

AGENDA ITEM: Academic Eligibility to Request Expansion in FY 2017

Issue

Consideration of revised academic eligibility requirements for expansion requests received by the Board in FY 2017.

Background

At its June 2016 meeting, the Board approved the Subcommittee's recommendation of aligning the Board's framework with state and federal accountability requirements. The revised framework requires that a charter holder's academic performance be evaluated by the Board when considering expansion requests and allows charter holder's to request expansion only if 75% or more of its schools eligible to receive an overall rating have a rating of "Meets Standard," "Above Standard" or "Exceeds Standard."

The revised framework uses two measures to calculate overall academic ratings, the A-F state accountability letter grades and state designations for school improvement. Senate Bill 1289 (2015) put a moratorium on A-F state accountability letter grades until FY 2018. Without letter grades, the Board will not calculate overall ratings in FY 2017. The Department of Education will however designate schools for school improvement based on student performance on the spring 2016 AzMerit administration. Board staff is proposing the Board use state designations for school improvement in FY 2017 to determine a charter holder's eligibility for expansion.

Academic Eligibility for Expansion

Until overall ratings are calculated in FY 2018, Board staff recommends using the rating for measure 1b of the framework to determine academic eligibility for expansion. Under this recommendation, state designations for school improvement made in FY 2017 will be used to calculate the rating. A charter holder may only request expansion in FY 2017 if 75% or more of its schools earn a "Meets Standard" on measure 1b (see table below).

State Designations for School Improvement

	1b. Is the school meeting performance expectations as set forth by state and federal accountability requirements?
	<i>Meets Standard:</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Not identified for improvement.
	<i>Does Not Meet Standard:</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Identified for improvement and/or targeted support.
	<i>Falls Far Below Standard:</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Identified for improvement and/or comprehensive support.

Board Options

Option 1: Staff recommends the following language: I move that the Board adopt revisions to the academic eligibility requirements for FY 2017 as presented to the Board today and found in the staff report for today's Board meeting.

Option 2: Staff recommends the following language: I move that the Board adopt revisions to the academic eligibility requirements for FY 2017 as presented to the Board today and found in the staff report for today's Board meeting with the modifications discussed (may require specific references depending upon whether clarification of discussion is needed).