



DC Public Charter School Board (PCSB) – GBO

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Central Purpose

The DC Public Charter School Board is DC’s sole authorizer of public charter schools. PCSB’s goal is to provide Washington DC students and their families with choices for quality public school education. PCSB achieves this through:

- A comprehensive application review process
- Effective oversight
- Meaningful support; and
- Active involvement of parents, school leaders, the community and policy makers.

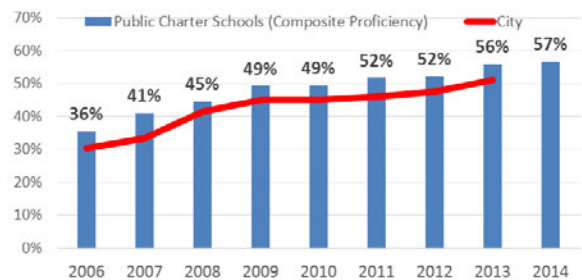
Key Facts

- PCSB has a staff of 40 and a seven-member Board nominated by the Mayor and confirmed by the DC Council. The Board holds a monthly public meeting to provide ongoing charter school oversight.
- Based on the unaudited enrollment, there are 38,302 students attending public charter schools in school year 2014-2015. For the past three years both charter schools and DC Public Schools have added students, and citywide enrollment in public schools is now at a 29-year high.
- Charter schools serve approximately 45% of all public school children in DC, up from 44% in 2013-14 and 43% in 2012-13.
- DC is unique in the nation in that it has both early childhood public charter schools as well as adult education public charter schools.
- Charter schools serve higher percentages of low-income students and students of

color than DCPS. Charter schools serve similar percentages of special education students and English Language Learners as does DCPS.

- Charter schools are made up of 61 Local Education Agencies (LEAs) on 112 campuses
- PCSB evaluates schools based on its Performance Management Framework (PMF) which uses academic and school climate indicators to provide a complete picture of a school’s overall performance
 - High performing schools are rated Tier 1
 - Mid performing schools are rated Tier 2
 - Low performing schools are rated Tier 3
- DC public charter schools have shown growth on the state assessment, DC CAS, for 7 consecutive years, and have continue to outperform the state average

Public Charter School DC CAS Scores, 2006-2014



Programs/Services

PCSB carries out four key functions:

- Ensure that only the highest quality organizations are approved to open charter schools, which is accomplished

through our comprehensive application review process;

- Make effective oversight decisions in the interest of students and hold charter schools to high standards with respect to results;
- Provide clear feedback to charter schools and maintain a system of rewards and consequences, including school closure, to manage progress towards higher-quality, more equitable schools;
- Actively engage key stakeholders to ensure transparency and accountability through an exchange process that facilitates the sharing of critical information and feedback regarding community impact and preferences.

Goals/Performance Measures

Below are the goals and performance measures PCSB submitted to the Office of the City Administrator (OCA) for FY15:

- OBJECTIVE 1: Promote increased school academic quality through oversight reviews and our Performance Management Framework (PMF).
 - INITIATIVE 1.1: Conduct rigorous 5, 10 and 15-year reviews of DC charter schools.
PCSB will complete rigorous reviews of schools in their 5th, 10th or 15th year of operation, ensuring that low-performing schools, according to our PMF, take one or more actions to improve performance or close. Rigorous reviews will include Qualitative Site Reviews (QSRs); review of academic performance and non-academic, finance, and compliance indicators; and assessment of performance against the goals and academic achievement

expectations of a school's charter. Completion date: September 2015.

- INITIATIVE 1.2: Address low-performing schools in any year of their charters.

PCSB will continue to effectively monitor the performance of each school in its portfolio. School leadership will be required to meet with PCSB staff and board to discuss a school's performance if performance is found to be lacking. Completion date: September 2015.

- INITIATIVE 1.3: Encourage Tier 1 schools to expand or replicate.

