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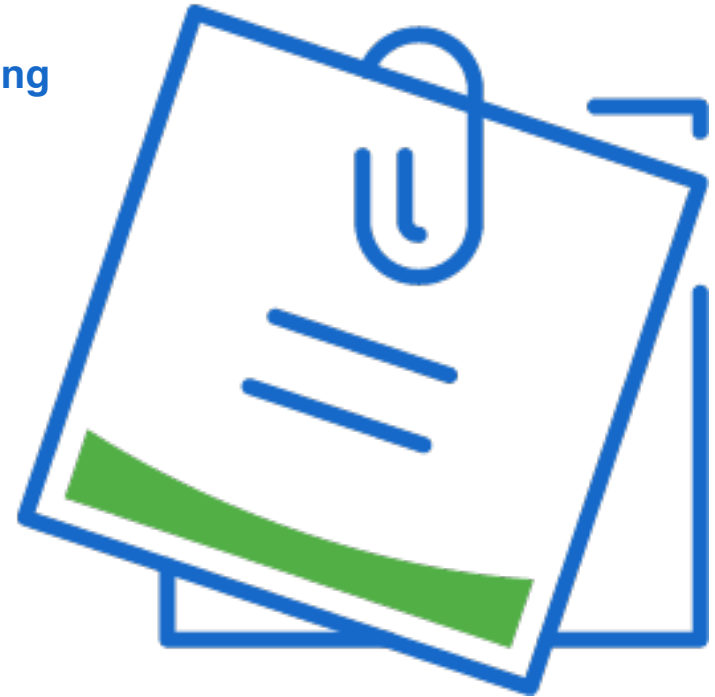
# Renewals and Revocation

Florida Authorizer Bootcamp

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## Agenda

- Florida Principles and Standards for Quality Authorizing
- Renewal Process Overview
- Renewal Evaluation
- Options Short of Nonrenewal
- Renewal Contracts



# Bootcamp Overview

Review Process

Contract Negotiation  
and Finalization

Annual Report and  
Site Visits

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Application Stage

Decision Making

Ongoing Monitoring

Renewal Process



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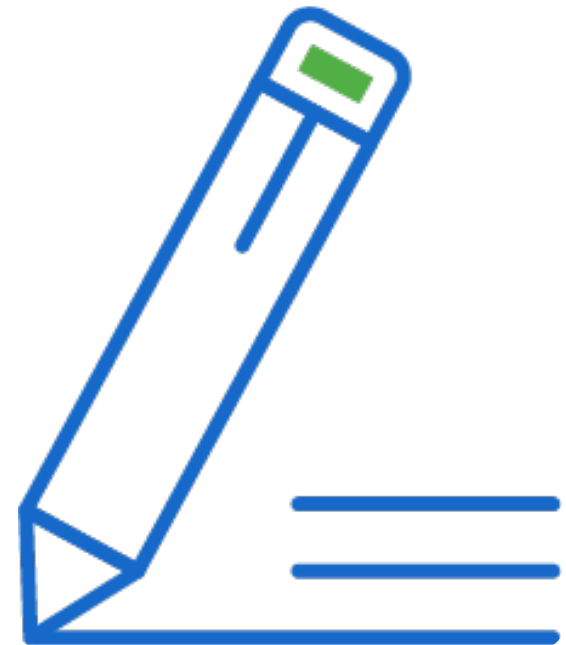
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## Objectives

- **Authorizers will understand the purpose of renewal.**
- **Authorizers will understand the components of the renewal process.**
- **Authorizers will understand the statutory requirements related to renewal.**
- **Authorizers will understand renewal decision-making.**



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## Purpose of Renewal

### Renewal provides an opportunity to ensure the school is:

- Performing in the key areas of academics, governance, and finance
- Complying with its charter and applicable laws
- Effectively serving all students
- Engaged in continuous improvement

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# Florida Principles and Standards

## Standard 5: Termination and Renewal Decision Making

### Termination

- Based on clear evidence of significant underperformance or violation of law

### Renewal/non-renewal decisions

- Based on thorough analyses of a comprehensive body of objective evidence

### Cumulative report and renewal application

- A summary of the school's performance record over the term of the charter

### Fair, transparent process

- Clearly communicate to schools the criteria for termination, renewal, nonrenewal

