

INTERNAL MONITORING REPORT

August 17, 2016

Policy: **2.9 Charter Schools**
Policy Category: **Operating Limitations**
Period Monitored: **July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016**

This is my monitoring report on the Board of Education's Operating Limitation Policy "Charter Schools." This report is submitted pursuant to the Board's monitoring schedule. I certify that the information is true and complete. This report monitors the policy starting at its more detailed provisions and ends with the global provision.

Christopher E. Gdowski, Superintendent
August 11, 2016

Policy Wording:

2.9 *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 “(a) *Establish written interpretations of all Board policies through either Superintendent policies or specific contractual provisions*” to mean:

1. Superintendent policies, which interpret and implement all Board policies, are available in hard copy at each school upon request and/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 been provided a hard copy of Superintendent Policies, Board of Education Ends' Policies and Operating Limitations Policies upon request, have access to the policies on the District website and are notified by the district's charter liaison immediately upon revision of existing or adoption of new policies.
2. General counsel indicates that all charter contract terms adopted or modified during the monitoring period comply with Board policies.

Compliance Statement:

The District's performance complied with the standards.

Interpretation:

I interpret “(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 request for waiver. This interpretation holds true for Board Ends Policies and Operating Limitations Policies.

Data Reported:

The Superintendent has not received any waiver requests during this monitoring period.

Compliance Statement:

The District's performance complied with the standards.

Interpretation:

I interpret “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. A representative of the Superintendent reviews all current Board Policies and existing charter school contracts no less than annually to determine whether each charter school is in compliance with provisions that have not otherwise been waived. The representative of the Superintendent maintains a compliance-monitoring calendar for charter schools. The charter calendar identifies essential data, reports and artifacts necessary to demonstrate compliance with district policy, state and federal law, and material terms specifically identified within each school's contract. Charter schools submit the required data on an ongoing basis, and the Superintendent's representative monitors the data for compliance not less than once per month. By July 1 of each year, the superintendent's representative publishes an Annual Performance Report for each charter school which reports compliance during the ending school year in the following areas: student achievement, financial transparency and operational compliance.

Data Reported:

1. The Superintendent's representative monitored compliance with all report requirements on an ongoing basis, conducted a detailed review of all contract provisions annually or more frequently when warranted, communicated with charter representatives periodically to review compliance with contractual requirements and published annual performance reports for each charter school. The annual performance reports are provided as exhibits to this monitoring report.

Compliance Statement:

The District's performance complied with the standards.

Interpretation:

I interpret *“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 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 Superintendent’s interpretations of policy or Superintendent’s decisions have been submitted by any of the charter schools during the monitoring period.

Compliance Statement:

The District's performance complied with the standards.

The Board acknowledged receipt of a monitoring report as of August 17, 2016, for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, of the Superintendent concerning Operating Limitations Policy 2.9 Charter Schools and found the superintendent’s interpretations were reasonable and supported by data that was relevant, justified and complete.