



STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT NEGOTIATED RECEIVERSHIPS

What does it mean that a State-Sponsored Charter School may enter negotiated receivership and how will it affect students?

After careful consideration, the State Public Charter School Authority may negotiate an agreement with the Governing Body of a State-Sponsored Charter School to place the school into receivership instead of closing the school. Under this arrangement, a school would run by a new leader called a receiver. This agreement would result in both the SPCSA and the governing body petitioning a court to appoint a receiver. Once the receiver is appointed, the governing body would dissolve. The receiver would have the powers of the school's governing body and the school leader.

Under this arrangement, the school would have a three-year turnaround plan, and at the end of the turnaround plan, the Authority will determine whether the school has made sufficient academic progress and has the capacity to continue that progress or whether more time is needed.

During the remaining months of the school year, students should not expect any dramatic changes to their normal school day, or to end-of-year events like prom or graduation. Starting in the fall, the receivership will provide more support for students to achieve their full potential.

No current students will be required to withdraw from the charter school as a result of the appointment of the receiver. Charter School diplomas would continue to be recognized by colleges, and students will continue to be accepted to college.

What happens next for a charter school under a negotiated receivership?

The receiver would convene a stakeholder group to provide advice for the school turnaround plan. That group would include representatives of teachers, parents, and students. The receiver would work on the turnaround plan in the spring and summer. The turnaround plan will be finalized and begin to be implemented early in the next school year. The turnaround plan would include priorities and strategies to accelerate student achievement and to improve the school's financial performance, organizational effectiveness, and accountability to the public. The school would be accountable for the improvement goals memorialized in the agreement between the SPCSA and the school.

Will there be changes in teaching and administrative staff?

The turnaround plan would outline the school's new priorities and path forward. Evaluating current school administration and staff would be part of that process. Teachers and staff would have the opportunity to reflect on the new approach and determine if it is the right fit for them. In other charter schools nationally which have entered receivership, most of the teachers stayed, and both the receiver and the school's Authorizer encouraged teachers to stay if they wanted to work with the receiver to improve the school. The receiver might ask all staff to reapply for their positions, but it is up to the receiver to decide how and whether to use that power.

Where can I find more information, and how can parents, teachers, and students get involved?

The school's website would continue to be the central location for all communications about the school. Once the receiver was appointed, the receiver and the Authority would post memos to parents and school staff there. The receiver would ensure that parents, teachers, and community members are well-informed of the process and are able to offer input and ask questions.

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