PCSB will continue to promote the expansion of Tier 1 schools. Schools that are high achievers will be given help to promote their expansions. Completion date: September 2015.

- INITIATIVE 1.4: Complete successful releases of our Early Childhood and Adult Education PMFs and implement the newly tiered PMFs for SY14-15.

PCSB released the Early Childhood and Adult Education PMFs for the first time in November 2014. PCSB will work to tier both frameworks for the first time during the upcoming year. PCSB staff will be required to facilitate numerous working group sessions to ensure that the charter school community is able to inform and shape the new

mechanisms. Completion date: September 2015.

- **OBJECTIVE 2:** Ensure charter schools fulfill their roles as public schools serving all students.

- INITIATIVE 2.1: Use improved data quality and data transparency, along with other efforts at education and technical assistance to reduce incidences of expulsion, long-term suspension, and truancy.

In FY15 PCSB will collect data from schools to inform policy, provide schools with sector-level trends, and ensure compliance of applicable law. PCSB will also provide transparency to the public and stakeholders, identify schools that may be outliers in regards to truancy, discipline, student populations served, and disparities in performance of subgroups within a school. These data are currently being shared with schools via PCSB's dashboards. Completion date: September 2015.

- INITIATIVE 2.2: Develop and share discipline and attendance data for schools with similar populations to help reduce incidences of expulsion, long-term suspensions, and truancy.

PCSB uses, and will continue to use a dashboard to facilitate file and data sharing amongst PCSB staff and with each charter LEA. The PCSB SharePoint program has an internal and external interface. The internal interface is what

PCSB uses to store important documents, keep track of organizational goals, and test real-time data reports before releasing them to LEAs. The external interface allows schools to view their enrollment, attendance, and discipline data in customized reports. For example, schools are able to view reports that state whether they have uploaded at least 90% of their attendance. By developing a secure external interface, PCSB will continue to be able to develop dynamic student and school level reports for LEAs to view the data they have submitted to ProActive, PCSB's data system and dashboard. These reports will allow schools to monitor their attendance submissions in real-time and also view reports that summarize their discipline and truancy incidents. PCSB will create summary reports meant to encourage schools to check that the data in ProActive accurately reflects the data in their own school information systems, and allows LEAs to compare how they are performing in these areas relative to the sector average and schools that serve similar grade levels. In FY14, PCSB developed visual dashboards on its external interface for discipline, truancy, enrollment and academic performance. PCSB will continue to implement the use of these

dashboards to allow LEAs to drill down and evaluate how students are performing by sub-group in these areas, including PMF performance disaggregated by subgroup. Completion date: September 2015.

- INITIATIVE 2.3: Improve service oversight for students with special needs by implementing a detailed self-study to help schools improve education delivery through reflective practice and implementing audit policies to address issues. Expand mystery shopper program of contacting schools posing as parents of special needs children seeking to apply.

PCSB will continue to conduct Special Education audits using data housed in ProActive in efforts to assess potential discriminatory practices against students with disabilities through the analysis of varying indicators, such as suspensions, expulsions, or mid-year withdrawal rates of students with disabilities relative to their non-disabled peers. Completion date: September 2015.

- OBJECTIVE 3: Improve fiscal and compliance oversight.
 - INITIATIVE 3.1: Continue efforts to improve fiscal monitoring of charter schools, publishing Finance Audit Review reports for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015 that provide clear indicators of charter school financial health.

Public charter schools are required to submit annual financial audits performed by PCSB-approved independent auditors. PCSB reviews each school audit. Additionally, PCSB has for years reviewed key financial ratios of all schools it oversees, comparing these ratios with industry standards of health. In January 2011, PCSB established the Audit Management Unit (AMU) to enhance its charter school financial oversight. The AMU consists of three District agencies with responsibility for aspects of charter school finances: PCSB, the Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO), and the Office of the State Superintendent of Education's (OSSE) Office of Charter School Financing and Support. The AMU engaged Bearsolutions LLC, an independent financial consulting firm with hands-on experience and background in nonprofit and educational organizations, to develop analytical tools and processes to support fiscal oversight. This engagement resulted in the deployment of CHARM (Charter Audit Resource Management), a fiscal oversight model and supporting database tool. Pilot reports were issued for FY10 and FY11; since then, the FY12 and FY13 have been made available to schools and the public. The CHARM tool was renamed

Finance and Audit Review (FAR) in 2014. FAR analyzes data from schools' financial audits to measure the fiscal performance of DC charter schools.

