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**AGENDA ITEM:** Proposed Early Renewal Policy**Issue**

A.R.S. § 15-183(l)(2) allows a charter holder to request an application for early renewal of a charter at least nine months before the charter's intended renewal. The sponsor is required to provide a qualifying charter holder with a renewal application. The Board does not currently have rules or policies in place to implement the early renewal statute.

**Background**

A draft policy statement to implement the early renewal statute is included as an appendix to this report. The policy has been drafted to be consistent with current Board practices and Board policies concerning renewal applications that are eligible to be placed on the consent agenda. Additionally, the policy was drafted using the guidance of other Board practices and policies that set qualification requirements to apply for replication and to be heard by the board for amendment and notification request purposes. If adopted by the Board, this policy will be incorporated into Rule when renewal rules are drafted.

**Board Options**

Option 1: The Board may vote to adopt the policy statement concerning Eligibility to Apply for Early Renewal of a Charter Contract. Staff recommends the following language: I move that the board adopt the policy statement concerning Eligibility to Apply for Early Renewal of a Charter Contract as presented.

Option 2: The Board may vote to adopt the policy statement concerning Eligibility to Apply for Early Renewal of a Charter Contract by adopting the policy statement with modifications. The following language is provided for your consideration: I move that the board adopt revisions to the policy statement concerning concerning Eligibility to Apply for Early Renewal of a Charter Contract presented to the Board today and found in the materials for today's Board meeting with the modifications discussed (may require specific references depending upon whether clarification of discussion is needed).

# Appendix

## **Eligibility to Apply for Early Renewal of a Charter Contract Policy Statement**

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A.R.S. § 15-183(I)(2) allows a charter operator to apply for early renewal.

- At least nine months before the charter school's intended renewal consideration, the operator of the charter school shall submit a letter of intent to the sponsor to apply for early renewal.
- The sponsor shall review fiscal audits and academic performance data for the charter school that are annually collected by the sponsor, review the current contract between the sponsor and the charter school and provide the qualifying charter school with a renewal application.
- On submission of a complete application, the sponsor shall give written notice of its consideration of the renewal application.

### **Board Policy:**

A charter holder may submit a letter of intent to apply for early renewal to the Board. Within 15 business days of receipt of a charter holder's timely letter of intent to apply for early renewal, the Board shall review those items described in statute to determine whether the applicant is eligible to apply for early renewal and provide qualified charter holders with an early renewal application.

An applicant is eligible to apply for early renewal if:

- The applicant is waived from submitting the Academic Performance Section of the renewal application;
- The applicant is waived from submitting the Detailed Business Plan Section of the renewal application; and
- Within the last 5 years, the applicant did not have any compliance matters that required action by the Board or other government agencies.

An applicant who is eligible to apply for early renewal shall submit the early renewal application no later than 1 month after the charter holder receives notification of its eligibility to apply for early renewal. An applicant who does not submit an application for early renewal within 1 month of notice of eligibility and who wishes to apply for early renewal shall resubmit the letter of intent to apply for early renewal and the Board shall reevaluate the applicant's eligibility to apply for early renewal.

Historical Note:

Effective:

Board Approval Date: