

OLDHAM COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY

GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD

1025

Reference: KRS 160.160 KRS 160.1590; KRS 160.1591; KRS 160.1592; KRS 160.1593; KRS 160.1594; KRS 160.1595; KRS 160.1596; KRS 160.1597; KRS 160.1598; KRS 160.1599, 701 KAR 008:010; 701 KAR 008:020; 701 KAR 008:030; 701 KAR 008:040

The Board of Education of Oldham County is a legal body created by the authority of Statutes of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Its members derive their responsibilities and powers from state law.

Board members, who are elected to four-year terms, have no authority over school affairs as individuals. They have authority, within state law, over school affairs when they serve as a legal body. The Board will function and act as a body of the whole. A Board member has no authority in his individual capacity to act for or in behalf of the Board without specific Board action or resolution. The rules, regulations and by-laws shall be consistent with the federal and state school laws and shall be binding on the Board and parties dealing with it until amended or repealed by an affirmative vote of three members of the Board.

The Board is, in practice, primarily a policy-making body acting on behalf of all of the citizens of the school community. Whenever circumstances require, the policies of the Board may be added to or changed at any regular or special meeting of the Board. The Superintendent or designee will prepare such policy for approval and adoption by the Board. The Board will generally not amend or adopt a policy until a subsequent meeting to permit further study and also to give opportunity for interested parties to react. However, the Board may grant formal approval of adoption, deletion or amendment of a policy when an emergency justifies doing so, without waiting for a subsequent meeting. The reason for emergency shall be stated in Board minutes.

In addition, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board, at any regular or special meeting, may waive or suspend any policy or regulation in effect, if the Board determines such waiver or suspension is in the best interest of the schools or school district. The date and duration of such waiver or suspension shall be determined in each instance when such action occurs.

The Board of Education shall not create, nor shall it enter into, any relationship that is or could be characterized as “special” or “exclusive” in nature with any such local group or organization for any purpose(s).

The rules, regulations and by-laws shall be spread on the minutes of the Board and be open to the public.

AUTHORIZATION OF CHARTER SCHOOLS:

Approval of charter school applications shall be subject to the Board finding that the school described in the application meets statutory and regulatory requirements and is likely to improve student learning and achievement; that the applicant demonstrates the ability to operate the school in an educationally and fiscally sound manner; and that approval of the application will:

- Improve student learning outcomes by creating additional high-performing schools with high standards for student performance;
- Encourage the use of different, high-quality models of teaching, governing, scheduling, or other aspects of schooling that meet a variety of student needs;
- Close achievement gaps between high-performing and low-performing groups of public-school students;
- Allow schools freedom and flexibility in exchange for exceptional levels of results-driven accountability;
- Increase high-quality educational opportunities within the public education system for all students, especially those at risk of academic failure; and
- Provide students, parents, community members, and local entities with expanded opportunities for involvement in the public education system.

Mission and Vision for Authorizing Charter Schools

The Board seeks to authorize high quality charter schools with innovative, unique, and effective academic programs designed to increase student performance and achievement in alignment with the priorities of the Board set forth in the District’s strategic plans. Preference will be given to applications that demonstrate the intent, capacity, and capability to provide comprehensive learning experiences to:

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- (a) Students identified by the applicants as at risk of academic failure; and
- (b) Students with special needs as identified in their individualized education program as defined in KRS 158.281.

Authorizer Organizational Capacity

The Superintendent or his or her designee will file a letter supporting or objecting to approval of each charter application received. Objections will be based on substantial hardship that may result for the students who do not attend the charter school. The Board shall allow comments at the public hearing from the Superintendent/designee if he or she has filed objections to the charter application. Any letter and supporting evidence filed by the Superintendent/designee must be published on the District website within three (3) days.

The Board shall consult with the Superintendent/designee on the timeline for submission, review, decision, and appeal for a charter application and/or request for contract renewal. The Superintendent/designee shall provide information and evidence regarding the academic performance of the students identified in the charter application as the targeted community, and shall publish the information on the District website within three (3) days of submission by the Superintendent/designee.

With respect to charter school applications and monitoring of existing charter schools, the Board shall not execute or renew a charter school contract if fiscal jeopardy or failure to make consistent progress towards the stated objectives of the charter school is evident or a likely outcome. In addition, the Board shall not allow an existing charter school to operate in a manner that would jeopardize the learning, safety, or well-being of its students and shall take appropriate intervention as warranted, up to and including revocation of the charter contract.

The Board shall:

- Receive, review, and take final action concerning all properly submitted charter school applications within the timelines established by all applicable statutes and regulations and shall provide a copy of a submitted charter application to the resident local District Superintendent and to any other authorizer within three (3) days.
- Conduct a comprehensive analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of each charter school application.
- Develop, in cooperation with the applicant, a charter contract that complies with all applicable statutes and regulations, subject to approval of the Board and the Commissioner of Education.
- Submit all required reports to the Kentucky Department of Education within the required timeframe, as established by all applicable statutes and regulations.
- Monitor each charter school's progress towards the goals, objectives, and performance framework established in its charter contract, including but not limited to:
 - Taking reasonable measures to obtain charter school compliance with all applicable statutes and regulations, including, but not limited to, the Kentucky Open Records and Open Meetings laws.
 - Holding the board of directors and officers of the charter school accountable to the Board through student achievement, financial, governance, operational, and climate and culture data that shall be collected throughout the year and provided to the Board.
 - Monitoring the charter school's academic, fiscal, and operational health, as well as school climate and culture, through a transparent accountability system, to include periodic reporting, monitoring visits, and publication of reports via the websites of the Board and the charter school.
 - Documenting, in writing, any discrepancies or deficiencies whether fiscal, educational, operational, or related to school climate and culture of the charter school and the steps and timelines developed by the charter school for correction and conduct additional monitoring. Copies of the documentation shall be provided to the charter school board of directors.

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- Consider, as appropriate and required by law, amendments to as well as renewal, nonrenewal, and/or revocation of a charter contract.
- Publication of required information on the District website as well as each charter school's website, including but not limited to, the charter school's original application, charter contract, and any contract amendments.
- Compliance by each charter school with its charter contract.