



OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
— CHAMPION EXCELLENCE —

Oversight of Public Charter --- Schools

State Oversight


- Supervision of public schools
 - Implementation of laws & rulemaking
 - Reports (ex: Annual Statistical Report)
 - Accreditation
- Program specific
 - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
 - Oklahoma Cost Accounting System
 - Audits
 - School Report Cards

What is a Charter School?


- Public school established by contract
- “Applicant” and “Sponsor”
- Flexibility for heightened accountability

Charter School Oversight

Charter Sponsor (Authorizer): Sets operational policies, required reports, prohibits actions, and may receive up to 5% of all state aid from the school.



Governing Board: This body is the applicant to the sponsor and manages the school's function like a traditional school board. Approves encumbrances, contracts, etc.



Charter School: Day-to-day operations of the school; staff report to the building leadership and building leadership reports to the Governing Board.

Authorizers in Oklahoma 70 O.S. § 3-132

- Local school district (14)
- Technology center
- Accredited comprehensive or regional institution of higher education, or community college in county of 500,000+ (6)
- Tribe (1)
- State Board of Education (4)
- Statewide Virtual Charter School Board (5)

(*) = number of charter schools sponsored

Authorizer Principles

- Maintain high standards for schools
- Uphold school autonomy
- Protect student and public interests

Authorizer Standards – Oklahoma Statutes

- Chartering policies consistent with model principles and standards
 - Capacity - Up to 5% of state appropriation
 - Application - intake, review and pre-opening;
 - Performance-based contracting;
 - Oversight and evaluation
 - Revocation

* 70 O.S. § § 3-134 and 3-137

Sponsor Powers & Duties - 70 O.S. § 3-134

- Approve high-quality applications
- Decline weak or inadequate applications
- Negotiate sound contracts
- Monitor compliance and performance
- Oversight - annual performance reviews
- Close low-performing schools

Performance & Oversight - 70 O.S. § 3-135

- Academic proficiency
- Academic growth
- Achievement gaps in subgroups
- Attendance
- Recurrent enrollment
- Graduation rate and postsecondary readiness
- Financial performance and sustainability
- Governing board performance and stewardship

Performance, Termination & Closure

- Performance report of weaknesses or concerns
- Ground renewal decisions on performance / evidence
- Terminate
 - Bottom 5% at time of renewal
 - failure to meet student performance, fiscal mismanagement, violation of law or other good cause
- Non-accredit
- Closure protocol

Authorizer Accountability

- Suspend authority if 25% of charters within authorizer portfolio are within the bottom 5% of all schools
- Other reasons?
 - Failure to meet accreditation standards
 - Financial mismanagement or inability to continue
- Other states?