

INTERNAL MONITORING REPORT

December 15, 2021

Policy: **2.9 Charter Schools**
Policy Category: **Operating Limitations**
Period Monitored: **July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021**

This is my monitoring report on the Board of Education's Operating Limitation Policy 2.9 Charter Schools. This report is presented in accordance with the Board's monitoring schedule. I certify that the information is true and complete.

Chris Gdowski, Superintendent
November 17, 2021

POLICY WORDING:

With respect to charter schools the Superintendent shall not cause or allow either the District or a charter school to avoid its responsibilities under applicable Board policies and relevant agreements.

Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Superintendent shall not fail to:

- 1. (a) Establish written interpretations of all Board policies through either Superintendent policies or specific contractual provisions, and (b) timely submit to the Board an appropriate written decision assurance for the waiver of any Board policies the Superintendent deems irrelevant to a specific charter school.*
- 2. Establish and execute an annual or more frequent monitoring schedule and monitoring process for each charter school with respect to contractual provisions and Board policies not expressly waived by the Board.*
- 3. Allow any charter school board, after the Superintendent's internal hearing procedures have been exhausted, to appeal to the Board any Superintendent's interpretation or decision that the charter school board deems unreasonable.*

INTERPRETATION:

I interpret the following language:

(a) Establish written interpretations of all Board policies through either District policies or specific contractual provisions”

to mean:

1. District policies, which interpret and implement all Board policies, are available at each school upon request or on the District web page.
2. The terms of each charter school contract comply with Board policies unless a waiver of Board policies has been formally approved by the Board of Education.

DATA REPORTED:

1. All District charter schools have access to District policies, Board policies, and Operating Limitations policies via the District website. Administrators at District charter schools are notified by the District's Charter Schools Office immediately upon revision of existing or adoption of new policies, followed by a discussion as needed at the next monthly charter collaboration meeting.
2. The Stargate School's contract extension through June 30, 2024, was approved by the Board of Education on April 21, 2021, based upon appropriate implementation of Attachment 11 in

the existing contract with the District at that time. The contract extension was consistent with terms identified in the existing contract, which stated in Item 2.1:

- a. “This Contract is effective as of July 1, 2019, and shall continue through June 30, 2022. At Stargate’s option, it may request a 2-year extension through June 30, 2024, for continued authorization without a formal renewal application. The Superintendent will consider such request and make a recommendation to the Board of Education by September 30, 2021, to allow Stargate adequate time to submit a formal renewal application if needed. Factors for the Superintendent’s consideration will be based on evaluating the School’s progress in implementing the requirements of Attachment 11 (to the contract). In the event the school has appropriately implemented all elements of Attachment 11, extension of the contract shall not be unreasonably delayed, conditioned or denied.”
3. The New America School - Thornton’s contract extension of one year, through June 20, 2023, was approved by the Board of Education on September 15, 2021, effectively postponing the formal renewal application and subsequent renewal ruling by one year.
 - a. The rationale for the extension was due to the COVID pandemic, which, beginning in March 2020, resulted in significant disruptions to students, staff, families, and systems at the school, district, and state levels.
 - b. Statute (C.R.S. 22-30.5-110) and District Policy 1600 establish requirements for renewal, and the New America School - Thornton’s contract was already extended for two years (from June 30, 2020, to June 30, 2022) and had thus been in place for four years. A one-year extension provided an additional extension that is reasonable but not excessive.

COMPLIANCE STATEMENT:

I report compliance with charter school access to District policies, Board policies, and Operating Limitations policies and with charter school contracts to Board policy.

INTERPRETATION:

I interpret the following language:

...(b)timely submit to the Board an appropriate written decision assurance for the waiver of any Board policies the Superintendent deems irrelevant to a specific charter school

to mean:

The Superintendent, upon receipt of a “waiver request” from any charter school, submits a decision information report to the Board of Education within one month of receiving the official request for waiver. This interpretation holds true for Board Ends Policies and Operating Limitations Policies.

Data Reported:

No new requests for policy waivers were received, nor were any renewal contracts completed during the monitoring period of July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021.

COMPLIANCE STATEMENT:

I report compliance with this standard.

INTERPRETATION:

I interpret the following language:

Establish and execute an annual or more frequent monitoring schedule and monitoring process for each charter school with respect to contractual provisions and Board policies not expressly waived by the Board

to mean:

1. Charter contracts identify essential data, reports, and other material items necessary to demonstrate compliance with district policy, state and federal law. Charter schools submit the required data on an ongoing basis, and the District Charter Schools Office provides ongoing monitoring for compliance with scheduled benchmarks.
2. The District's Office of Charter Schools reviews all current Board of Education policies and existing charter school contracts no less than annually to determine whether each charter school complies with provisions that have not otherwise been waived.

Data Reported:

1. The Office of Charter Schools monitored compliance with all report requirements on an ongoing basis, conducted a detailed review of all contract provisions, and communicated with charter representatives periodically to review compliance with contractual requirements. Monitoring processes include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Benchmarks and assurances document tracking key document submissions and contractual benchmarks for each District charter school
 - b. Monthly "Partnership Meetings" between district staff and each school's administration allowing for verification of all required data and document submissions
 - c. Annual performance monitoring analysis for each charter school addressing the school's performance in the areas of student achievement, financial responsibility, and general operational expectations

COMPLIANCE STATEMENT:

I report compliance with the monitoring schedule and process within this standard.

INTERPRETATION:

I interpret the following language:

Allow any charter school board, after the Superintendent's internal hearing procedures have been exhausted, to appeal to the Board any Superintendent's interpretation or decision that the charter school board deems unreasonable

to mean:

A charter school board may submit appeals of Superintendent's interpretations or decisions to the Board of Education. In such an event, the Superintendent schedules a hearing with the Board of Education within two weeks of the request for a hearing with the Board. Charter school representatives are informed in writing of their right to appeal decisions of the Superintendent. An appeal of a Superintendent interpretation is accompanied by an alternate interpretation developed by the respective Charter school board.

DATA REPORTED:

No protests of the Superintendent's interpretations of policy or the Superintendent's decisions have been submitted by any charter schools during the monitoring period.

COMPLIANCE STATEMENT:

I report compliance with this standard.

The Board acknowledged receipt of a delayed monitoring report as of December 15, 2021, for the period July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021, of the Superintendent concerning Board Policy 2.9 Charter Schools and found the Superintendent's interpretations were reasonable and supported by data that was relevant, justified and complete.