Completion date: September 2015.

- INITIATIVE 3.2: Use the Financial Audit Review Score to work with financially struggling charter schools on steps to improve their health.

An essential component of each annual financial review is to identify schools potentially in danger of insolvency. Since FY11, PCSB has used the Financial Audit Review (FAR, formally known as CHARM) score to provide a more sophisticated measure of financial health. However, the score is not published on the FAR Report Cards, because school leaders expressed concern about the score being used as a financial rating tool or risk measure by commercial lenders and investors.

PCSB will continue to rely on the FAR score for internal guidance in identifying low-performing schools for more in-depth financial oversight, including but not limited to collections of monthly financial statements and regular meetings with school leaders and business managers. School leaders have reported that these meetings are helpful in improving their understanding of financial performance standards,

clarifying results of the individual school reports, and developing plans to address agreed-upon issues. Minutes of the meetings, documenting the discussions and agreements, are distributed to school representatives as well as PCSB.

The number of high-performing schools has increased by 20 while the number of low-performing schools has decreased by 8 since FY11. Completion date: September 2015.

- OBJECTIVE 4: Increase community engagement and parent education about school quality.
 - INITIATIVE 4.1: Improve community engagement and awareness of charter schools and their ratings by enhancing PCSB website, (www.dcpcsb.org) increasing awareness and usage of our mobile app, (MyDCcharters) and widely distributing PMF tiers through our PMF Parent Guide in English and Spanish.

PCSB's stakeholder engagement plan includes community outreach activities, including community forums, information provided through publications, refreshing the PCSB website and updates to email subscribers, hosting or participating in community events, active engagement with the Community Advisory Group and encouraging community member participation and feedback in PCSB hearings,

community forums and events. PCSB will also make a concerted effort to widely disseminate PMF parent guides in English as well as Spanish. PCSB will also continue to increase Twitter activity including Tweeting information on each monthly Board meeting and other positive news about charter schools. Completion date: September 2015.

- INITIATIVE 4.2: Improve ease of applying to charter schools by creating a common enrollment process and publicizing this widely through various print and electronic platforms.

In 2013-14 PCSB, DCPS, DME, and most charter LEAs collaborated to create a common application and lottery called My School DC. The My School DC application is a single online application DC families use to apply for the 87 participating public charter schools (PK3–12), DCPS out-of-boundary schools (K–12), DCPS PK3 and PK4 programs, and DCPS specialized high schools (9–12) for 2014-15 schools year admission. This year the high school deadline was February 3rd and the Pk3-8th grade deadline was March 3. The My School DC common lottery is a single, random lottery that determines placement for new students at all participating schools. Student-school matches are based on the number of spaces at each school; sibling, proximity, and other preferences;

and each student's choices. Through the My School DC common lottery, the six DCPS specialized high schools admit students based on specific criteria. Students who want to stay in their current school or attend their feeder-pattern DCPS schools do not need to apply to the lottery but rather follow their school's reenrollment procedures. An extensive parent outreach campaign included door-to-door canvassing, attendance at community events, office hours for assistance with completing the application, media advertisements, and social media outreach. My School DC is also partnering with city agencies for example, DC Public Libraries, the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services, Office of Latino Affairs, Office of Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs, DC Water, and the Department of Human Services.

PCSB plans to partner with My School DC in FY15 as well and looks forward to helping publicize the common application and deadlines through our website and social media account as well as collaborating on the EdFest being held November 22, 2014. Completion date: September 2015.

- INITIATIVE 4.3: Improve transparency around PCSB's authorizer work. To accomplish this initiative the Board will make

available board meetings and other materials available to the public and publishing increased amounts of data on charter school performance, compliance, and finances.

PCSB provided a webcast of its monthly meeting for the first time in April 2014. It will continue to webcast all of its monthly Board meetings and other special Board meetings, such as when the Board reviews and votes on new charter applications. PCSB also will post all Board agendas and materials to their website 48 hours prior to Board meetings. PCSB also plans to post increasing levels of data relating to charter school performance on its website, including comprehensive discipline and attendance data, test score data, our performance management framework and the results of our annual Financial Audit Review. This data will also be posted in OpenPCSB via Socrata (data.dcpcsb.org), a tool that allows others to download the raw data and manipulate it for their own purposes. Finally, PCSB is planning to launch a revamped website in FY15 that will increase access to data for PCSB stakeholders, particularly families and students. Completion date: September 2015.

- Key Performance Indicators (Through FY 2014)¹

- Number of charter LEAs receiving 5, 10 or 15 year review
- Number of Tier 1 charter LEAs with announced plans to expand or replicate
- Successful completion of Early Childhood / Adult Ed PMFs
- Number of PCS campuses receiving an out-of-compliance warning from our Board for violating our Data Submission Policy
- Reduction in the rate of expulsions for “other charter reasons”
- Number of schools participating in our Special Education self-study
- Reduction in number of campuses with a Mystery Shopper Violation
- Number of Audit Management Unit (AMU) reports issued
- Number of schools with weak financials receiving enhanced fiscal oversight from PCSB
- Number of schools whose fiscal health improved as a result of oversight efforts
- Number of PMF Parent Guides distributed
- Number of Twitter followers
- Number of community meetings participated in
- Number of PCSB Board meetings televised
- Increase in charter school data available on www.dcpcsb.org, compared to SY2013-14
- Number of qualitative site review reports

First Quarter CY2015 Hot Button Issue(s)

- Planning and Coordination Between Sectors

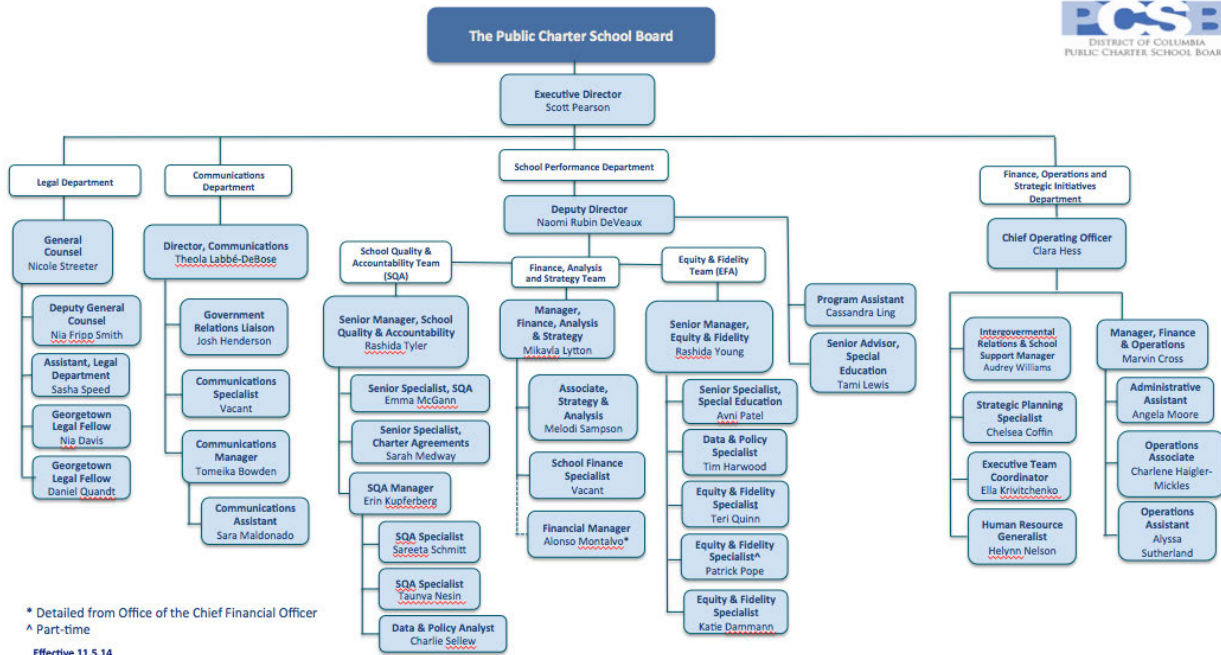
¹ These KPIs will no longer be tracked after FY 13.

