



New York State Charter Schools: Overview of the Charter School Performance Framework

**Board of Regents
October 16, 2017**

AGENDA

1. Charter School Office Mission and Vision
2. Charter School Landscape
3. Board of Regents Roles and Responsibilities
4. Charter School Performance Framework
5. Charter School Renewal Process
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Charter School Office Mission and Vision

Mission

To foster high quality public education options for all students, families, and communities.

Vision

To create a diverse portfolio of innovative charter schools that produce strong outcomes through a rigorous new school process, strong performance oversight and accountability, and model authorizing practices. The charter schools authorized by the Board of Regents will serve as exemplars for all public schools here in New York State and across the country.

What are Charter Schools?

- Charter schools operate independently of existing schools and school districts.
- Charter schools are public schools that are held **accountable** for meeting measurable student achievement results in exchange for increased **autonomy**
 - Educ. Law §2854(1)(b) - charter schools shall meet the same health and safety, civil rights, and student assessment requirements applicable to other public schools

How is this different than a traditional public school?

- Charter schools are:
 - Publicly funded and privately run by a board of trustees
 - Operate under a contract
 - Incorporated by the Board of Regents as education corporations with a maximum, but renewable, term of five years of operation
 - May be renewed for shorter terms, non-renewed, or revoked

Six Statutory Objectives of Education Law §2850(2):

1. To improve **student learning and achievement**;
2. To increase learning opportunities for all students, with special emphasis on expanded learning experiences for **students who are at-risk of academic failure**;
3. To encourage the use of different and **innovative teaching methods**;
4. To create **new professional opportunities** for teachers, school administrators, and other school personnel;
5. To **provide parents and students with expanded choices** in the types of educational opportunities that are available within the public school system; and
6. To provide schools with a method to **change from rule-based to performance-based accountability systems** by holding the schools established under this article accountable for meeting measurable student achievement results.



CHARTER SCHOOL LANDSCAPE

Charter School Landscape

SY2017-18

- There are 4 authorizers in New York State: the Board of Regents, SUNY, the New York City Department of Education (NYC DOE), Buffalo Board of Education (BOE)
- The law caps the number of charter schools at 460

Charter Authorizer	Charters Open with Students in SY 2016-17	Charters Approved to Open in Subsequent SYs	Total
Board of Regents	77	5	82
SUNY Trustees	155	17	172*
NYC DOE Chancellor	46	0	46
Buffalo BOE	2	0	2
Total	280	22	302

*SUNY will gain 4 additional new charter schools by “operation of law” in November, and will gain 6 more (2 new schools and 4 from the NYC DOE) 90 days after they send the Board of Regents the necessary documents to start the process.

Board of Regents

Roles and Responsibilities – Charter Entity

Board of Regents-authorized charter schools only:

- Authorizes (charter entity) 82 charter schools;
- Approves a Charter School Performance Framework;
- Approves all material revision requests;
- Authorizes new charter school applications through a Request for Proposal (RFP) procurement process; and
- Approves or denies charter renewal requests.



**BOARD OF REGENTS
CHARTER SCHOOL
PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK**

Findings Required Under the Education Law

In order to approve a new school, renewal application, or revise an existing charter, Educ. Law §2852(2) requires that charter authorizers make a finding that:

- The school complies with Article 56 and all other **applicable laws, rules, and regulations**;
- The applicant can demonstrate the ability to operate the school in an **educationally and fiscally sound manner**;
- The school is likely to **improve student learning and achievement** and materially further the purposes of Article 56; and
- **A significant educational benefit to the students** expected to attend the proposed charter school is ensured.

Board of Regents

Charter School Performance Framework

- There are 10 performance benchmarks in three key areas of charter school performance:
 - Educational Success
 - Organizational Soundness
 - Faithfulness to Charter and Law

Board of Regents

Charter School Performance Framework: Educational Success

Performance Framework: Educational Success

- **Benchmark 1- Student Performance:** The school has met or exceeded achievement indicators for academic trends toward proficiency, proficiency and high school graduation.
- **Benchmark 2 - Teaching and Learning:** School leaders have systems in place designed to cultivate shared accountability and high expectations and that lead to students' well-being, improved academic outcomes, and educational success.
- **Benchmark 3 - Culture, Climate, and Family Engagement:** The school has systems in place to support students' social and emotional health and to provide for a safe and respectful learning environment.

Board of Regents Performance Framework: Organizational Soundness

Performance Framework: Organizational Soundness

- **Benchmark 4: Financial Condition:** The school is in sound and stable financial condition as evidenced by performance on key financial indicators.
- **Benchmark 5: Financial Management:** The school operates in a fiscally sound manner with realistic budgets pursuant to a long-range financial plan, appropriate internal controls and procedures, and in accordance with state law and generally accepted accounting practices.
- **Benchmark 6: Board Oversight and Governance:** The board of trustees provides competent stewardship and oversight of the school while maintaining policies, establishing performance goals, and implementing systems to ensure academic success, organizational viability, board effectiveness, and faithfulness to the terms of its charter.
- **Benchmark 7: Organizational Capacity:** The school has established a well-functioning organizational structure, clearly delineated roles for staff, management, and board members. The school has systems and protocols that allow for the successful implementation, evaluation, and improvement of its academic program and operations.

