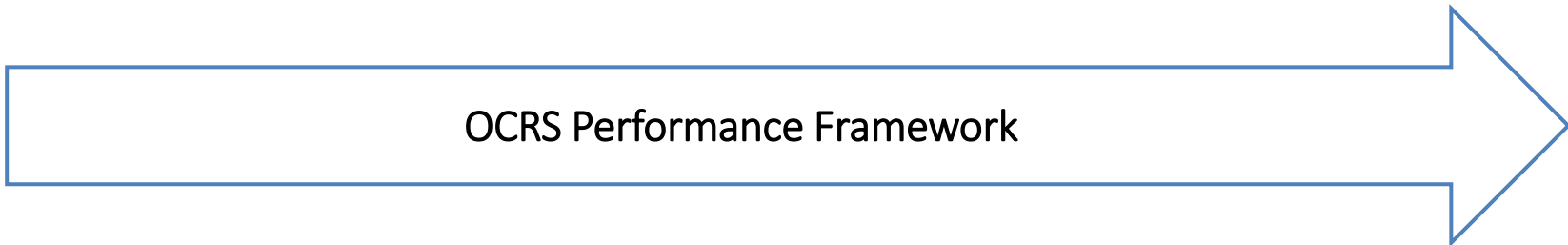
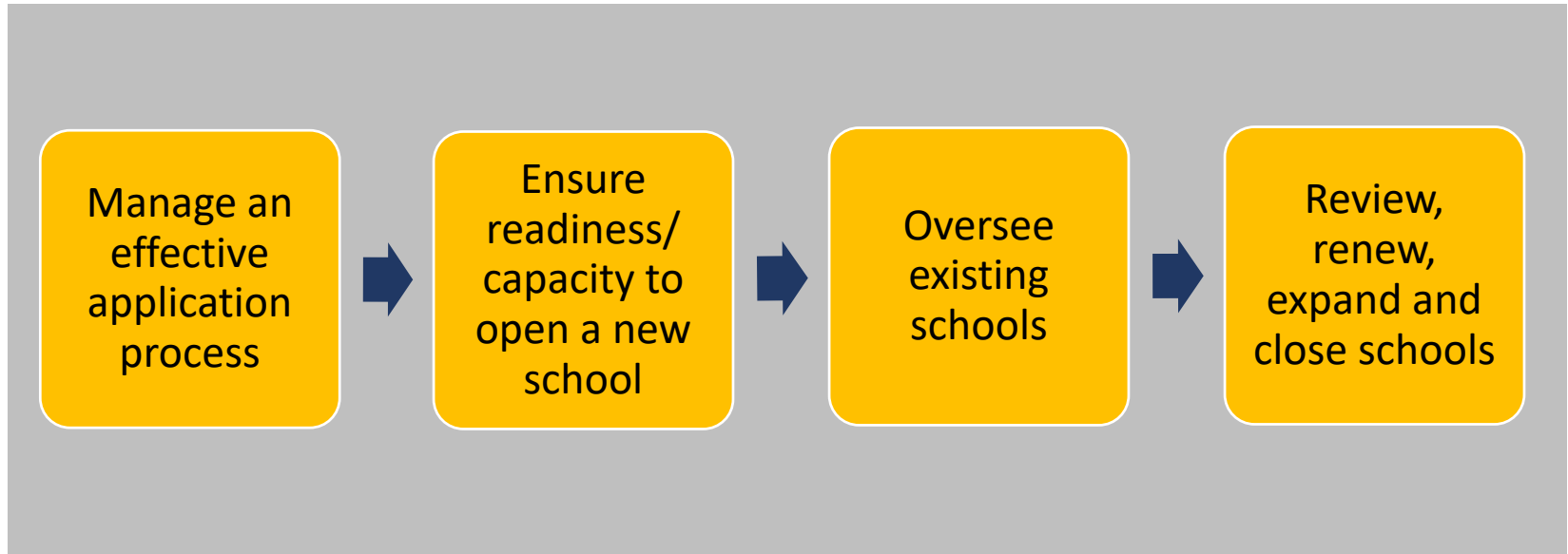


Office Of Charter and Renaissance Schools

Charter Authorization Report
New Jersey Department of Education
2018-2019



Office of Charter and Renaissance Schools Core Functions



The Performance Framework provides a consistent definition of school success that is aligned with NJDOE goals for all schools.



How are Charter Schools Held Accountable?

In addition to complying with applicable laws and regulations, charter schools are held accountable to the Performance Framework, which outlines the measurable objectives charter schools must meet by asking three essential questions:

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



Sources of Evidence

In order to assess charter school performance against the measures set forth in the Performance Framework, the Department considers a wide body of evidence, including but not limited to the following:

- Admissions and enrollment materials
- Annual financial audits
- Annual reports
- Board minutes
- Budgets
- Charter agreement
- Charter amendments
- Complaints received and resolution status
- Curriculum documents
- Data derived from NJ SMART and the Charter School Enrollment System (CHE)
 - Department published School Performance Reports and other Department reports
 - Discipline data including EVVRS or the new Student Safety Data System (SSDS)
 - Documentation of current Certificate of Occupancy, health, safety, and fire inspections
 - Evaluation of board of trustees and school administration
 - Evaluation of effective systems for financial oversight
 - Evaluation of the implementation of ELL and special education requirements and programs
- Facility plans
- Federal and state reporting requirements
- GAAP accounting system review
- Handbooks-board, family, staff, student
- Initial charter school application
- Lesson plans
- Personnel files
- District and public comment
- Policy documents
- Professional development calendars / agendas
 - Renewal application
 - School calendars
 - School identified and collected data from other assessments
 - Site visits and accompanying documentation
 - Staff lists
 - Staff surveys
 - State assessment results
 - Structured interviews with school officials
 - Student growth data
 - Student files



Landscape Report on Charter School(s)

Expansions

Renewals

Probation

Closure

Applications

Preparedness



Expansions

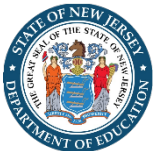
There are two means to request an expansion to a charter; through an amendment request, or through renewal applications.

N.J.A.C. 6A:11-2.6 Amendment Request:

- Must be made by December 1, for implementation the proceeding school year
- Cannot exceed the term of the charter

N.J.A.C. 6A:11-2.3 Renewal Applications:

- Must be submitted as part of the five year planning of the renewal typically October 15
- Considered as a separate decision point to the renewal



N.J.A.C. 6A:11-2.3 Renewals

Every five years, following the first four year term of the charter, a Charter school is eligible for a five year renewal of their charter.

Charter Renewals include:

- Renewal application, a review based on the charter agreement and Performance Framework, review of annual reports, student composition, recommendations and monitoring of the school, interviews, evaluation systems, and an established escrow or security bond.

Charter schools eligible for expedited renewal are subject to all of the above elements, however, review may be conducted in an abbreviated format.



N.J.A.C. 6A:11-2.4 Probation/Closure

The Commissioner may place a charter school on probationary status for a period of time as determined by the Commissioner to allow the implementation of a remedial plan upon a finding that the charter school is not operating in compliance with its charter, statutes, or regulations.

There are three potential outcomes to a school placed on probationary status, removal of probation, non-renewal of the charter or revocation. If, at any point, a charter school cannot satisfy the remedial plan, the Board of Trustees may choose to surrender.



N.J.A.C. 6A:11-2.1 Application Cycles

There are two application cycles annually, the October application round for experienced operators and the March application round for all applicants.

Within the Application Rounds:

- Applicants begin with Phase One and must demonstrate a qualified founder
- Applicants are then invited to submit a Phase Two application
- Successful applicants of Phase Two are invited to interview
- If the application is approved, the applicant can begin the preparedness process



N.J.A.C. 6A:11-2.1 Preparedness

Prior to the final granting of the charter, the applicant must fulfill the requirements of the preparedness process. This process includes:

- A visit to the site of the prospective school
- Submission of 15 regulatory documents
- Student composition assessment



Questions/Comments

Office of Charter and Renaissance Schools

(609) 376-9083

Scharters@doe.nj.gov

New Jersey Department of Education Website

[**http://www.state.nj.us/education/**](http://www.state.nj.us/education/)