- PCSB is dedicated to collaborating with stakeholders across the city to pursue practices and policies that will increase the number of high-quality public school seats for all students while making a sometimes chaotic public school environment easier for parents to navigate.
- Many in the city have advocated for various preferences: for neighborhood children, for at-risk children, for students at a school feeding into another school, for children of military families, and for children of a closing school, to name some. While many of these preferences have merit, they must be designed with care to avoid unintended consequences.
- In particular, PCSB works with DCPS, the Deputy Mayor for Education, OSSE and other relevant stakeholders toward:
 - Creating institutionalized structures and regular meetings to facilitate working together
 - Creating and maintain common data sets, that will allow us to strive for a common understanding of the areas of greatest need. We are hopeful that this kind of collaboration would allow:
 1. PCSB to make specific requests for applications that fill a need in the city
 2. The Deputy Mayor for Education to make buildings available more readily to charter schools looking for new buildings
- However, PCSB opposes any new legal structure that would prevent PCSB's ability to open, close, expand, replicate, or site public charter schools.
 - PCSB has closed 12 schools or campuses since 2012, showing that strong oversight from PCSB has led to effective management of the charter sector. In several cases PCSB has facilitated a new school taking over the school building and serving the affected students.
 - Meanwhile, both charter and traditional public school enrollment continues to grow. The innovation, healthy competition and improvement charters have helped bring is helping bring families back to the District and driving the transformation of education in the city
- Approving new charters and expanding existing charters
 - PCSB will be approving new charter schools for SY2016-2017 in the first quarter of CY2016-2017. One school approved in 2013, Rocketship DC PCS, plans to open in 2016-17 as well.
 - For 2015-16, PCSB approved the following schools to open: Children's Guild, Monument Academy and Washington Global
 - Also for 2015-16, a number of charters have applied to take over Options PCS. The court appointed-receiver, Josh Kern, will ultimately be forming a committee to recommend what school should take over

Options, choosing from a list of PCSB-approved applicants. PCSB has granted permission to several high-performing charter schools to expand, including KIPP DC PCS, DC Prep PCS, Achievement Prep PCS, Thurgood Marshall Academy PCS, Two Rivers PCS, and DC International Middle/High School (a consortium of five bilingual elementary charter schools).

- School Closures
 - The PCSB board will likely be voting during the months of November, December, and January on the closure of some charter schools. We can provide more detail in person.
- Fiscal oversight
 - PCSB would like to work with the new administration to expand PCSB's authority to oversee the finances of public charter schools that use charter management organizations (CMO's)
 - The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) has filed legal actions against two public charter schools, Options PCS and Community Academy PCS, in the past 18 months. The actions were brought for fiscal mismanagement at each of the schools.
 - PCSB has reached an agreement with Options PCS that the school will close at the end of school year 2015. As described above, we are facilitating a process whereby a new school can take over the building and continue serving the school's students.
 - PCSB is studying recent court rulings on Community Academy PCS and has not yet taken any action.
 - PCSB conducts an annual Financial Audit Review (FAR) and publishes the results, but PCSB has little authority to examine the books and records of for-profit management companies that contract with public charter schools