Board of Regents Performance Framework: Faithfulness to Charter and Law

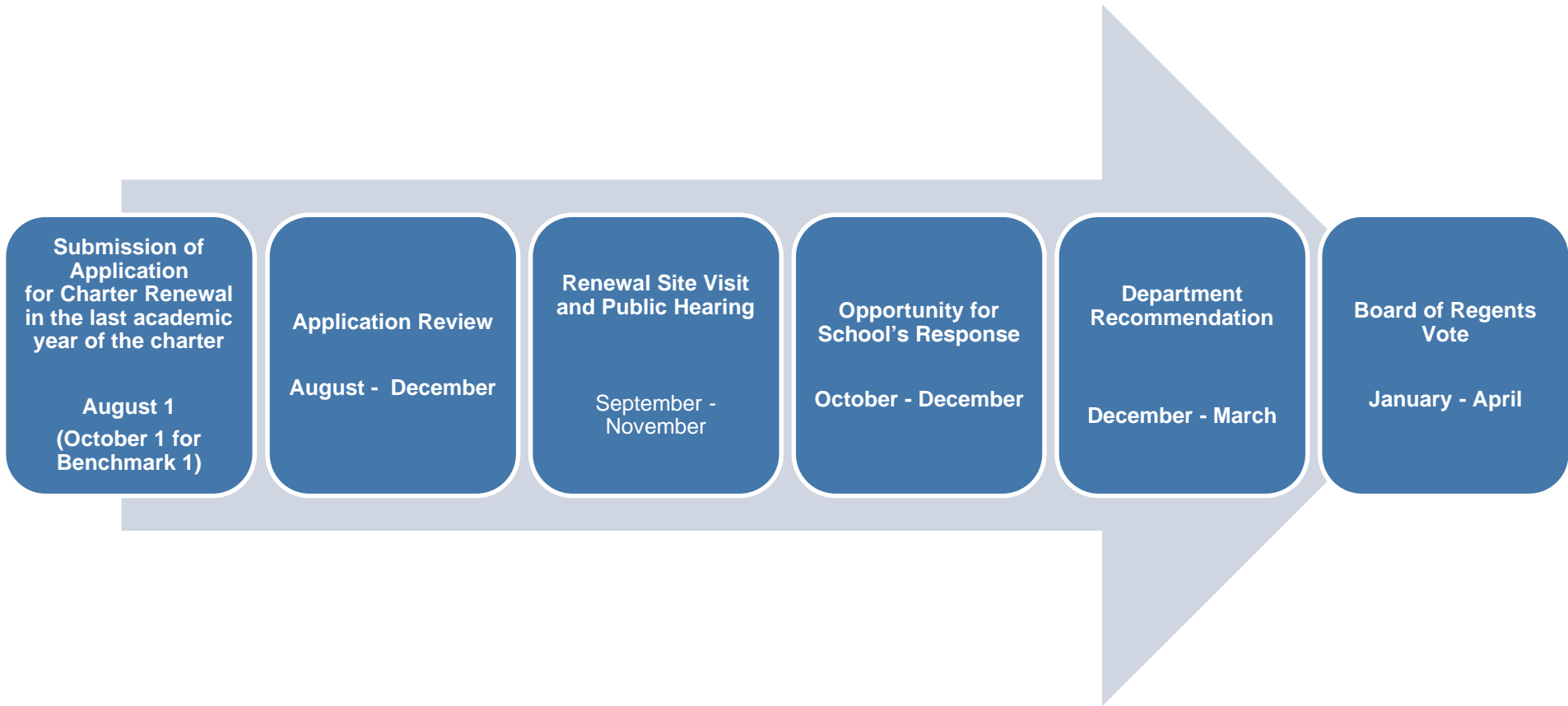
Performance Framework – Faithfulness to Charter and Law

- **Benchmark 8: Mission and Key Design Elements:** The school is faithful to its mission and has implemented the key design elements included in its charter.
- **Benchmark 9: Enrollment, Recruitment, and Retention:** The school is meeting or making annual progress toward meeting the enrollment plan outlined in its charter and its enrollment and retention targets for students with disabilities, English language learners, and students who are eligible applicants for the free and reduced priced lunch program; **or** has demonstrated that it has made extensive good faith efforts to attract, recruit, and retain such students.
- **Benchmark 10: Legal Compliance:** The school complies with applicable laws, regulations, and the provisions of its charter.