### Closures

- Oversee a detailed closure protocol

# Renewal Process Overview



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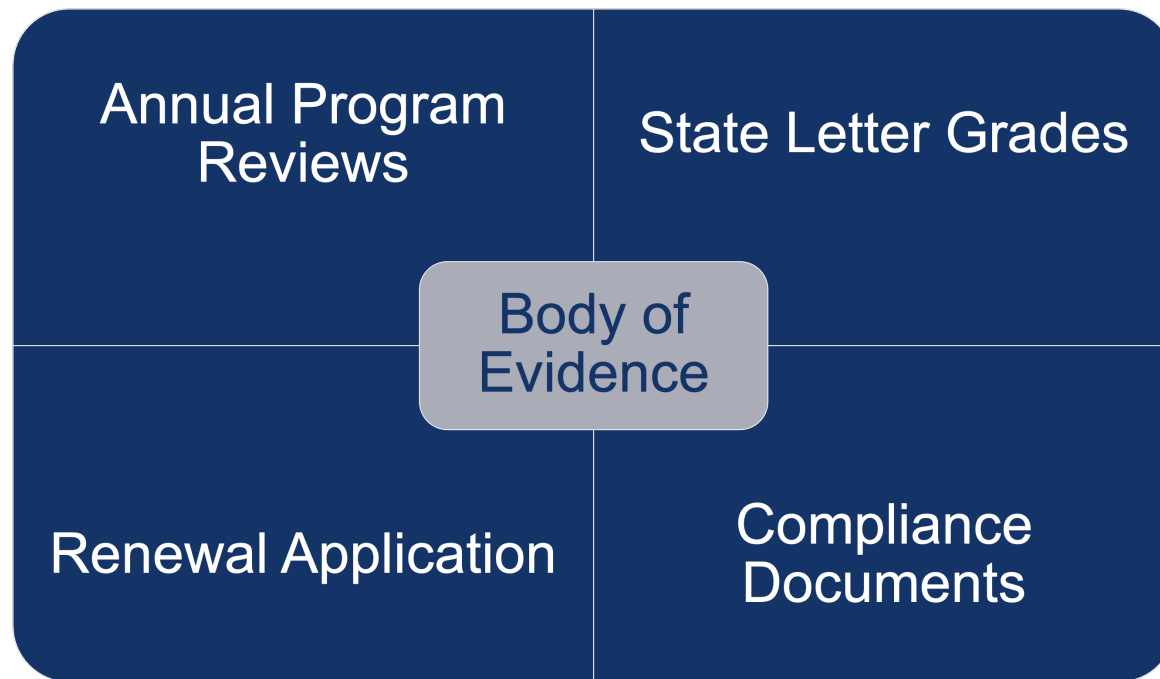
# Kickoff Meeting

- Provide Overview of Renewal Process
- Schedule Regular Check Ins
- Schedule Site Visit
- Questions and Answers





# Body of Evidence



# Florida Principles and Standards: Standard 5C

Quality authorizers require schools seeking renewal to apply through a renewal application, which provides the school a meaningful opportunity to respond to the cumulative report, to correct the record, if needed, and present additional evidence regarding its performance.

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# Renewal Application Process (1)

**Part 1. Renewal Reflection**

**Part 2. Required Body of Evidence Submissions**

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# Renewal Application Process (2)

## Part 1. Renewal Reflection

Reflect on the school's progress and key accomplishments in the academic, operational compliance and governance, and financial areas.

### Is the academic program a success?

- Describe and reflect on the school's mission and vision.
- Has the school made reasonable progress in meeting internally established educational goals during the term of its charter?
- Has student performance significantly improved and/or been persistently strong on internal and external academic assessments?
- Is the school effectively serving all students, including students with disabilities and English learners?

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## Renewal Application Process (3)

### Part 2. Examples of Required Body of Evidence Submissions

- **FSA and/or Other State Accountability Test Results**
- **Annual Student Gains**
- **Accountability Plan and/or School Improvement Plan**
- **Accountability Plan Progress Report**
- **Progress in Meeting Academic Goals**
- **Board Meeting Agendas**
- **Board Committees**
- **Strategic Plan**
- **Board Handbook**
- **Long-term Budget**
- **Financial Policies and Procedures**
- **Annual Independent Audit**

# Florida Principles and Standards: Standard 4A

**Quality authorizers visit each school as appropriate and necessary for collecting data that cannot be obtained otherwise and in accordance with the contract, while ensuring that the frequency, purposes, and methods of such visits respect school autonomy and avoid operational interference.**

