

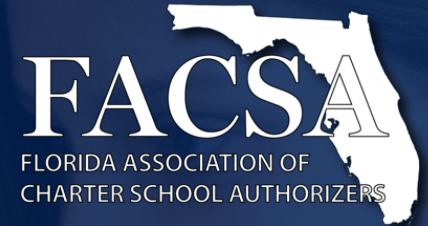
Florida Authorizer Bootcamp

Welcome & Overview

Today's Agenda

- **Monday, September 14**
 - 1-1:10 p.m. – Welcome and Overview
 - 1:10-1:55 p.m. – Florida Statutory Requirements
 - 1:44 – 2:30 p.m. – Florida Principles and Standards
 - 2:30-2:45 p.m. – Break
 - 2:45-3:00 p.m. – Florida Authorizing Calendar
 - 3-3:30 p.m. – Mission & Vision for Florida Authorizing
 - 3:30-4 p.m. – From Policy to Practice



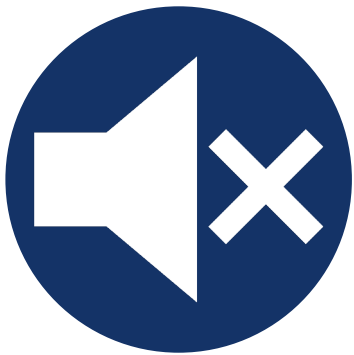


Florida Charter Law and Statutory Requirements

Florida Authorizer Bootcamp



Bootcamp Norms



Remember to mute
yourself



Utilize the chat for questions
and comments



Respond to the survey

Bootcamp Engagement

We want you to be an active participant!



Group Discussion



Poll Question



Authorizer Example



Chat Question

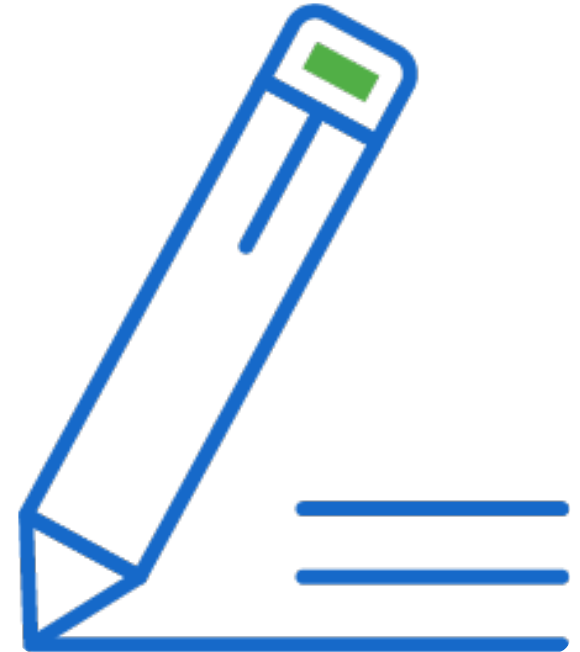
Session Agenda

- **Brief History of Charters in Florida**
- **Florida Charter Law**
 - Section 1002.33: Establishment of Charter Schools in Florida
 - Section 1002.331: High-Performing Eligibility Requirements
 - Section 1002.332: High-Performing Eligibility Requirements
 - Section 112.333: Schools of Hope
 - SB 7030: Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act

