

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

SECTION: CHARTER SCHOOLS

TITLE: REQUIREMENT OF SIGNED
CHARTER

ADOPTED: APRIL 24, 2014

REVISED:

403. REQUIREMENT OF SIGNED CHARTER

In accordance with the Charter School Law and current practice of the SRC, the grant or renewal of any charter authorized by the SRC shall not be legally effective unless and until the charter school and the District sign a written charter that contains the following:

- a. The grade levels to be served by the charter school, and the maximum number of students that the charter school is permitted to enroll and for which the charter school may receive payment from the District or the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (“Commonwealth”), which maximum number is referred to in this Policy as the charter school’s “managed enrollment growth limit”;
- b. The methods by which the charter school will assess whether students are meeting academic goals, including student performance standards;
- c. A representation that the charter school’s application process does not provide any significant barriers to entry to the school;
- d. A representation that the charter school will not knowingly report inaccurate student enrollment and performance data to the District and the Commonwealth during the term of the charter;
- e. A requirement that the charter school will make timely payments to the Public School Employee Retirement System during the term of the charter;
- f. The charter school’s mission and goals for the term of its charter, as set forth in its charter application;
- g. Incorporation of and adherence to the CSO’s performance framework;
- h. Procedures by which the charter school will oversee the work of the school’s leader and its Board of Trustees during the term of the charter; and
- i. Those other reasonable conditions to which the parties agree and that are consistent with the purposes and legislative intent of the Charter School Law

or the Distress In School Districts of the First Class Law (“Distressed School Law”), including, without limitation, the improvement of student learning, increasing learning opportunities, and establishment of accountability systems and measurable academic standards.

In the absence of agreement between the parties concerning these items, the SRC, after consultation with the charter school, will determine appropriate provisions for inclusion in the charter or may vote not to renew the charter agreement.

A charter school that is enrolling students above the managed enrollment growth limit in its charter shall not be entitled to receive funding from the District or the Commonwealth for those students. A charter school that is enrolling students in grades that have not been approved by the SRC shall not be entitled to receive funding from the District or the Commonwealth for those students. Provisions to this effect shall be included in the charter.

A charter school without a signed charter does not have legal authority to operate. Any charter school that is operating without a signed written charter is in violation of this Policy and Section 1720-A of the Charter School Law, 24 P.S. § 17-1720-A, and must bring itself into compliance with this Policy within thirty (30) days after notice of such violation by entering into a signed charter containing the provisions set forth in Paragraph 1 of this Policy. Failure of the charter school to bring itself into compliance with this Policy by the specified date shall be grounds for nonrenewal or revocation by the SRC of the purported charter on which that charter school relies (in addition to any other remedies available under the Charter School Law and the Distressed School Law).