
AGENDA ITEM: Proposed Revisions to 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's current policy in place to implement the early renewal statute should be revised in light of changes to the renewal application submission requirements, which were adopted in September 2014, and the Board's adoption of the Operational Performance Framework.

Background

A draft revised early renewal policy statement is included as an appendix to this report. The revisions to this policy have been drafted to 1) clarify the timeline for submission of an early renewal request, 2) ensure that an applicant be eligible to apply for early renewal only if they can show successful academic performance for all schools operated by the applicant for at least two successive years, 3) ensure that operational requirements to be eligible for early renewal are consistent with the Operational Performance Framework, and 4) clarify the eligibility requirements for early renewal must be met up through and until the Board has considered the application.

Board Options

Option 1: The Board may vote to adopt the proposed revisions to 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 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

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 qualifies to apply for early renewal if:

- The request is submitted at least 24 months prior to the charter expiration date;
- The applicant has been operating schools under the charter for at least five years;
- The applicant ~~is waived from submitting~~ meets the Board's Academic Performance Section of Expectations as defined in the renewal application Academic Performance Framework and Guidance;
- The applicant is waived from submitting the Detailed Business Plan Section of the renewal application because:
 - The applicant meets the Board's Financial Performance Expectations, and
 - The applicant's officers, directors, members and partners as identified in information publicly available through the Arizona Corporation Commission align with those identified in the charter contract; and
- Within the last 53 years, the applicant did not have any compliance matters that required action by the Board or other government agencies; or when an Operational Performance Dashboard is available, the applicant meets the Operational Performance Expectations.

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.~~

An applicant must continue to meet the eligibility requirements identified in this policy up to and until the Board has considered the Application for Early Renewal. If the applicant's eligibility status changes prior to the Board's consideration of the application, the Board shall not consider the application.

An applicant who does not meet the requirements of this policy may resubmit a letter of intent to apply for early renewal at any time prior to the early renewal deadline and the Board shall reevaluate the applicant's eligibility to apply for early renewal.

Historical Note:

Effective: April 14, 2014

Board Approval Date: April 14, 2014

Revised: