

**AGENDA ITEM:** Revisions to the [Eligibility for Expansion Requests](#) in the Academic Performance Framework Guidance Document

**Issue** - The Academic Performance Framework provides criteria by which charter performance will be evaluated when a charter holder submits any expansion amendment or notification requests. The Board will consider revisions to the processes by which the Board uses to evaluate the requesting Charter Holder’s academic performance as described in the Academic Performance Framework and Guidance.

**Background** – At the October 14, 2014 Board meeting, the Board approved the following revisions to the eligibility for expansion requests:

Overall rating <sup>1</sup>		Eligibility for Expansion Requests
Prior Year	Most Recent Year	
DNM	Meets	Eligible to submit an expansion request in current fiscal year.
Meets	DNM	Eligible to submit an expansion request with a DSP is a current fiscal year between Jan 1- March 31.
DNM	DNM	Not eligible to submit an expansion request until the charter holder submits a letter of intent to appear before the Board for eligibility consideration. If the Board approves the Charter Holder eligible to submit an expansion request, it must include a DSP.

In FY 2015, the state transitioned to a new statewide assessment resulting in delayed release of academic dashboards in FY 2016. . In order to continue to implement the intervention schedule for a year with no dashboards, on August 17, 2015, the Board approved a revised academic intervention schedule that would be implemented to monitor and provide oversight during this transitional year. Furthermore, on September 28, 2015, at a subcommittee, the Board’s Academic Framework Subcommittee approved a recommendation to continue to use the most recent available data (FY 2014 academic dashboards) and apply the revised academic intervention schedule to continue processing charter holder amendment and notification requests.

Board staff has applied the structure of the revised academic intervention schedule to determine what required information must be submitted with an expansion request by charter holders that do not meet the eligibility criteria.

**Substantive Revisions to the Eligibility of Expansion requests** – Currently, to be eligible for reduced submission requirements, each of the amendment/notifications requests require:

- that all schools operated under the charter for which expansion is being requested have an overall rating of “Meets Standard” or “Exceeds Standard” in the most recent fiscal year that State assessment data is available, or
- the school operated under the charter for which expansion is specifically being requested has an overall rating of “Meets Standard” or “Exceeds Standard” in the most recent fiscal year that State assessment data is available.

<sup>1</sup> In this table, “Meets” is intended to denote an overall rating of “Meets” or “Exceeds” and “DNM” is intended to denote an overall rating of “Does Not Meet” or “Falls Far Below.”

The table below describes the substantive revisions proposed for all expansion amendment or notification requests under consideration.

Overall rating		Eligibility for Expansion Requests	Proposed Revisions
Prior Year	Most Recent Year		
Meets	Meets	Eligible to submit an expansion request in current fiscal year.	NO CHANGE
DNM	Meets	Eligible to submit an expansion request in current fiscal year.	NO CHANGE
Meets	DNM	Eligible to submit an expansion request with a DSP in a current fiscal year between Jan 1- March 31.	Eligible to submit an expansion request between Jan. 1 – March 31 <u>with required information as defined in the Academic Performance Intervention Schedule</u> in the current fiscal year.
DNM	DNM	Not eligible to submit an expansion request until the charter holder submits a letter of intent to appear before the Board for eligibility consideration. If the Board approves the Charter Holder eligible to submit an expansion request, it must include a DSP.	<u>Eligible to submit an expansion request between Jan. 1 – March 31 with required information as defined in the Academic Performance Intervention Schedule in the current fiscal year.</u>

**Revisions to identifying which amendments and notifications are expansion requests** – Currently, the Board’s Academic Performance Framework and Guidance indicates that a Charter Holder’s academic performance will be evaluated when considering the following expansion requests:

- Adding Grade Levels to Charter Amendment Requests
- Arizona Online Instruction Program of Instruction Amendment Requests
- Enrollment Cap Notification Requests.
- Dropout Recovery Program Amendment Requests
- New School Site Notification Requests
- Site Specific Change in Grades Served Notification Requests

Board staff is proposing to no longer include the Site Specific Change in Grades Served Notification Request (“SSCG”) as an expansion request. The change in grades a Charter Holder requests in this process includes grades that were previously approved for the charter. The SSCG notifies the Board that the school site will increase or decrease the grades served at a particular school site within the grade level range approved for the Charter Holder.

A request is considered an expansion request when a charter will be expanding the student population they are planning to serve beyond the current approved condition of the charter. For example, if a charter holder that submits a SSCG request to increase the grade levels served from grade 6 to 7 and the increased number of students served due to this added grade level is within the current enrollment cap, the request would not be considered an expansion. The charter contract identifies a specific range of grades and enrollment capacity limit. In this example the addition of the grade level did not require any change to the contract because the increase in the student population could also have occurred through increased enrollment at the prior grade level range. If the addition of a grade level to a school site results in increased enrollment that would exceed the existing enrollment cap the charter holder would be required to submit an Enrollment Cap Notification Request to increase the number of students. The request to increase the enrollment cap is considered an expansion request and the charter holder would be held to the eligibility requirements of an expansion request.

## **Board Options**

Option 1: The Board may adopt revisions to the eligibility for expansion requests in the Academic Performance Framework and Guidance. Staff recommends the following language: I move that the Board adopt revisions to the processes by which the Board implements its oversight and administrative responsibilities regarding the academic performance expectations of the charter school and the measurement of sufficient progress toward the academic performance expectations established by the Board as it relates to the Expansion for Eligibility Revisions and Revisions to the identification of expansion requests, as presented to the Board today and found in the materials for today's Board meeting.

Option 2: The Board may adopt revisions to the eligibility for expansion requests in the Academic Performance Framework and Guidance, by adopting the materials for today's Board meeting with modifications. The following language is provided for consideration: I move that the Board adopt revisions to the processes by which the Board implements its oversight and administrative responsibilities regarding the academic performance expectations of the charter school and the measurement of sufficient progress toward the academic performance expectations established by the Board as it relates to the Expansion for Eligibility Revisions and Revisions to the identification of expansion requests, as presented to the Board today and found in the materials for today's Board meeting with the modifications discussed (may require specific reference depending upon whether clarification of discussion is needed).