



Florida Department of Education



Office of Independent Education & Parental Choice

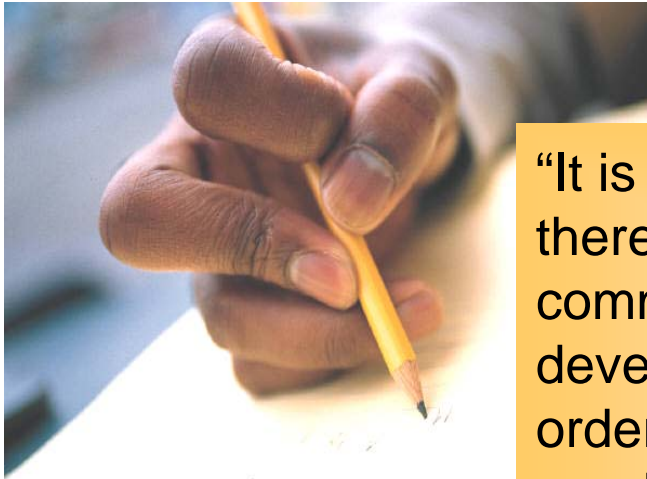
325 West Gaines Street • Suite 522 • Tallahassee, FL • 32399-0400 • 850/245-0502 • www.floridaschoolchoice.org

Florida Schools of Excellence Commission

Presentation to the State Board of Education
Miami, FL
August 15, 2006

Virginia Gentles, Executive Director
Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice

Legislative Intent



“It is the intent of the Legislature that there be established an independent, state-level commission whose primary focus is the development and support of charter schools in order to better meet the growing and diverse needs of some of the increasing number and array of charter schools in the state and to further ensure that charter schools of the highest academic quality are approved and supported throughout the state in an efficient manner.”



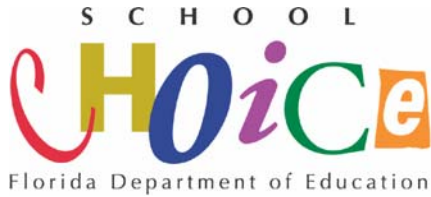
Florida Schools of Excellence Commission Overview

- HB 135 created s. 1002.335, F.S., and established the Florida Schools of Excellence (FSE) Commission
 - Independent, state-level charter school authorizer
 - Working in collaboration with DOE
 - Under supervision of the State Board of Education

- Commission members appointed by the State Board of Education
 - Appointments by September 1, 2006
 - First Commission meeting by October 1, 2006

- Cities, universities, community colleges and regional educational consortia can apply to co-sponsor charter schools with the Commission

- School districts can apply for “exclusive authority” over the charter schools in their district



