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
We want you to be an active participant!
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

1988
- “Idea model” for charter schools created

1991
- First charter law passed in MN

1996
- Florida charter law passed

2011
- SB 1546 High-performing charter schools

2017
- SB 7069 Schools of Excellence Program
Growth of Charter Schools in Florida

PK-12 Enrollment in Charter Schools

- 2019-20: 329,216
- 2018-19: 313,586
- 2017-18: 295,814
- 2016-17: 283,755
- 2015-16: 270,974
- 2014-15: 251,282
- 2013-14: 229,428
- 2012-13: 203,240
- 2011-12: 179,940
- 2010-11: 154,780
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
Performance of Florida Charter Schools

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

2019 Charter School Grades

- 279 Schools Earned an "A" (51%)
- 125 Schools Earned a "B" (23%)
- 111 Schools Earned a "C" (20%)
- 28 Schools Earned a "D" (5%)
- 3 Schools Earned an "F" (1%)
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
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
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 leaners 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.
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?