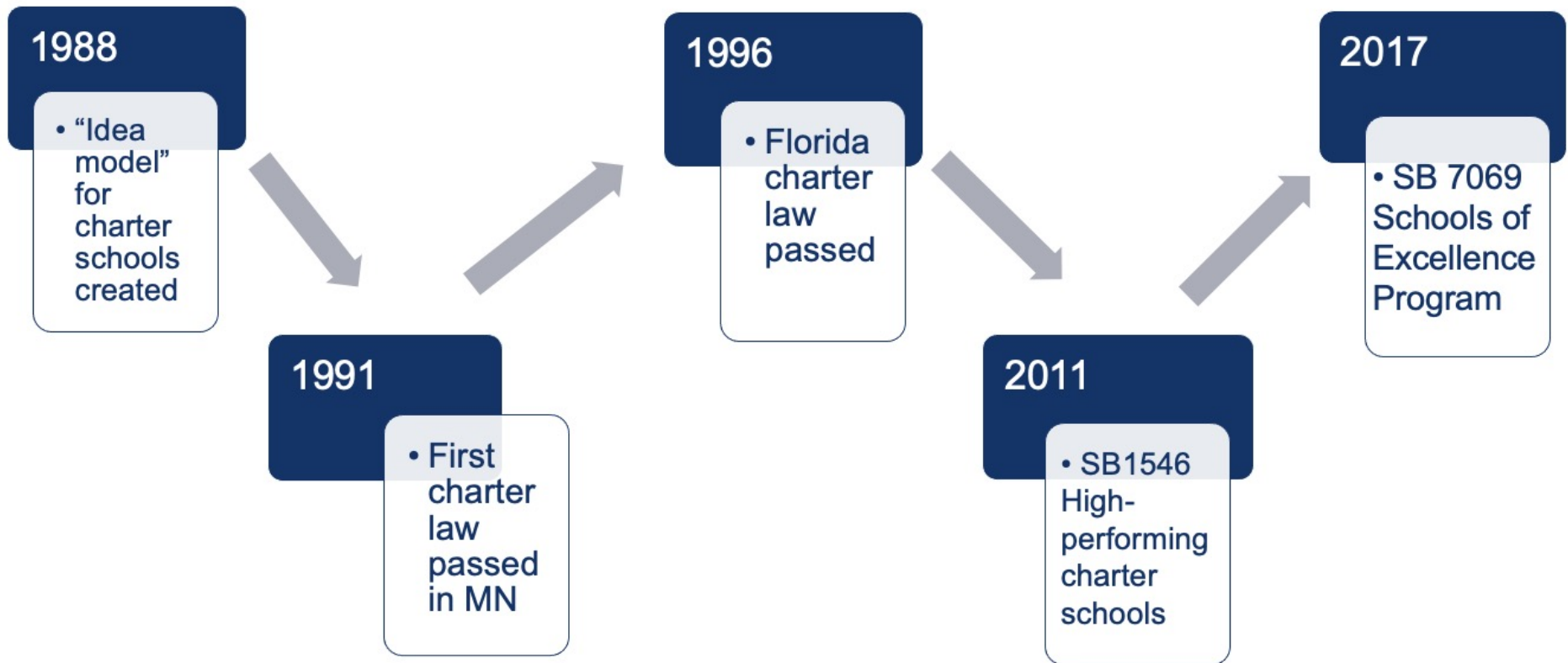


Objectives

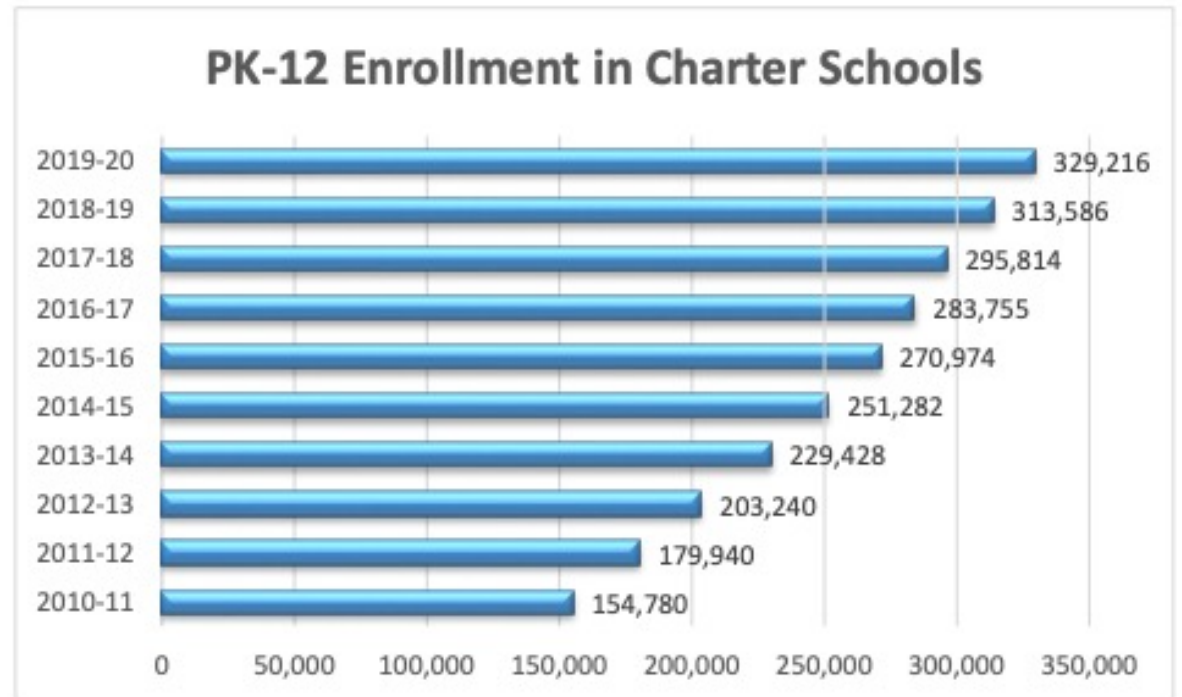
- **Authorizers will review a brief history of chartering in Florida.**
- **Authorizers will review statutory requirements for sponsoring a charter school in Florida.**
- **Authorizers will begin to understand implications for authorizing a charter school in Florida.**



History of Charter Law in Florida

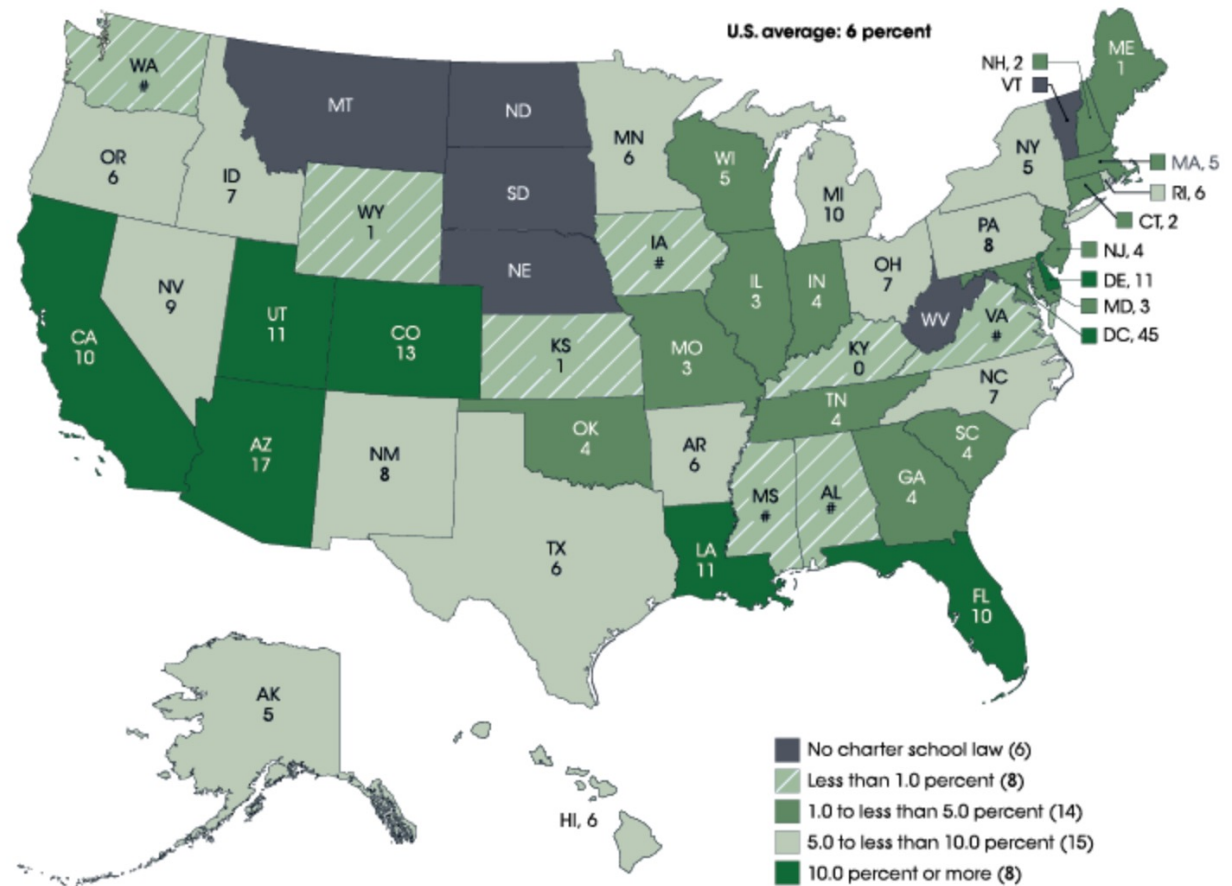


Growth of Charter Schools in Florida



Enrollment of Students in Charter Schools

Percentage of all public school students enrolled in public charter schools, by state: Fall 2017



Rounds to zero.



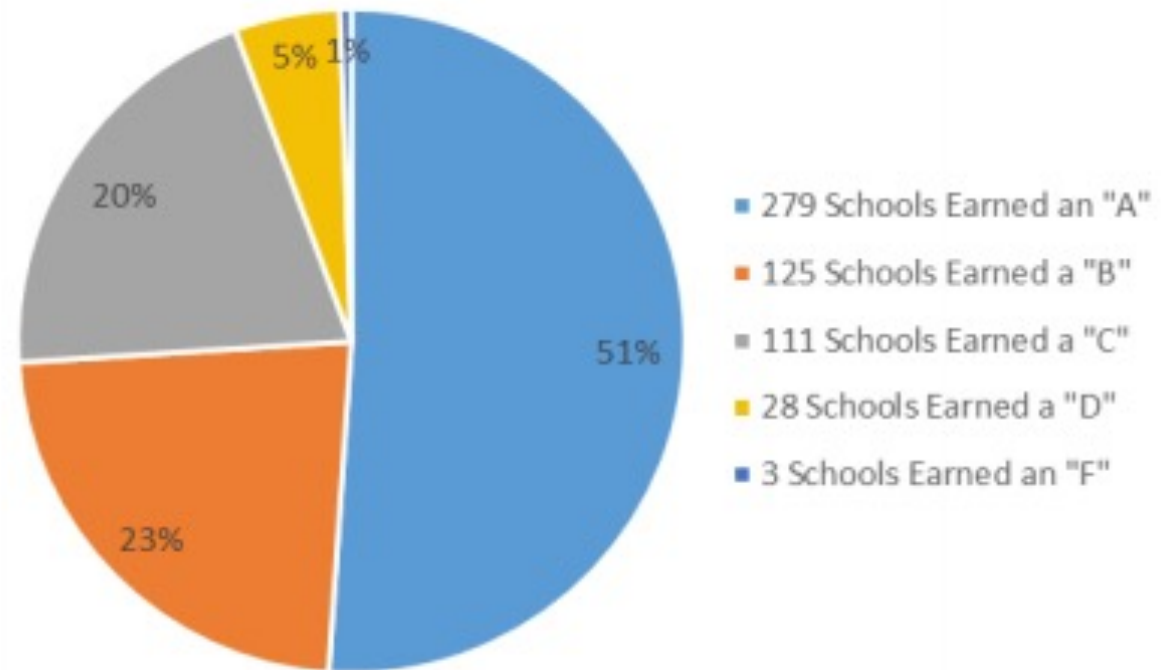
Charter Applications in Florida

History of Charter School Application Approval Rate



Performance of Florida Charter Schools

2019 Charter School Grades



As of 10/26/2020, there are 214 high-performing charter schools in Florida.

Terms and Acronyms

- **Authorizer vs. Sponsor**
 - Within this presentation, terms will be used interchangeably
- **FDOE**
 - Florida Department of Education
- **FTE**
 - Full time equivalent (referring to student enrollment)



Florida Charter Law

A closer look at charter statute in Florida that impacts authorizing.

What do you already know about charter law in Florida?

True or False?

- A charter contract term length must always be five years in the state of Florida.
- A school's contract is automatically terminated if the school received two consecutive grades of "F" by FDOE.
- All charter school applications must be submitted using the FDOE standard application.
- A school may give an enrollment preference to the children of the governing board.



