



STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT RECONSTITUTION

What does it mean that a State-Sponsored Charter School may be reconstituted?

After careful consideration, the State Public Charter School Authority may vote to reconstitute the governing body of a charter school that has academic, financial, or organizational performance issues which would otherwise merit closure under law, regulation, or the charter contract. If a school's governing body is reconstituted, the State Public Charter School Authority may do several things:

- Petition the court to place the school into court-appointed receivership until other arrangements can be made
- Replace all, or almost all, of the members of the governing body with new individual members
- Replace the governing body of the reconstituted school with the governing body of another charter school or the governing board of a charter management organization

The underlying goal of a reconstitution is to ensure that adults are held accountable for performance issues without unnecessarily punishing students and families.

What does reconstitution mean for students and families?

No current students would be required to withdraw from the charter school as a result of the reconstitution. 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 that has been reconstituted?

If the school is being overseen by a receiver, the receiver's initial work to stabilize the school academically, financially, and organizationally and to conduct an objective assessment of the risks facing the school, opportunities to improve, and the academic needs of the student body.

In the case of a school where the governing body will be replaced by the governing body of another school, the Authority or its designee would conduct an RFP process. There are several ways parents can be involved in this process. For example, in the event that three or more qualified charter school governing bodies applied to govern and operate the school, parents and community

members would have the opportunity to interview the applicants and cast an advisory vote. The selection and approval of the new governing body is ultimately the responsibility of the Authority.

Would there be changes in teaching and administrative staff?

The law does not require that teachers and administrative staff be retained. Evaluating current school administration and staff would be part of the transition. 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 had their boards replaced by a new governing body, some the teachers stayed, and some left. The new governing body typically asks all staff to reapply for their positions. Most governing bodies encourage teachers to reapply if they want to work to improve the school.

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. The receiver or new governing body would post memos to parents and school staff there and 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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