



Charter School Board Governance

April 2016

*New Jersey Department of Education
Office of Charter Schools*



Agenda

Charter School Oversight

- Core Functions
- Performance Framework

Board Governance

- Organizational Framework
- Board Capacity
- Board Compliance

Resources



Charter School Oversight



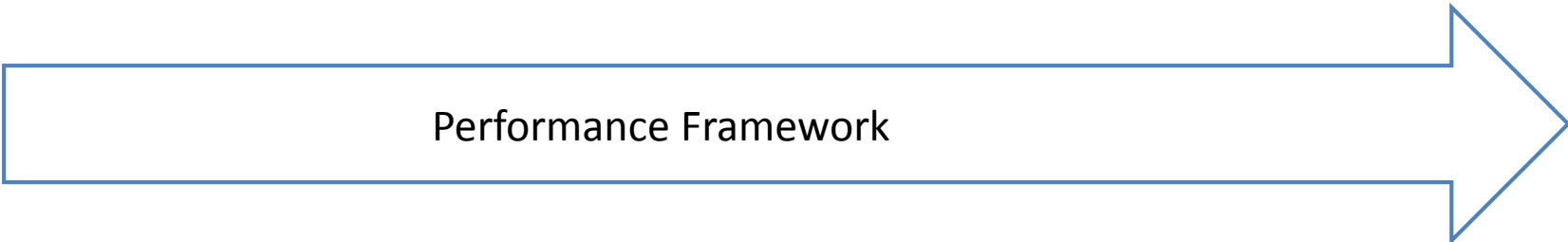
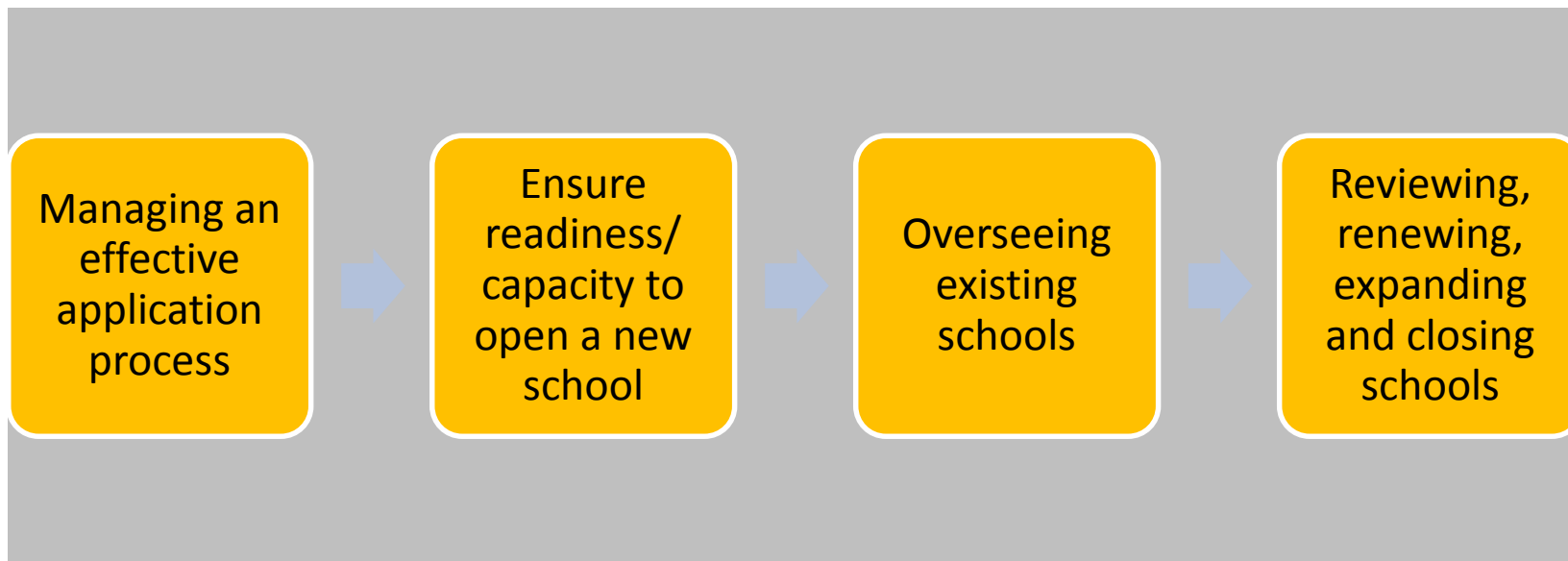
Mission

The Office of Charter Schools (OCS) provides New Jersey families with quality schools. OCS authorizes charter schools consistent with national best practice in charter school authorizing*, offering school operators autonomy and opportunities for innovation in exchange for accountability for student outcomes.

* NACSA Principles and Standards



Office of Charter Schools' Core Functions



The Performance Framework provides a consistent definition of school success, from application through renewal, that is aligned with DOE goals for all schools.

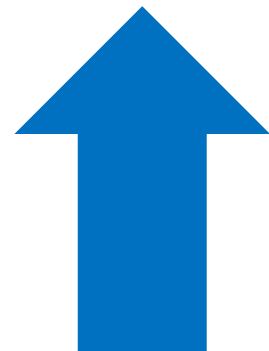


What is the Performance Framework?