F.S. § 1002.33: Establishes Charter Schools in Florida

Overview of Law:

- Establishes charter schools in Florida
- Allows private entities to enter into charters with school boards to provide educational services to district students
- Provides information on application process and review, charter school requirements, charter funding, exemptions from statute, and authorizer responsibilities

Application Submission Process

F.S. § 1002.33(6): Application Process and Review

Standard Application

- All applicants must use [FDOE standard application](#)

Timeline

- Applications due on or before February 1st; to open 18 months later
- Sponsor must submit name of applicant, proposed location and projected FTE to FDOE within 15 calendar days

F.S. § 1002.33(5): Sponsor Duties

- The sponsor will submit to FDOE the number of applications received each year as well as approved/denied/withdrawn data

Application Review Process

F.S. § 1002.33(6): Application Process and Review

- Sponsor must use the evaluation instrument developed by FDOE
- School has seven days to make any corrections or clarifications to application
- Sponsor must vote to approve or deny within 90 days of received application

F.S. § 1002.33(5): Sponsor Duties

- A charter may be approved before facility, equipment, or personnel are secured
- Ensure school is innovative and consistent with the state's educational goals

Approvals

F.S. § 1002.33(6): Application Process and Review

- **Approval**
 - Once approved, 30 days to provide initial contract
 - Required to share contract with applicant at least 3 days before vote
 - Charter may defer opening by up to 3 years

Denials and Appeals

F.S. § 1002.33(6): Application Process and Review

- **Denial**

- Must articulate reasons for denial within 10 days and submit to FDOE
- Applicant can appeal within 30 days of notice

- **Appeals**

- Applicant may appeal to the State Board within 30 calendar days of decision
- Charter School Appeal Commission makes recommendation to State Board
- State Board makes final decision within 90 days of appeal

Charter Contract

F.S. § 1002.33(7): Charter

Standard Contract

- FDOE [standard contract](#) must be used
- Initial charter term of five years for all schools (excluding two planning years)
- Charter approval must be based on school's mission, curriculum, focus on reading, and diverse instructional delivery

Timeline

- Sponsor has 30 days after approval for initial contract; 40 days to negotiate

F.S. § 1002.33(5): Application Review Process

- All policies applied mutually agreed upon

Ongoing Oversight and Evaluation

F.S. § 1002.33(5): Sponsor Duties

- Sponsor will not impose additional reporting requirements
- Sponsor responsible for reviewing school's progress towards goals

Additional Requirements within Florida Standard Contract

- State law recommends authorizers to adhere to Florida's Principles and Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing
- Charter governing boards required to submit annual report on progress to authorizer

Renewal

F.S. § 1002.33(7): Charter

- **Renewal**

- Charter renewed if accomplished goals are within contract
- Eligible for 15-year contract term if determined high performing

F.S. § 1002.33(8): Causes for Nonrenewal or Termination of Charter

- Academic achievement should be most important factor in renewal decisions
- **Timeline**
 - Notify school 90 days before renewing, nonrenewing, or terminating

Nonrenewal and Termination

F.S. § 1002.33(8): Causes for Nonrenewal or Termination of Charter

- **Causes for Nonrenewal**

- Academic achievement must be most important factor
- Other reasons: fiscal mismanagement, violation of law, or other good cause
- Voluntary closure by school

- **Funds**

- Unencumbered public funds revert to sponsor

- **Students**

- Students attending closed schools may enroll in another school



Services from Sponsor

F.S. § 1002.33(20): Services

- **Sponsor Provides Certain Administrative Services**
 - Contract management and data management
 - Exceptional Student Education Services
 - Eligibility and reporting for National School Lunch Program
 - Test administration, teacher certification data, performance data services
- **Sponsor may withhold a fee of five percent up to 250 students**
- **Sponsor may withhold a fee of two percent for high-performing school up to 250 students**
- **Schools will complete annual survey to FDOE to rate timeliness and quality of services**

