

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: Theresa Kemp, Specialist, School Performance Department

SUBJECT: Special Education Audit Policy Revisions

DATE: June 26, 2023

The DC Public Charter School Board (DC PCSB) is creating the policies and conditions to support a network of public charter schools in Washington, DC, offering families quality, equity, and diverse educational choices. This request aligns with DC PCSB’s Strategic Roadmap Priority of Excellent Schools.¹

Proposal

DC PCSB staff recommends that its Board open revisions to the Special Education Audit Policy (Attachment A) for public comment. DC PCSB is scheduled to hold a public hearing on revisions to this policy on July 17, 2023. DC PCSB will close the public comment period after the public hearing. The Board will vote on the proposed revisions to the policy on August 21, 2023.

¹ See the Strategic Roadmap here: <https://bit.ly/3EVeKYg>.

Written comments may be submitted by mail or email until 5:30 p.m. on July 17, 2023 to:

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

Written comments may also be submitted online at <https://dcpcsb.org/public-comment>.

Summary of Revisions

DC PCSB staff proposes changes to the Special Education Audit Policy, including 1) updating the policy's name, 2) introducing criteria and procedures to identify and address schools that may not be equitably serving students with disabilities, and 3) articulating DC PCSB's post-audit intervention methods. The revised policy seeks to identify patterns of inequity in student outcomes that may be caused by a lack of access to quality programming for students with disabilities.

The revised policy continues to align with the criteria, response procedures, and consequences listed in other DC PCSB policies, including the Data and Document Submission Policy,² the Mandatory School Notification Policy,³ the English Learner Monitoring Policy,⁴ and the Data Audit Policy.⁵

Key changes are listed in red in the table below.

| Policy Element | Proposed Revision | Rationale |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| Title | Special Education Audit and Monitoring Policy | Update clarifies one of DC PCSB's oversight functions within the policy's name. |
| Purpose | Aligned to Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and other local and federal regulations, in addition to identifying inequitable practices that | Update clarifies that the policy seeks to identify patterns of inequity in student outcomes that may be caused by a lack of access to quality programming for students with disabilities. |

² See the Data and Document Submission Policy here: <https://bit.ly/3WXTOT9>.

³ See the Mandatory School Notification Policy here: <https://bit.ly/3NekEvi>.

⁴ See the English Learner Monitoring Policy here: <https://bit.ly/3OR4V6x>.

⁵ See the Data Audit Policy here: <https://bit.ly/42ox343>.

| Policy Element | Proposed Revision | Rationale |
|----------------|--|---|
| | may impact special education programming. | |
| Criteria | The population of enrolled students identified as receiving special education services is less than 8.5% of the total student enrollment without evidence of appropriate child find, student support and intervention practices, and inclusive recruitment strategies. | Updates consider and align with required annual compliance documentation showing evidence of school practice. Documents are submitted into Epicenter, the Hub, or other DC PCSB established database(s). |
| Criteria | A special education level of need (i.e., Level 1 – 4) comprises 75.0% or more of the total population of students with disabilities without evidence of a student support and intervention process and inclusive recruitment strategies. | |
| Criteria | No students are classified as receiving Levels 3 or 4 of special education services without evidence of a student support and intervention process and inclusive recruitment strategies. | |
| Criteria | Remove Singular Disability Classification (e.g., a singular disability classification comprises 75.0% or more of the total population of students with disabilities). | This data is included in the new Special Education Performance Report from the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE). As OSSE already has a process for collecting this information, DC PCSB will no longer review this trigger. |
| Procedures | Audit and Monitoring Procedures | Additions expand and clarify the menu of DC PCSB responses including alignment |

| Policy Element | Proposed Revision | Rationale |
|----------------|---|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desk Audits, On-site Audits: Added language about the OSSE-required technical assistance, documentation requested by DC PCSB, and staff-to-staff meetings. • DC PCSB Intervention activities: Added language about DC PCSB recommended action in response to a special education audit | with OSSE's technical assistance resources. |

Background

The School Reform Act requires DC PCSB to monitor each public charter school's compliance with applicable laws,⁶ including those pertaining to the education of students with disabilities, such as Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973,⁷ Part B of IDEA,⁸ and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.⁹

Attachment to this Proposal

Attachment A: Revised Special Education Audit Policy (Redlined)

⁶ D.C. Code §§ 38-1802 et seq.

⁷ 29 U.S.C. § 794.

⁸ 20 U.S.C. § 1411 et seq.

⁹ 42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq.