



# A Letter from ASBCS

Brought to you by the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools

Issue #4

Tuesday, August 15, 2017

## Important Dates

August 14, 2017: [Board Meeting Summary](#).

September 11, 2017: Next Regular [Board Meeting](#).

## August Audit Tip

For those operating a charter school during FY 2017, you should have engaged an audit firm by now to conduct your FY 2017 audit. Remember, for most charter holders, a complete FY 2017 audit reporting package must be submitted to the Board by November 15, 2017.

## Public Comment Requested

On July 28, 2017 Board staff sent emails to charter representatives and stakeholders to request comment on proposed eligibility criteria and when a financial performance response is required for expansion requests. The public comment period will close on August 25, 2017.

The proposed eligibility criteria reviews the academic, operational and financial performance of the charter and its associated schools and charter holders. The value of evaluating a charter's overall performance is to provide some charters the opportunity to improve their systems before expanding.

This policy would require a Financial Performance Response for all expansion requests for those eligible charters that received a "Does Not Meet" on the most recent financial dashboard. The intent is to allow the charter holder an opportunity to provide the Board additional information about their financials before going in front of the Board.

Full details on the recommended changes and how to submit comments are located on the ASBCS website on the ["News & Events" page](#).

## Are You Eligible for School-Specific Academic Goals?

If your charter school meets the eligibility criteria to use the School Specific Academic Goals to demonstrate meeting the Board's academic performance expectations, the charter holder may submit the [eligibility form](#). **Eligibility forms will be accepted until August 30, 2017.** Remember, a school is eligible if it serves a special population that does not have an achievement profile pursuant to A.R.S. § 15-241(H), and at least 70% of the students served by the school are identified as needing special education services and homeless.

## FY 2018 Site Visits

Site Visits are conducted during the first year of operation for all schools, during the Fifth and Tenth year interval reviews, and as part of the charter renewal process.

During August and September, Education Program Managers will visit new schools to ensure compliance with federal and state laws, the terms of their charter contract, and to observe the program of instruction in action. During the interval review and renewal process, an Academic Systems Review is completed, which includes a site visit. Additional information regarding the Academic Systems Review is available in Appendix B of the [Academic Performance Framework and Guidance](#).

The ASBCS website is updated annually with the list of charters eligible for [renewal](#) and receiving [five-year interval reviews](#).

Reason for visit	# of schools
1 <sup>st</sup> Year	20
5 <sup>th</sup> Year	15
10 <sup>th</sup> year	62
Renewal	6

## Stay in Compliance

Tips to keep you in operational compliance:

1. Check your charter holder dashboard on ASBCS Online to ensure all information is updated.
2. If you are making a change to the charter, submit the necessary amendment requests ASAP.
3. When finalizing your board minutes, make sure you are following Open Meeting Law requirements.
4. Review the information on the Arizona Corporation Commission and confirm the members align with what is recorded in the charter contract. Remember to submit your Annual Report timely.
5. Review your FY 2018 dashboard to make sure any measures marked as "Does Not Meet Standard" have been corrected. Keep in mind this will not change the rating but will keep you in compliance.

Because we want you to be successful in your school operations, when in doubt please speak to your [Education Program Manager](#).