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# Site Visit Activities

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- **School Walk-Through:** Walk through of school to observe school culture, facility, safety, learning environment
  - **Classroom Observations:** Observe fidelity to their model and best practices for instructing students with disabilities and English learners
  - **Document Review:** Review documents such as IEP records, teacher credential documents, school safety plans, enrollment documents
  - **Interviews:** Interview board members and school leaders to assess school policies and leadership practices
  - **Focus Groups:** Meet with parents and teachers to assess school culture and instructional practices

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# Discussion

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**How might site visits play a part in the renewal process?**





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## Renewal Evaluation (1)

### Standard for Renewal (F.S. § 1002.33(8)(c)(1))

- **Student academic achievement for all students must be the most important factor when determining renewal.**
- **Charter may be renewed if program review demonstrates charter goals successfully accomplished and no grounds for nonrenewal.**

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## Renewal Evaluation (2)

### Standard for Renewal (F.S. § 1002.33(8)(c)(1))

- In order to facilitate long-term financing for charter school construction, charter schools operating for a minimum of three years and demonstrating exemplary academic programming and fiscal management are eligible for a 15-year charter renewal.
- Such long-term charter is subject to annual review and may be terminated during the term of the charter.

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## Renewal Evaluation (3)

### Causes for Nonrenewal or Termination (F.S. § 1002.33(8)(a))

- Failure to participate in state's accountability system
- Failure to meet GAAP standards for fiscal management
- Material violation of law
- Other cause shown

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## Renewal Evaluation (4)

### Program Review

#### Use the body of evidence to assess if:

- ✓ the academic program is a success
- ✓ the school is faithful to the terms of its charter and complies with all applicable laws
- ✓ the school is governed effectively
- ✓ the school is financially solvent/viable

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# In Practice: Interview with Experienced Authorizer

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- Can you talk about a time when your staff were on the fence about a renewal recommendation? How did you address this?



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# Renewal Evaluation Considerations (1)

## COVID-19 Impact

- Schools have had disruption to their educational models
- Students have had inconsistent learning experiences and access to technology
- Authorizers lack state assessment data for 2019-20 and data for 2020-21 may be incomplete

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## Renewal Evaluation Considerations (2)

### COVID-19 Impact

- Expand evidence/data schools can provide to demonstrate performance trajectory (i.e., formative and summative assessments)
- Work with schools to agree on academic measures to assess performance in 2019-20
- Understand how representative 2020-21 assessment data is of student population
- Use annual reviews and site visits to inform renewal decisions moving forward

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# Renewal Recommendation

## Developing Report/Recommendations

- **Authorizer staff review body of evidence and create report/recommendations based on body of evidence**
- **Provide school opportunity to review and provide feedback**
- **Finalize evaluation to support district board's decision making**



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## Options Short of Nonrenewal (1)

### Continuous Improvement and Conditions

- A primary purpose of the renewal process is to support schools in continuous improvement
- The data collected as part of the body of evidence identifies strengths and areas for growth
- Authorizers may want to include conditions that schools must address as part of the renewal contract

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## Options Short of Nonrenewal (2)

### Differential Contract Lengths

- **Authorizers can use shorter contract lengths for schools that don't warrant a full, five-year renewal**
- **These schools may not justify a nonrenewal but may need another review sooner than five years**
- **Another option is to combine conditions with contract lengths**

# Bringing it All Together: Renewal Contract Guidance

Overall Performance							
Overall Assessment of Performance and Compliance	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Length of Contract	Conditions
Domain Rating for Academic Performance							
Domain Rating for Operational Compliance and Governance							
Domain Rating for Financial Performance							
Is the school in good standing based on a review of all domains?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	5- year contract	None
	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	5-year contract	Yes
	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	3-year contract	None
	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	3-year contract	No
	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	3-year contract	Yes
	Yes	No	No	No	No	Non-renew	N/A

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# Board Vote

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**The board votes on the renewal decision**

**At least 90 days before renewal decision, the authorizer must notify the school of the proposed action in writing**

**The notice must provide grounds for the decision in detail**

**The school may request a hearing**

# Renewal Contract

F.S. § 1002.33(21)(a)



Like initial contracts, state statute requires use of standard renewal contract.

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# In Practice: Interview with Experienced Authorizer

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- How many schools do you authorize?
  - On average, how many schools are up for renewal each year?
  - How do you communicate the renewal process to the schools?
  - How does the renewal process impact your relationship with the schools that you sponsor?
  - How do you communicate areas of concern that don't lead to nonrenewal?



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**Questions?  
Reactions?  
Ideas?**

