

Renewal 360: Transparent, Rigorous, and Legal Renewal Processes for Authorizers

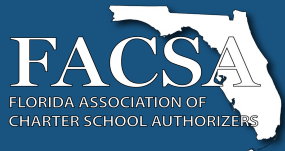
Dr. Kia Scott, President FACSA

Senior Director, School Choice Services, Orange County Public Schools

Florida Charter School Conference & School Choice Summit 2025

Session Objectives:

By the end of this session, participants will learn about or have an enhanced understanding of:



- Charter Contract Renewal
 - Purpose
 - Statutory Reference
- Renewal – Standard #5 of Florida Principles and Standards
- Components of the Renewal Process
 - Academic
 - Financial
 - Operational
- The Renewal Visit

Renewal

The Charter Renewal Process entails a thorough review of a charter school's performance history throughout its contractual period.



Requirements related to Florida charter schools may primarily be found in § 1002.33, Fla. Stat. The Charter Renewal Process is reflected in section 7(c) – Charter.



What is
required for a
charter school
contract to be
renewed?

Charter Law

F.S. 1002.33 (7)(c)(1)

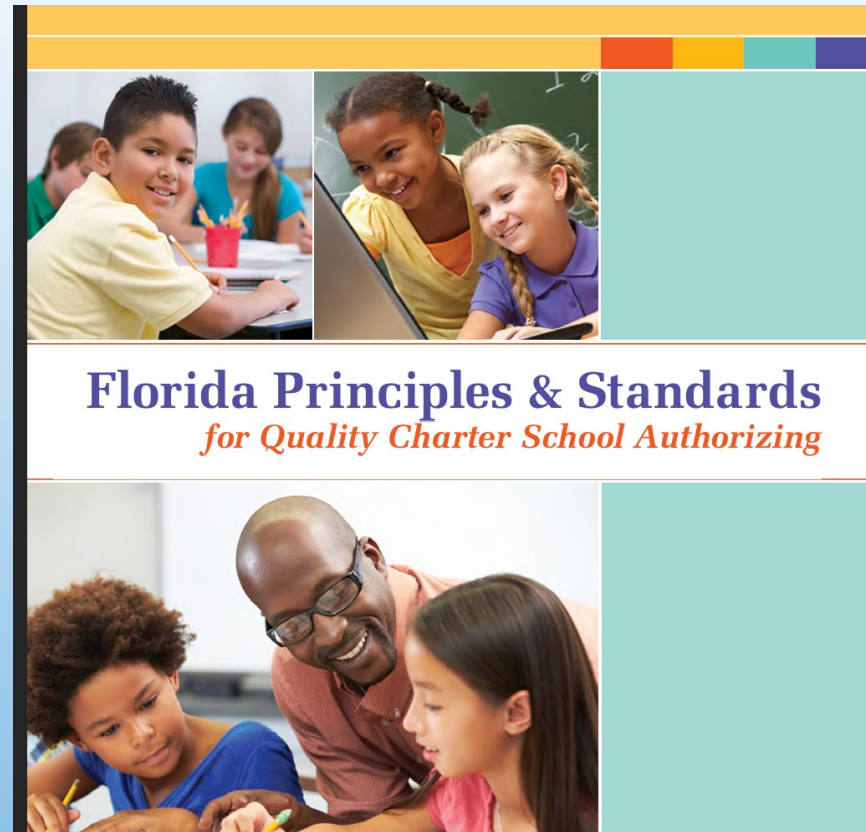
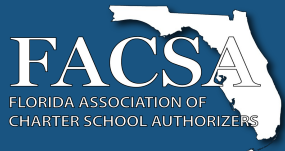
A charter may be renewed provided that a program review demonstrates that the criteria in paragraph (a) have been successfully accomplished and that none of the grounds for nonrenewal established by paragraph (8)(a) have been expressly found. The charter of a charter school that meets these requirements and has received a school grade lower than a “B” pursuant to s. [1008.34](#) in the most recently graded school year must be renewed for no less than a 5-year term except as provided in paragraph (9)(n). In order to facilitate long-term financing for charter school construction, charter schools operating for a minimum of 3 years and demonstrating exemplary academic programming and fiscal management are eligible for a 15-year charter renewal. Such long-term charter is subject to annual review and may be terminated during the term of the charter.





