

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

February 17, 2004

SUBJECT: Guidelines for Reviewing Charter School Appeals

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Approve the recommendation of the Charter School Appeal Commission to accept the revised "Guidelines for Reviewing Charter School Appeals", adopted by the Commission in January.

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1002.33, Florida Statutes, specifies requirements of the Charter School Appeal Commission to make written recommendations to accept or reject the decision of a district school board to deny a charter school application. The guidelines are used to assist members in fulfilling their statutory obligations.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On January 26, 2004, the Charter School Appeal Commission voted 8 to 0 to recommend to the State Board of Education that the attached guidelines for reviewing Charter School Appeals be accepted. The changes are mostly technical in nature, as they reflect changes in law that occurred during Special Session A through House Bill 55-A (Charter School Accountability) and Senate Bill 30-A (Class Size Requirements)*.

The guidelines were revised to comply with statutory change in the following ways:

- Added overview of Charter School application denials and clarified legal authority for decisions.
- Added language under "Process" to clarify what must be included, at minimum, in a recommendation to the State Board of Education.
- Revised timing on the Charter School Appeal Commission process
 - The time allowed between the filing of the Notice of Appeal and SBE action was changed from 60 days to 90 days.
- Revised criteria for the review of charter school applications to add new components in the areas of:
 - Academic design
 - Describe the core philosophy or underlying purpose of the school
 - Describe how the school will utilize the Guiding Principles found in law (with a listing of the new guiding principles that were outlined in HB 55-A)
 - Describe how the school will meet the Prescribed Purposes of a charter school found in law (with a listing of the new prescribed purposes that were outlined in HB 55-A)
 - Describe how the school will fulfill the optional purposes of charter schools found in law (with a listing of the new optional purposes that were outlined in HB 55-A)
 - Describe the target student population to be served

- Educational program
 - Describe the education program of the school with an overview of curriculum objectives and content of the main subject areas
 - Describe the school's reading curriculum
 - Describe the goals and objectives to be used for improving student learning
 - Student assessment
 - Describe the goals and objectives to be used to measure student improvement
 - Governance and management
 - Provide information on which members of the founding group will continue on governing board
 - Describe the relationship between governing members and operational officers
 - Finance, facilities & risk management
 - Describe facilities to be used and location, or detailed plan regarding location and securing facilities
 - Describe financing or leasing plans
 - Include annual financial plan with specific details
 - Discuss projected enrollments needed to generate sufficient funding to support planned expenditures.
 - Admissions and registration plan
 - Describe admissions procedures to be used, particularly if a student is articulating from one charter school to another.
- Added reporting requirements to implement the provisions of Senate Bill 30-A related to class size requirements.
 - Describe the methods the school will use to ensure compliance with Florida's constitutional class size provisions.

**Note: The "Florida Charter School Standard Application 2004-05" was also revised to comply with new statutory provisions.*

Supporting Documentation Included: "Charter School Appeal Commission Guidelines", Revised January 2004

Facilitators/Presenters: Dr. Theresa Klebacha, Executive Director
Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice

Dr. Kim McDougal, Commissioner's Designee as Chair

Charter School Appeal Commission