues no PMF score or tier), the PMF score for that year will not be included in the school's standard of review for the relevant review period. The average score required for the standard of review will remain the same, and DC PCSB will use the remaining years in the review period to evaluate the standard.
- Clarification of the Improvement Provision: The DC PCSB Board may exercise its discretion to apply the improvement provision if the School Corporation has demonstrated consistent improvement on overall PMF scores during the most recent three years of the review period. For any year within the review period that DC PCSB issues no PMF score or tier, this year will not be included in the improvement provision for purposes of determining "the most recent three years." For example, if DC PCSB issues no PMF score or tier in SY 2019-20, given the years SY 2018-19 through SY 2021-22, staff would consider improvement from SY 2018-19 to SY 2020-21, then from SY 2020-21 to SY 2021-22.

Charter Reviews and Renewals That Include SY 2019-20

DC PCSB will not include SY 2019-20 data in a school's review or renewal through SY 2024-25 for the purpose of evaluating charter goals and academic achievement expectations. For the purpose of evaluating goal attainment, SY 2019-20 will be treated as a "null" year due to COVID-19 school closures. Data from all remaining years of the review or renewal period will be considered to determine if a school has met its charter goals and academic achievement expectations.

Compliance data,³ Qualitative Site Review (QSR) results, and financial data from SY 2019-20 will be included in review and renewal reports as follows:

- Compliance data during the closure/distance learning period will be considered in the context of the extraordinary circumstances under which schools are operating.
- QSR results for SY 2019-20 will be only from observations taken through early March 2020.

³ "Compliance" refers to a school's compliance with the terms of its charter and applicable law, including DC PCSB's annual Compliance Review, compliance with procurement contract requirements, and special education compliance.



- Financial data during and after the closure/distance learning period will be considered in the context of the extraordinary circumstances under which schools are operating, including the possible need to responsibly spend down reserves to respond to the crisis.

Academic Conditions That Include SY 2019-20

Several schools are currently subject to high-stakes performance conditions; if a school fails to meet these conditions, it will be required to relinquish its charter. Many other schools are subject to less stringent conditions, which may impose additional reporting or monitoring requirements, for example, but do not carry such high-stakes consequences for failure. The following adjustments apply for schools with academic conditions that will result in the school relinquishing its charter if the conditions are not met. All other conditions will remain unchanged.

1. DC PCSB will not monitor SY 2019-20 conditions. Instead, SY 2019-20 conditions will be applied to SY 2020-21. In addition, to address unforeseen long-term consequences of the current situation, the following discretionary clause will be included for SY 2020-21 and SY 2021-22: "The DC PCSB Board may, at its discretion, determine that this condition should be waived in SY 2020-21 and/or SY 2021-22."
2. If the condition(s) originally ended in SY 2019-20 or SY 2020-21, the condition(s) will not be extended for an additional year beyond SY 2020-21.

Academic Achievement Expectations and/or Goals Amendments

Schools that wish to amend their charter goals must provide DC PCSB a petition for a goals charter revision no later than April 1 prior to the Academic Year in which the proposed changes will be implemented, as stated in each school's charter agreement. Due to the disruption caused by COVID-19 during the typical negotiation period, staff will grant additional time to complete goal negotiations for schools that had initiated the negotiation process prior to April 1. For SY 2020-21 goal changes only, such schools may submit a petition to revise their charter goals by July 31, 2020 for proposed goal changes to take effect for SY 2020-21.



Other Policies and Actions That Are Impacted:

▪ Annual Report

- Further guidance will be released with SY 2019-20 Annual Report Guidelines at DC PCSB's May 2020 Board Meeting.

▪ Attendance and Discipline Collection, Validation, and Reporting

- Attendance: DC PCSB will follow the Office of the State Superintendent of Education's (OSSE) guidance regarding which days are considered instructional days in SY 2019-20. DC PCSB will only request for schools to submit attendance data for days on which OSSE has specified that attendance data are required. In turn, DC PCSB may be required to report validated attendance data publicly in non-accountability reports, such as in the South Capitol Street Truancy Report and the Annual Discipline and Attendance Report to the DC Council. However, DC PCSB will not calculate in-seat attendance for the purposes of the PMF or charter goals for SY 2019-20.
- Discipline: DC PCSB has already completed the collection of discipline data covering incidents from August through February of SY 2019-20. DC PCSB collected data on incidents from the month of March on April 14 through the current discipline submission process. DC PCSB does not expect to collect discipline events for days on which schools conducted distance learning unless guidance to the contrary is received from an outside agency such as the DC Council or OSSE. If schools re-open prior to the end of SY 2019-20, then DC PCSB will collect discipline data for the remainder of the year as scheduled. If schools do not re-open, then DC PCSB will not collect discipline data after the March collection is completed. Schools will still have the opportunity to review and validate their discipline data with DC PCSB in July 2020. In August 2020, DC PCSB will share validated student-level discipline data for SY 2019-20 with OSSE for schools that have not opted out of the data share. However, DC PCSB will not calculate discipline rates for the purposes of SY 2019-20 charter goals.



- **Attendance and Truancy Policy**

- DC PCSB will not issue Notices of Concern if a school surpasses the truancy threshold during Spring 2020, because that school will not have the opportunity to cure the issue and have the notice lifted. However, DC PCSB will use data available through mid-March to identify schools that pass the threshold. Schools that surpass the threshold will receive a formal notification from DC PCSB's Chief School Performance Officer explaining that they passed the truancy threshold for SY 2019-20 and asking them to explain how they intend to reduce truancy during SY 2020-21. DC PCSB will resume normal implementation of this policy in SY 2020-21.