Florida Principles & Standards *for Quality Charter School Authorizing*

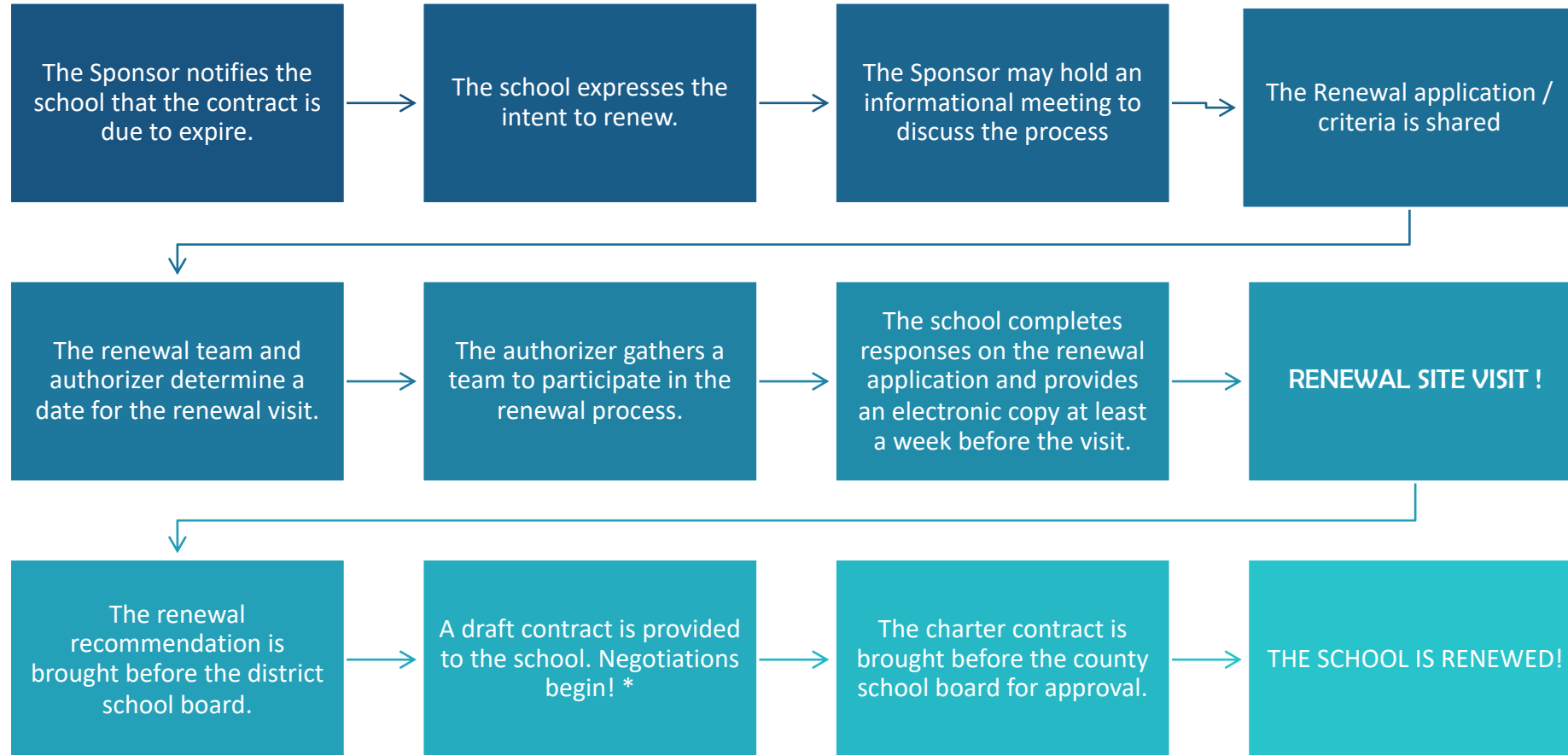
Principles & Standards – -Standard #5



Standard 5 - Termination and Renewal Decision Making

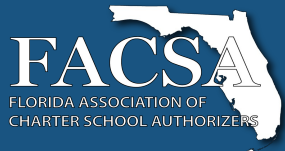
A quality sponsor designs and implements a transparent and rigorous process that uses comprehensive academic, financial, and operational performance data to make merit-based renewal/non-renewal decisions, and terminates or non-renews charters when necessary to protect student and public interests.

RENEWAL PROCESS





ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE



INDICATORS OF ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE:

- 1. Accountability**
- 2. Mission Specific Accountability**
- 3. Educational Program Implementation**



ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE - CRITERIA

ACCOUNTABILITY	LOOK FORS
-State assessments, e.g. FAST/EOC/NGSSS	Proficiency or progress towards meeting proficiency in tested subjects.
-School Grades/ School Improvement Ratings	Grade of “C” or above SIR of Maintaining or above (If an “I” is received, explain the reason)
Annual gains and gains of students achieving in the bottom 25%	The school’s performance meets or exceeds the performance of schools with closely comparable student populations (District schools with a similar program should be included) 50% in the bottom 25% makes one year’s worth of growth

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE – CRITERIA

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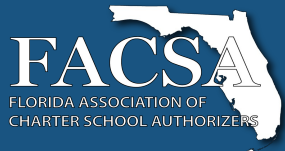
(suggested information to look for)