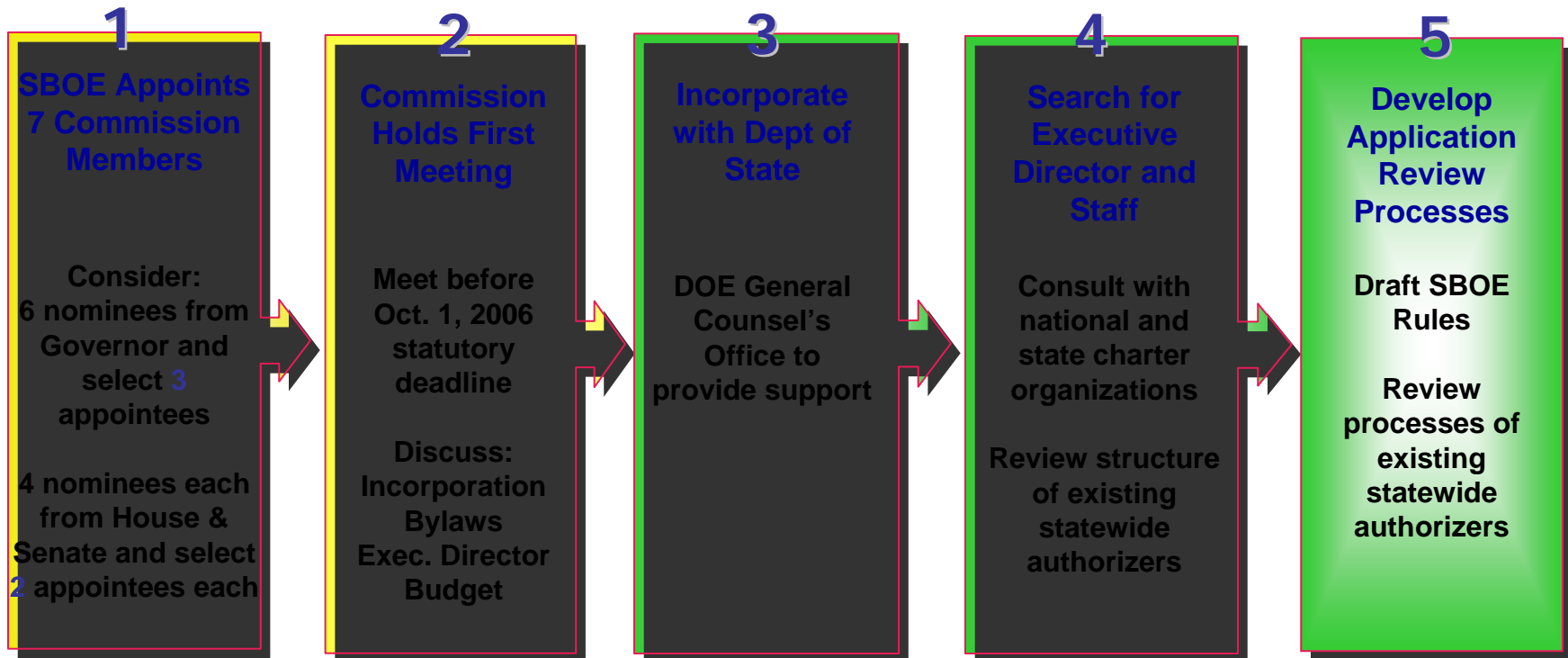
Powers of the Commission

- Authorize and act as sponsor of charter schools
- Authorize municipalities, state universities, community colleges, and regional educational consortia to act as cosponsors
- Approve or deny FSE charter school applications and renew or terminate charters of FSE schools
- Conduct facility and curriculum reviews of FSE approved schools or its cosponsor schools



State Board Authority

<p>Appointments 1002.335 (3)(b)</p>	<p><i>“The commission shall be appointed by the State Board of Education”</i></p>
<p>SBOE Rules 1002.335 (4)(a)2. 1002.335 (8) 1002.335 (14)</p>	<p><i>Authorization of municipalities, state universities, community colleges, and regional educational consortia to act as cosponsors of charter schools – approval, denial & the revocation of approval</i></p> <p><i>Revocation of approval of a cosponsor</i></p> <p><i>Implementation</i></p>
<p>Cosponsor Application Appeals 1002.335 (6)(c)7.(d)</p>	<p><i>“The commission's decision to deny an application or to revoke approval of a cosponsor pursuant to subsection (8) is not subject to chapter 120 and may be appealed to the State Board of Education pursuant to s. 1002.33(6).”</i></p>
<p>Appeals of Denied Charters 1002.33(6)(d)</p>	<p><i>“Any such applicant whose application is denied by the commission or one of its cosponsors subsequent to its denial by the district school board may exercise its right to appeal the district school board's denial”</i></p>
<p>District Exclusive Authority 1002.33(5)(c)</p>	<p><i>“a district school board may seek to retain exclusive authority to authorize charter schools within the geographic boundaries of the school district by presenting to the State Board of Education ... a written resolution”</i></p>





