

Georgia Department of Education

Synopsis of Rule Amendments

160-4-9-.04 Charter Schools and Charter Systems Definitions

- Add the federal definition of Academically Poor Performing Charter School as required by the U.S. Department of Education’s Charter School Program State Educational Agencies (SEA) Grant terms and conditions for the Georgia Department of Education.
- Add definitions for Charter Management Organization, Education Management Organization, Education Service Organization, and the Department’s charter performance framework.
- Clarify the definition of Education Service Provider.
- Clarify the definition of substantially detrimental to include the physical and/or mental health, safety, and welfare of students and/or faculty.

160-4-9-.05 Charter Schools Petition Process

- Clarify that the maximum charter term for all charter school contracts is five (5) years.
- Clarify that any federal, state, and local rules and regulations, court orders, and statutes related to the physical and mental health and safety of school students, employees, and visitors cannot be waived by charter schools or charter systems.
- Clarify that charter schools cannot require parent/guardian volunteer commitments as a condition of enrollment in the school.
- Add requirement that charter school petitioners provide a description of how its governing board, students, faculty, and staff will be representative of the community diversity in its proposed attendance zone.
- Clarify that charter school employees are prohibited from serving on the school’s governing board unless otherwise stipulated by the Department.

160-4-9-.06 Charter Authorizers, Financing, Management, and Governance Training

- Clarify that the local district must provide the assurance to the Department regarding a new charter school achieving ready-to-open status.

- Clarify that the local board of education and the Georgia Department of Education must evaluate a charter school's performance annually using the Department's performance work (or an alternate approach approved by the Department).
- Clarify that charter schools must maintain their school records, including school policies, budgets, and governing board meeting materials, and make them available for public inspection via an online school website pursuant to the Georgia Open Records Act.
- Clarify that a charter school or charter system may be placed on probation or terminated for failure to meet one or more of the standards given in the Department's performance framework.
- Clarify the permitted financial governance training providers for new and returning charter school governing board members.
- Clarify the training requirements for college and career academy governing board members, including the number of hours, topics, and permitted training providers.

160-4-9-.07 Charter Systems

- Clarify that the maximum charter term for all charter system contracts is five (5) years.
- Clarify that any federal, state, and local rules and regulations, court orders, and statutes related to the physical and mental health and safety of school students, employees, and visitors cannot be waived by charter systems.
- Clarify that charter systems seeking renewal will be evaluated using the Department's performance framework.
- Add training requirements for college and career academy governing board members, including the number of hours, topics, and permitted training providers.

160-5-1-.33 Strategic Waivers and Title 20/No Waivers School Systems

- Clarify that any federal, state, and local rules and regulations, court orders, and statutes related to the mental health and safety of school students, employees, and visitors cannot be waived by Strategic Waivers School Systems.
- Clarify training requirements for college and career academy governing board members, including the number of hours, topics, and permitted training providers.