

AGENDA ITEM: Transition plan for the Academic Dashboards

Issue

The methodology for calculating Overall Ratings for FY 2015 ongoing must be revised due to the new statewide assessment and accountability system.

Background

As the authorizer or sponsor of charter schools, the State Board for Charter Schools must adopt a performance framework that includes the academic performance expectations of the charter school and the measurement of sufficient progress toward the academic performance expectations (A.R.S. § 15-183. R). The academic framework is organized by indicators, measures, metrics and targets. Each measure will be assigned one of four ratings, unless insufficient data is available. Each rating is weighted for the calculation of an Overall Rating. The successful implementation of the academic framework relies on having access to data collected through the administration and evaluation of state assessments.

In school year 2014-2015, the state transitioned to a new statewide assessment, AzMERIT, to measure math and English language arts proficiency for students in grades 3-12. Also in 2015, senate bill 1289 suspended A-F accountability letter grades for FY 2015 and FY 2016. Data from the new assessment required for some of the measures in the framework is either delayed in its release or no longer available with the new assessment. The timing and availability of FY 2015 data and the lack of A-F letter grades requires the Board to revise its methodology for calculating Overall Ratings for schools in FY 2015 ongoing.

At its September 28, 2015 meeting, the Academic Performance Framework Subcommittee considered revisions to the methodology for calculating the Overall Ratings for FY 2015 and approved a transition plan to be forwarded to the full Board for approval. The recommendation of the Subcommittee is as follows:

Do not issue FY 2015 Overall Ratings, revise methodology for FY 2016 and issue FY 2016 Overall Ratings in summer 2016:

1. continue to use the most recent available data and apply the revised academic intervention schedule to continue annual monitoring, reviews, renewals, expansion and other charter holder amendment notification requests;
2. allow charter schools to use available AzMERIT data to characterize their academic improvement until the next dashboards are available;
3. review measures and weighting with consideration to the new assessment and the new statewide accountability system; and
4. implement new methodology and revisions to the Framework in FY 2017.

The Subcommittee also directed staff to conduct focus group meetings with stakeholders to establish recommendations for a new methodology for calculating Overall Ratings.

Proposed Timeline

ASBCS Academic Performance Framework Transition Plan					
School Year	July - August	September	October - January	February - April	May
2015-2016	Revision of the Board's Academic Performance Framework				
			Develop methodology for FY 2016 Academic Performance dashboards	Pilot new dashboards with FY 2015 data	Revise new dashboard criteria as necessary
2016-2017	Implementation of the Board's revised Academic Performance Framework				
	Issue FY 2016 dashboards based on new methodology	Begin annual monitoring for FY 2017 based on FY 2016 dashboards			

Board Options

1. Approve the transition plan as recommended by the Subcommittee.
2. Approve the transition plan as presented with the incorporation of the modifications discussed (provide specific information as necessary).
3. Request the Subcommittee further consider modification to the transition plan related to (provide a specific charge for the Subcommittee) and bring a recommendation back to the full Board.