- **Criteria for Determining Schools in Good Standing Policy**

- DC PCSB staff will use the SY 2018-19 PMF score to determine if a school is in good standing according to this policy until the next publication of the School Quality Reports (anticipated in SY 2020-21). All other indicators assessed to determine a school's good standing status under this policy (e.g., compliance) will be based on the most recent data available.

- **Data and Document Submission and Verification Policy**

- During the COVID-19 extended school closure, DC PCSB staff will relax procedures around issuing Early Warning Notices due to untimely data and document submissions. DC PCSB will, prior to issuing an Early Warning Notice, have at least two individualized touchpoints about the late submission with relevant school staff and the LEA's Executive Director. If, after those two touchpoints, the school is still unresponsive, DC PCSB staff will move forward with an Early Warning Notice. Once an Early Warning Notice has been issued, all other procedures outlined under the policy remain in place (e.g., Out of Compliance). While DC PCSB may recommend a school receive a Notice of Concern due to untimely data and document submission under the policy, such a recommendation would only be made in extreme circumstances during this period of extended school closure (e.g., no communication from the school after multiple rounds of outreach). DC PCSB will resume normal implementation of the Data and Document Submission and Verification Policy when schools resume normal operations.



- Per the Data and Document Submission and Verification Policy, schools are required to “resubmit to DC PCSB any documents that have undergone material changes since the received document was reviewed by DC PCSB during the LEA Document Submission Calendar deadline.” This requirement was intended to ensure documents posted in accordance with DC PCSB’s Transparency Policy remained current. For the remainder of SY 2019-20, schools will not be required to resubmit revised documents to DC PCSB, but should, however, update documents publicly posted on their own platforms.
- **Enrollment Ceiling Increase (ECI) Policy**
 - Per DC PCSB’s ECI Policy, schools are eligible for an increase based on the most recent data available. For ECI requests submitted in SY 2020-21, DC PCSB will use SY 2018-19 data to assess performance (Indicator A) and PARCC (Indicator 8). DC PCSB will use data from the most recent year where it is available and complete (including notice of concern, Financial Audit Review, years of operation, Compliance Review, accreditation, audited enrollment, and re-enrollment). For exclusionary discipline (Indicators 9 and 10), DC PCSB will use the better of a) SY 2018-19 data or b) data from SY 2019-20 as collected through the end of February 2020. Minimum criteria for consideration of an ECI are outlined in the ECI Policy.⁴
 - Given ECI eligibility in SY 2020-21 will be partially based on SY 2018-19 data, should a school that is not eligible based on Indicator A (academic performance) seek an ECI during SY 2020-21, the school may submit, along with its charter amendment request, a rationale, along with supplemental evidence (e.g., externally validated assessment data), for why it believes it would have met Indicator A during SY 2019-20. DC PCSB staff will then consider this rationale in its recommendation to the DC PCSB Board, and the Board may consider that information in its vote.
 - Normal implementation of the ECI Policy will resume in SY 2021-22.
- **High School Graduation Requirements Approval Process Policy**

⁴ DC PCSB’s Enrollment Ceiling increase Policy can be found here: <https://dcpcsb.org/enrollment-ceiling-increase-policy>.



- DC PCSB will honor changes to the graduation requirements listed in the DC Municipal Regulations made by the State Board of Education and/or OSSE. Schools may continue to grant individual waivers consistent with DC PCSB policy and their charter agreements, and DC PCSB's [policy](#)⁵ regarding the granting of competency-based waivers through a charter amendment.
- **LEA Document Submission SY 2019-20**
 - Fiscal Year 2021 Budget
 - The current deadline has been extended until July 1, 2020.
 - Monthly and Quarterly Financials
 - Monthly and Quarterly financials are expected to be submitted on time.
 - Board Meeting Minutes – 3rd Quarter and 4th Quarter
 - Schools will submit on the regular schedule.
- **LEA Document Submission SY 2020-21**
 - Further guidance will be released along with the LEA Document Submission Calendar at DC PCSB's May 2020 Board Meeting.
- **Open Enrollment Policy**
 - DC PCSB will use its discretion before issuing a Mystery Caller Notice of Concern for a school that has failed per the initiative. Schools are expected to continue to comply with the Open Enrollment Policy during this period.
- **Qualitative Site Review (QSR)**
 - DC PCSB will postpone QSR observations that were scheduled between mid-March and June of 2020. These visits will be conducted at the start of SY 2020-21, and the observations will be included in SY 2020-21 review and renewal reports.
- **Transcript Audit Policy**
 - The spring 2020 12th grade transcript audits may be conducted virtually and will be in accordance with the "High School Graduation

⁵ High School Graduation Requirements Approval Process Policy:
https://dcpcsb.org/sites/default/files/2018-04-23-HS-Grad-Policy-Revised_Redacted.pdf



Requirements Approval Process Policy” described above. 9th grade transcript audits will not be conducted for SY 2019-20.

- **Financial Analysis Report (FAR)**

- DC PCSB will not make any changes to the metrics, floors, or targets on the 2020 FAR. However, DC PCSB’s observations for each school on the 2020 FAR will consider and incorporate the impact of COVID-19 on the school’s financial position, including the need to responsibly spend down reserves to respond to the crisis.

Board Approval Acknowledged By:

Rick Cruz

DC PCSB Board Chair

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