CHARTER SCHOOL RENEWAL PROCESS

Charter School Renewal Process



Charter Renewal Options

- The Board of Regents votes on the charter renewal term to issue a:
 - Full-term, 5 year, renewal – “gold standard”;
 - Short-term, 3 year renewal;
 - Non-renewal (resulting in closure); or
 - In certain circumstances, something in between (i.e. a short-term 2 year renewal)



CHARTER SCHOOL REVISION PROCESS

Charter School Revision Process

Revision Requests
Due for the next,
not current,
academic year

December 15

Revision Request
Evaluation by
NYSED

December and
January

Public Hearings

January and
February

Department
Recommendation
and Board of
Regents Vote

February and March

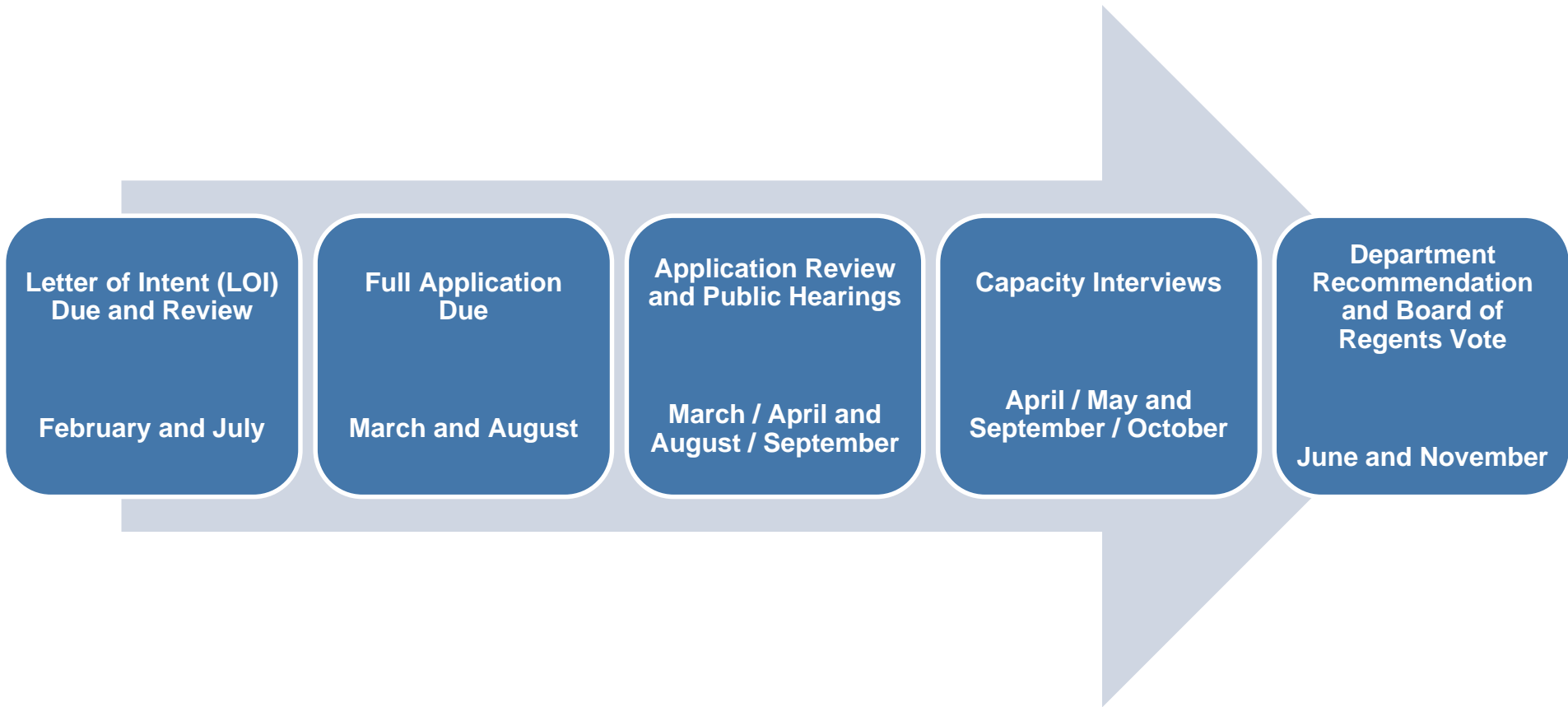
Implementation in
the subsequent
academic year

Please Note: Any revision requests by charter schools should be submitted to the NYSED Charter School Office by the December 15 deadline.



CHARTER SCHOOL NEW SCHOOL PROCESS

New Charter School Authorization Process



Discussion Items

Potential Discussion Points

What potential changes should be made to the Charter School Performance Framework?

Suggestions:

- Benchmark 1 – Additional Metrics; Comparisons to the district and state
- Benchmark 3 – School Climate Index
- Benchmark 4 – Fiscal Dashboard
- Benchmark 9 – Enrollment and Retention