MISSION SPECIFIC ACCOUNTABILITY	LOOK FORS
Achievement of school/mission-specific goals	The school is achieving or making significant progress towards achieving the school/mission-specific goals as defined in the school's application and contract and determined by valid and reliable measures .
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION	
-Implementation of specialized instruction for students, particularly of those below grade level	The school implements demonstrably effective instructional techniques that support struggling students in achieving grade-level proficiency.
Implementation of exceptional education and implementation of ELL programs	*The school provides quality services for exceptional& ELL students as defined in the school's contract and as required by applicable law

SAMPLE ESE FORM (partial)

EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE~ EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION (ESE)							
Review methods are subject to change as ESE DSS will conduct preliminary review based on history and work experience with school. School will be notified by established due date if electronic submission or on-site review method is added to any given criteria.							
Criteria	Review Method	Information for Review Team	Item(s) Prepared	Yes	No	N/A	Review Feedback <i>Note if debrief is requested</i>
a. 504 meetings are held within 30-days of receipt of request.	Observed by ESE DSS						
b. 504 plans are up-to-date, implemented, and followed.	Observed by ESE DSS						
c. All documentation of 504 accommodations are provided for all eligible students.	Observed by ESE DSS						
d. Evidence that all J-screens are up-to-date.	Observed by ESE DSS						
e. Required three year reevaluations are completed on or before the due date. (IEPs)	Observed by ESE DSS						
f. ESE students - IEPs are current.	Observed by ESE DSS						
g. Procedures are in place and followed for determining eligibility and/or placement in the least restrictive environment and the provision of special education and related services to ESE students as set forth in the IDEA guidelines.	Observed by ESE DSS						
h. Service delivery models implemented at the school align with the level of service indicated in the application.	Observed by ESE DSS						
i. Evidence that the process for Initial and Annual IEP's is followed.	Observed by ESE DSS						

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE



INDICATORS OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE:

1. Financial Management
2. Financial Viability

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE - CRITERIA

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT	LOOK FORs
-Demonstration of professional competence and sound systems in managing the school's financial operations	The school implements an effective system of internal controls over revenues, expenses, and fixed assets, and exercises good business practices.
-Financial reporting requirements	The school submits timely and accurate financial information adhering to its financial reporting requirements, FDOE requested documents, including an independent annual financial audit as defined in the school's contract.

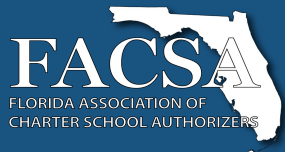
FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE – CRITERIA

cont'd

(suggested information to look for)

FINANCIAL VIABILITY	LOOK FORS
Budgeting	The school maintains a balanced budget and a positive cash flow. The school utilizes state and federal grant funding to assist with student growth, achievement, health, and welfare.
Financial obligations	The school's financial obligations are in good standing.
Long-term financial planning	The school has a sound and sustainable long-term financial plan.

OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE



INDICATORS OF ORGANIZATIONAL PERFORMANCE:

1. Student Enrollment Trends
2. Facilities
3. Governance, Staff, and Parents

OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE - CRITERIA

STUDENT ENROLLMENT & CONDUCT	LOOK FORS
-Student enrollment trends	The school's actual enrollment is consistent with its projections
-Enrollment and discipline procedures	The school implements enrollment and discipline procedures as defined in the school's contract and in compliance with applicable law. Detail the number of discipline and SESIR occurrences.
-School environment	The school maintains a safe and secure environment.
-Health and safety	The school complies with applicable health and safety laws. The school demonstrates compliance with requirements outlined in the Marjorie Stoneman Douglas Act.

OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE - CRITERIA

cont'd

FACILITIES	LOOK FORS
-Facility Compliance	The school's facilities comply with applicable laws and codes. (fire/health inspections)
GOVERNANCE, STAFF, AND PARENTS	
-Governance roles and responsibilities	The governing body exercises continuing and effective oversight of the school's operations. Discuss any succession planning in the event key staff members leave.
-Compliance with Sunshine Laws	The school complies with state Sunshine Laws and laws governing public records. Discuss the frequency of meetings and the process for meeting notifications.
-Qualifications of instructional staff	The school employs instructional staff who meet state and federal qualifications. Discuss any out-of-field staff and how their qualifications have been met.
-Parental Involvement	The school is effectively involving parents in its programs as defined in the school's contract. Explain how this is achieved.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – LOOKING AHEAD

The addition of a section like this enables the authorizer to learn about the direction of the school under the new contractual term.





THE RENEWAL VISIT

THE RENEWAL VISIT:

What are the requirements for a charter renewal site visit?





A walk-through of Renewal Visit Day!



Questions ?