Organization Chart



Boards and Commissions relevant to the agency (if any)

Board Name	Name of Chairperson	No. of Members
DC Public Charter School Board	John H. "Skip" McKoy	7

Budget FY2015

Total Budget	\$ 6.7 million
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No. of Employees

Current No. of FTEs	40
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Union Representation

Union(s)	Union Representative	No. of Members
N/A		

Facility Location(s)

Facility Name / ID	Address	Zip Code	Ward	Main Phone No.
PCSB Main Office	3333 14 th St. NW, Suite 210	20010	4	202-328-2660

Key Projects/Initiatives

Project/Initiative Name	Brief Description	Delivery Date
Financial Audit Review (FAR)	PCSB conducts an annual review of charter school finances.	June 2015
Conduct rigorous 5, 10 review and 15-year renewals of DC charter schools.	PCSB will be conducting 13 rigorous 5, 10 and 15-year reviews of DC charter schools in FY15. These reviews are used in decisions about expansion, replication and closing of schools.	September 2015
Review, approve and deny new charter applications	Receive applications for new charter schools through two cycles (for new and experienced operators). Applications are reviewed by staff and voted on by the Board. All application processes are open for public comment	November 17, 2014 and May 18, 2015
Release school level discipline and truancy data	PCSB releases school level data on suspensions, expulsions, absences and trancies annually.	September 2015
Release of Performance Management Framework	PCSB evaluates schools based on the Performance Management Framework (PMF) which uses academic and school climate indicators to provide a complete picture of a school's overall performance	Due to the switch to the PARCC assessment, we do not yet have an

Project/Initiative Name	Brief Description	Delivery Date
		estimated date for the release of the SY 14-15 PMF

Capital Program(s)

Project Name	Budget ID	Funding Source	Project Budget	Current Balance	Delivery Date
N/A					

Important/Significant Dates

Event	Brief Description	Delivery Date
2 nd Quarter School Leaders Meeting	PCSB meets with charter school leaders on a quarterly basis. The next meeting takes place in January. We plan to invite the new mayor to this meeting.	January 22, 2015
Board vote on new charter applications	Receive and vote on applications for new charter schools through two cycles (for new and experienced operators). Applications are reviewed by staff and voted on by the Board. All application processes are open for public comment	November 17, 2014 and May 18, 2015
Release of Performance Management Framework	PCSB evaluates schools based on the Performance Management Framework (PMF) which uses academic and school climate indicators to provide a fair, complete picture of a school's overall performance	Due to the switch to the PARCC assessment, we do not yet have an estimated date for the release of the SY 14-15 PMF

Key Contracts

Project Name	Vendor Name	Total Contract Value	Contract Term
Website Upgrade and Migration	EchoDitto, Inc.	\$ 60,000	May-14 to May-15
Interactive Data Dashboard PMF Consultant	Tembo, Inc.	\$ 280,000	May-14 to May-15
IT Support Services	Community IT Innovators	\$ 108,494	Aug-14 to Aug-15

Project Name	Vendor Name	Total Contract Value	Contract Term
Office and Conference Room Space Rental	Tivoli Partners Commercial, LLC	\$1,883,143.76	Jul-05 to Jun-15

Key Agreement(s) / Memorandum(s) of Understanding

Project Name	Brief Description	Agreement Term
PCSB/UDC	Data Sharing- Dual Enrollment	Sept. 2014 to Sept. 2015
PCSB/OSSE	Data Sharing-Attendance	June 2014 to Present
PCSB/Urban Alliance	Data Sharing- Research and Evaluation of High School Programs	Feb. 2014 to Jan 2015

Grant(s) Awarded (or Pending Award) to Agency

Grant Name	Name of Grantor	Total Grant Amount	Current Grant Balance	Grant Expiration
N/A				

Active Litigation(s)

Project Name	Brief Description
N/A	

Consent Decree(s)

Project Name	Brief Description	Agreement Term
N/A		