



SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Proposed Board Policy III.T.3.F: ***Request to Transfer to Another Sponsor Policy***

INITIAL ADOPTION: _____; first reading October 12, 2017

Schools may not transfer to another sponsor during the term of their Charter and Contract with the District without approval of the Board. The Board may approve or deny a request to transfer by a school for any reason not prohibited by law. The Board may, but is not required to, allow the transfer of a school to another sponsor pursuant to the process outlined below.

Eligibility:

Schools occupying the status of Breach or Revocation Review with the SCPCSD, schools designated low-performing by federal or state accountability systems, or schools identified with persistent non-compliance in the areas of educational programming, legal compliance or fiscal performance are not eligible to apply to the Board for transfer to another sponsor.

Schools eligible to apply for transfer to another sponsor must submit an application to the SCPCSD that includes clear and convincing evidence of the following criteria:

- 1) extraordinary circumstances supporting the transfer;*
- 2) the transfer would serve the best interests of the school's students;*
- 3) the sponsor to which transfer is sought is in agreement;*
- 4) the sponsor to which transfer is sought has adopted national industry standards of quality charter authorizing and has demonstrated the capacity and commitment to execute the responsibilities of quality charter authorizing, including the adoption of performance measures to guide the ongoing oversight and evaluation of the school;*
- 5) the budget and personnel capacity of the sponsor to which transfer is sought is sufficient to execute the transfer; and*
- 6) the transfer can be executed without undue burden and interruption in services to students and/or staff of the school and sponsors.*

The Board maintains its discretion to deny a transfer request for any reason, and shall only consider approval of a request to transfer to another sponsor if it finds the transfer applicant has submitted clear and convincing evidence of the above criteria.

Timelines:

Eligible schools wishing to transfer their charter contract to another sponsor must submit a Notice of Intent to the SCPCSD Superintendent no later than September 1



SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

and a complete application no later than October 1 for transfer in the subsequent school year. The Board shall render a final decision on the application before December 1 if possible, and in no event, later than January 31.

Notice of Intent:

The Notice of Intent shall identify the sponsor to which the school wishes to transfer and include a resolution to change sponsors signed by the school board.

Application for Transfer:

The Application for Transfer to Another Sponsor shall include the following components:

- 1) a signed resolution by the school board authorizing the school lead and or school board chair to take steps necessary to execute the transfer should it be approved;*
- 2) a signed resolution from the board of the sponsor to which the school seeks to transfer supporting the transfer request;*
- 3) an explanation for why the school is seeking to transfer to another sponsor;*
- 4) an explanation as to how this transfer is in the best interest of the students served by the school;*
- 5) evidence that the applicant has notified students, parents, and staff of the request to transfer sponsors;*
- 6) evidence of the sponsor's financial health and sustainability; and*
- 7) evidence that the sponsor's governing board holds its schools accountable for performance.*

Application Review:

Upon receipt of the Application for Transfer to Another Sponsor by a school, Staff will review the application and other information available to the District to develop a report for the Board, to include a comprehensive analysis of the school's academic, fiscal, and organizational performance to date as well as an analysis of the "receiving" sponsor's track record of authorizing high performing schools and executing the responsibilities of quality charter authorizing. The Board also may consider the fiscal and operational impact of the transfer on other schools in the District and, by extension, other District students. The report will include a recommendation from the staff and be provided to the Board, school, and sponsor to which the school seeks to transfer at least one week prior to the public meeting at which the Board will take action on the request.

Board Decision Making:

The Board shall review each eligible transfer request on a case-by-case basis and take into consideration the Application for Transfer to Another Sponsor and the staff's report and recommendation. The Board may request clarifying information from the applicant or sponsor either in writing, by questioning from the Board at a regularly scheduled



SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

*meeting of the Board, or as otherwise may be determined by the Board.
Representatives of the transfer applicant and representatives of the sponsor to which
transfer is sought must attend the public meeting at which action on the request will be
taken by the Board.*

S.C. Code Ann. § 59-40-115

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