Commission Appointments

- Members appointed by the State Board of Education by September 1, 2006
- 3 appointees recommended by the Governor, 2 by the President of the Senate, 2 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives
 - No fewer than two nominees for any appointment to the commission
 - Each member must hold bachelor's degree or higher
 - Commission must include individuals with experience in finance, administration, law, education, and school governance
- Each member shall serve a term of 2 years
 - *Initially*: three members shall be appointed to 1-year terms and four members shall be appointed to 2-year terms
 - *After*: each appointee shall serve a 2-year term unless the State Board of Education extends the appointment
 - *Vacancies*: shall be filled by the State Board of Education



Commission Meetings

- Commission to convene first meeting no later than October 1, 2006
- Commission shall meet each month at the call of the chair or request of four members
- Commission members are not compensated but may be reimbursed for travel expenses



Commission Governance

- Commission members shall vote annually to appoint a chair and vice chair
- Commission shall appoint an executive director who will hire staff
- DOE legal office will assist in filing incorporation documents and establishing bylaws of the commission

Commission Budget

- Funding and FTE were not included in the legislation. During the Commission's first meeting, a budget for 2006-07 will be finalized and state and private funding sources identified. The Commission will request funding and FTE from the legislature for 2007-08 and beyond.

PROPOSED START-UP 2006-07 BUDGET

Personnel (3 FTE)	\$215,000
Consulting & Monitoring Systems	\$80,000
Travel	\$78,000
Equipment & Supplies	\$16,350
Rent & Utilities	\$28,400
Public Information & Outreach	\$15,000
2006-07 TOTAL	\$432,750

Note: No revenue from administrative fees from charter schools' FTE is expected until July of 2008.



Commission Approved Co-Sponsors

- Cosponsor applicant must demonstrate they are able to:
 - Handle administrative responsibilities as a charter school sponsor
 - Develop and maintain charter schools of the highest academic quality
 - Provide financial resources and staff to monitor and support charter schools
 - Serve low income, low performing, gifted or underserved student populations
 - Articulate annual academic and financial goals and expected outcomes for its charter schools

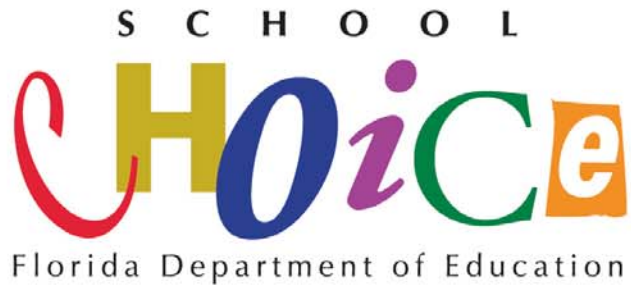
- Stringent application and monitoring process to ensure that the cosponsor meets its contractual obligations

- Commission can revoke the cosponsor's approval



District Exclusive Authority

- District school board shall retain the authority to reauthorize and oversee any charter school that it has authorized
 - Except a charter school that converts to an FSE school
- District school board may seek to retain exclusive authority to authorize charter schools within its boundaries
 - Present to the SBE, within 60 days of the establishment of the FSE and on or before March 1 thereafter, a written resolution indicating intent to retain exclusive authority
- SBE may grant exclusive authority to district school board if it meets criteria outlined in statute including:
 - Fair & equitable treatment to charter schools during prior 4 years
 - No district moratorium regarding charter schools or enrollment limits
 - Assistance with facilities needs
 - Fairly distributed share of federal & state grants to charter schools



Office of Independent Education & Parental Choice

325 West Gaines Street • Suite 522 • Tallahassee, FL • 32399-0400 • 850/245-0502 • www.floridaschoolchoice.org

CONTACT INFORMATION

Virginia K. Gentles

Executive Director, Office of Independent Education & Parental Choice

Main Line: (850) 245-0502

School Choice Hotline: 1-800-447-1636

Fax Number: (850) 245-0875

www.floridaschoolchoice.org

NOTE: Once the Florida School of Excellence Commission hires an Executive Director and staff, the Commission's Executive Director will become the primary contact.