- 3-part document that sets forth *agreed upon* expectations of performance and compliance
- Established in the charter agreement and in current regulations.
- Basis for school evaluation, monitoring, and intervention that informs the NJDOE's high-stakes decision making.
- Academic Performance will carry the most weight in all high- stakes decision making



Autonomy



Accountability



Potential Consequences of Academic Tier Rank

Tier 1

- Replication or Expansion
(Schools must demonstrate consistent academic success and capacity to grow)

Tier 2

- Intervention considered

Tier 3

- Warning Letter
- Probation / Remedial Plan
- Non-Renewal or Revocation



Performance Framework Guiding Questions

Academic	Financial	Organizational
Is the school's academic program a success?	Is the school financially viable?	Is the school equitable and organizationally sound?



Board Governance



Organizational Performance Framework

The framework includes 5 broad performance areas to evaluate the school's organizational performance:

1. Education Program and Capacity
2. School Culture and Climate
3. Board Governance
4. Access and Equity
5. Compliance



Performance Area 3: Board Governance

Indicator	Criteria, including but not limited to:	Metric/Rating
<p>3.1 Board Capacity The board has the capacity to govern the school effectively.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The board recruits, maintains and trains members with appropriate skills, experience and expertise to govern the school; board membership is diverse and includes legal, fiscal, educational, community and board leadership/governance experience. • The board determines the strategic direction of the school by setting goals aligned with the school’s mission and driven by data analysis; the board regularly monitors progress relative to its priorities and goals and engages in continuous improvement. • The board has adequate filled seats, and regularly has a quorum, according to the school’s bylaws. • Board meetings are well-organized, purposeful and strategically focused. • The board updates school policies to ensure compliance with applicable requirements to facilitate efficient, effective operations. • The board hires and evaluates the school leader(s) and/or management organization on an annual basis and holds these individuals accountable for meeting specified goals. • The board uses a performance-based evaluation process to assess its own performance annually. 	<p>MEETS THE STANDARD The school generally meets the criteria identified in indicator 3.1 and/or only minor issues are noted.</p> <p>PARTIALLY MEETS THE STANDARD The school presents concerns in meeting some of the criteria identified in indicator 3.1 with moderate issue(s) noted.</p> <p>DOES NOT MEET THE STANDARD The school presents concerns in meeting a majority of the criteria identified in indicator 3.1 with moderate or major issues noted.</p>
<p>3.2 Compliance The board complies with relevant laws and regulations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:11-3.1(d), members complete required training prepared and offered by the New Jersey School Boards Association during the first year of his or her first term on the board. • Members have completed required criminal background checks. • Members have submitted required disclosure forms and do not have any conflicts of interest. • The board is in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act. • The board is in compliance with its by-laws. 	<p>MEETS THE STANDARD The school generally meets the criteria identified in indicator 3.2 and has not received a notice of concern from the Department related to indicator 3.2.</p> <p>DOES NOT MEET THE STANDARD The school presents moderate/major concerns in meeting at least 1 of the criteria identified in indicator 3.2 and has received a notice of concern from the Department related to indicator 3.2.</p>



3.1 Board Capacity

Diversity of Skills / Experience

- The board recruits, maintains and trains members with appropriate skills, experience and expertise to govern the school; board membership is diverse and includes legal, fiscal, educational, community and board leadership/governance experience.



3.1 Board Capacity

Strategic Direction / Goal Setting

- The board determines the strategic direction of the school by setting goals aligned with the school's mission and driven by data analysis; the board regularly monitors progress relative to its priorities and goals and engages in continuous improvement.



3.1 Board Capacity

Quorum

- The board has adequate filled seats, and regularly has a quorum, according to the school's bylaws.



3.1 Board Capacity

Board Meetings

- Board meetings are well-organized, purposeful and strategically focused



3.1 Board Capacity Policies

- The board updates school policies to ensure compliance with applicable requirements to facilitate efficient, effective operations.



3.1 Board Capacity Evaluation

- The board hires and evaluates the school leader(s) and/or management organization on an annual basis and holds these individuals accountable for meeting specified goals.



3.1 Board Capacity Self-Assessment

- The board uses a performance-based evaluation process to assess its own performance annually.



3.2 Board Compliance Training

- In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:11-3.1(d), members complete required training prepared and offered by the New Jersey School Boards Association during the first year of his or her first term on the board.



3.2 Board Compliance

Criminal Background Checks

- Members have completed required criminal background checks.



3.2 Board Compliance

Conflicts of Interest

- Members have submitted required disclosure forms and do not have any conflicts of interest.



3.2 Board Compliance

Quorum

- The board is in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.



3.2 Board Compliance

By-laws

- The board is in compliance with its by-laws.



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Resources:

NJDOE, Office of Charter Schools' Website

<http://www.nj.gov/education/chartsch/>

Performance Frameworks

<http://www.nj.gov/education/chartsch/PerformanceFramework.pdf>

http://www.nj.gov/education/chartsch/accountability/OrganizationalPerformanceFramework_NJDOE_08132015.pdf

Access and Equity Guidance

<http://www.nj.gov/education/chartsch/equity/guidelines.pdf>