

POLICY TITLE: Mystery Caller Policy	
ADOPTION/EFFECTIVE DATE: July 19, 2014	MOST RECENTLY UPDATED:

Policy Statement

Beginning in 2014, any school that is found to be screening applicants through PCSB’s “Mystery Caller” initiative will be issued Board Action--Charter Warning.

In the Mystery Caller process, schools are called by PCSB staff or consultants posing as parents seeking to enroll their child in the school for the following year. The caller asks several questions pertaining to the enrollment process, including questions about enrolling a student with disabilities. If the school answers all questions appropriately, indicating open enrollment for all students, the school has *passed*. When schools give an inappropriate answer, indicating a barrier to open enrollment, a second call is made on another date to see if the first answer was an isolated incident or if a systemic problem could exist. If, on the second call, another inappropriate answer is given, the school has *failed* and could be in violation of the School Reform Act, which requires public charter schools to have open enrollment.

Background

The School Reform Act, §38-1802.06(a) provides: Enrollment in a public charter school shall be open to all students who are residents of the District of Columbia. Section 38-1802.06(b) further provides: A public charter school may not limit enrollment on the basis of a student’s race, color, religion, national origin, language spoken, intellectual or athletic ability, measures of achievement or aptitude, or status as a student with special needs.

In 2012 PCSB first implemented the Mystery Caller initiative. For 2012 and 2013, any school that gave inappropriate responses was contacted by PCSB leadership to discuss the school’s plan for ensuring consistent open enrollment training to staff and messaging to parents.



Board Approval Acknowledged By:

John H. "Skip" McKoy
DC PCSB Board Chair

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