

Charter School Improvement Plans

Purpose

The 2006 Legislature enacted HB 7103 which substantially amends provisions of s. 1002.33, F.S. The bill revises numerous provisions related to charter schools and adds new academic accountability requirements for charter schools graded D or F, including the development and implementation of school improvement plans.

School Improvement Plan Requirements

Any charter school that receives a school grade of D must have the director and a representative of the governing body of the charter school appear before the sponsor at least once a year to address each contract component having noted deficiencies. At this meeting and in writing, the sponsor must communicate the services that will be provided to help the school address these deficiencies.

A charter school that receives a school grade of D for two consecutive years or a grade of F must have the school's director and a representative of the governing body submit a school improvement plan to raise student achievement to its sponsor for approval. This plan will be implemented in the following school year. Additionally, the director and a representative of the governing body of the charter school must appear before the sponsor or the sponsor's staff at least once a year to present information regarding the corrective strategies that are being implemented by the school according to the school improvement plan. At this meeting and in writing to the director of the school, the sponsor must communicate the services that will be provided to help the school address its deficiencies.

A charter school failing to improve its student performance from the year immediately prior to implementing its school improvement plan will be put on probation by the sponsor. The school's governing board will be required to take one of the following corrective actions:

- Contract for the school's educational services
- Reorganize at the end of the school year under a new director or principal who will have the authority to hire new staff and implement a plan to address the inadequate progress
- Reconstitute the school (terminate the existing charter contract and develop a new charter contract for the same school)

Any school placed on probation will continue these corrective actions until it improves its student performance from the year prior to implementing its school improvement plan.

Contact Information:
Karen Hines-Henry
850-245-0502
karen.hines@fldoe.org



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The sponsor may terminate the charter school at any time pursuant to the provisions of s. 1002.33(8), F.S., causes for nonrenewal or termination of charter.

Any graded charter school that has submitted a school improvement plan or has been put on probation must appear before its sponsor at least once a year to inform the sponsor of the corrective strategies being implemented to improve student performance in accordance with its improvement plan. At this meeting and in writing, the sponsor must communicate the services that will be provided to help the school address any deficiencies.

School Improvement Plan Assistance

The Department of Education, Bureau of School Improvement, has developed an online school improvement plan template. Charter schools required to submit a school improvement plan may use this template which is located at http://www.bsi.fsu.edu/0607_sip_template/login.aspx

Additional Resources and Information

The charter schools statute, s. 1002.33, F.S.:

http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=Ch1002/SEC33.HTM&Title=->2006->Ch1002->Section%2033#1002.33

The Accountability, K-20 statute, s. 1008.31- 46, F.S.:

http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=Ch1008/part02.htm&StatuteYear=2006&Title=%2D%3E2006%2D%3EChapter%201008%2D%3EPart%20II

The Florida Department of Education, Bureau of School Improvement: <http://www.bsi.fsu.edu/>

The Florida Department of Education, Bureau of School Improvement Technical Assistance Document:

<http://www.bsi.fsu.edu/pdf/2006TA.pdf>

The Florida Department of Education, Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice:

<http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org>

For questions and information on charter schools, contact Karen Hines-Henry at 850-245-0502 or

karen.hines@fldoe.org