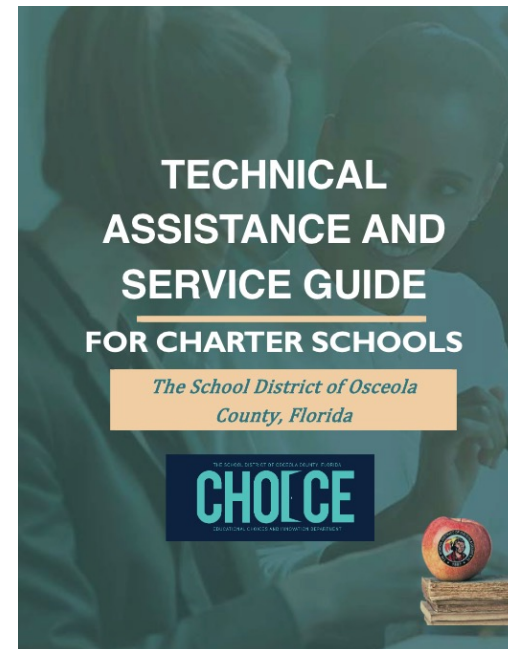
Section 1002.33 – Part 20: Services

Example of Service Agreement

School District of Osceola

Technical Assistance and Service Guide

- Training session provided to charters in district
- Direct services provided to charters in district
- Additional services available for purchase



Finances

F.S. § 1002.345

- Establishes criteria and requirements for charter schools experiencing a deteriorating financial condition or a state of financial emergency.

F.S. § 1013.62

- Establishes charter school eligibility requirements, procedures, and uses for capital outlay funding.

Equity and Access

F.S. § 1002.33(10)

Equal Access

- Must enroll any student who applies until capacity is reached; random selection process must be used
- May target students who meet “reasonable academic, artistic, or other standards”

Preferences Allowed

- Siblings, children of board or staff, children of employee of business partner, continuing pre-K students, children of active-duty members, students assigned to failing schools

Targeted Student Populations Allowed

- School may limit enrollment process to target students in certain grade levels, “at-risk” students, or student populations targeted in school’s mission and vision

Special Populations

- Students with disabilities and English learners have equal opportunity



Section 1002.331: High-Performing Eligibility Requirements

Overview of Law: Establishes criteria to qualify charter schools as high performing

Implications for Authorizing

- **A charter is high performing if it meets the following criteria:**
 - receives two consecutive “A” grades and no grade below “B” during previous three school years; and
 - has audits from three fiscal years with no conditions.

Section 1002.331: High-Performing Eligibility Requirements (2)

Overview of Law: Establishes criteria to qualify charter schools as high performing

Implications for Authorizing

- **High quality schools can:**
 - increase enrollment once per school year;
 - may expand grade levels;
 - submit financial reports quarterly (rather than monthly);
and
 - receive a modified 15-year contract term during renewal.

Section 1002.332: High-Performing Eligibility Requirements

Overview of Law: Establishes criteria to qualify charter school systems or entities as high performing

Implications for Authorizing

- **A charter school system is high performing if it meets the following criteria:**
 - at least 50 percent of their schools meet the high performing definition;
 - no school earned a “D” or “F”; and
 - audits over the last three fiscal years do not indicate a financial emergency condition.

Section 1002.332: High-Performing Eligibility Requirements (2)

Overview of Law: Establishes criteria to qualify charter school systems or entities as high performing

Implications for Authorizing

- **High quality school systems can:**
 - increase enrollment once per school year;
 - expand grade levels;
 - may submit financial reports quarterly (rather than monthly); and
 - receive a modified 15-year contract term during renewal.

Section 1002.333: Schools of Hope

Overview of Law: Establishes and defines Schools of Hope and Hope Operators in Florida

Implications for Authorizing

- **A Hope Operator is a nonprofit organization that operates three or more charter schools in Florida serving students from low-income families and is designated by the State Board of Education.**
- **A district may receive applications for charter schools operated by a Hope Operator to be designated as Schools of Hope.**

SB 7030: Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act

Overview of Law: Law addresses gun violence on school campuses and promotes school safety and coordination with law enforcement

Implications for Authorizing

- Created the Office of Safe Schools within FDOE
- FortifyFL is a mobile suspicious activity reporting tool for the public and is required to promote schools to use
- Outlined new district school board duties related to student discipline and school safety including requiring emergency plans for active shooter and hostage situations and school-level threat teams

District Policy

Most districts in Florida have a specific district policy built upon what is in Florida law.

- Question to Discuss: How does district policy impact your work?



What do you now know about charter law in Florida?

True or False?

1. A charter contract term length must always be five years in Florida.
2. A school's contract is automatically terminated if the school received two consecutive grades of "F" by FDOE.
3. All charter school applications must be submitted using the standard application from FDOE.
4. A school may give an enrollment preference to the children of the governing board.



**Questions?
Reactions?
Ideas?**

