

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Action Item
June 17, 2008

SUBJECT: Approval of Commissioner's Recommendation on Exclusivity for School Districts to Authorize Charter Schools in Their Geographic Areas

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1002.335, Florida Statutes

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Section 1002.335, Florida Statutes created the Florida Schools of Excellence Commission, a state level charter school authorizing entity. It also provided the opportunity for school districts to apply for exclusive authority to sponsor charter schools within their own geographic boundaries. State Board Rule 6A-6.0783, FAC., outlines the process by which district applications are submitted and evaluated. Based on the final scores, the Commissioner of Education provides recommendations to the State Board to grant or deny exclusive authority to district applicants.

Rule 6A-6.0783 was amended by the State Board on April 15, 2008. The rule was amended to streamline the application process to be more efficient and user-friendly for school districts, charter schools and reviewers. The on-line application allowed for a three part process: 1) District's original application; 2) Charter school responses to the application; and 3) District rebuttal to charter school responses. Reviewers were identified by areas of expertise and reviewed only those questions in their area. The application as incorporated in rule required school districts to score 50 out of 50 points (100%) in order to be recommended to the Board for exclusive authority to be granted.

A total of 36 districts applied. Eight of those districts have no prior year history with charter schools. The remaining 28 were reviewed and scored. None of the 28 districts earned 50 points. However, the revised rule allows applicants to request an informal hearing in which they can provide additional information that may have been omitted to provide clarity. The hearing officer will score the question based on information from the original application and any newly submitted information. Any applicant scoring 50 points at the conclusion of the hearing may then be recommended for exclusive authority to the State Board.

Supporting Documentation Included: Summary Sheet of District Scores, Rule 6A-6.0783, District School Board Exclusive Authority to Sponsor Charter Schools and District Exclusive Authority Application

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