

OFFICE OF CHARTER SCHOOLS DIRECTOR'S UPDATE AND SB254 REVIEW

SEPT 9TH

2025

SB 254

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 2025

SENATE BILL 254

[SL 2025-80](#)

AN ACT TO AMEND CHARTER SCHOOL LAWS

Became law July 29, 2025

SB 254

Section I (a1)(1)

115c-218 Role of State Board and CSRB
(new language in **bold**)

(a1) SBE - The SBE shall have the following duties regarding charter schools:

- (1) Rulemaking
 - To **adopt** all rules for the operation and approval of charter schools.
 - Any rule **or policy** adopted by the SBE **regarding charter schools** shall first be **approved** by the CSRB.

Previously, SBE was to “establish” all rules and CSRB was to “recommend” rather than “approve. Further, this extends role to cover not just rules but also policies adopted by the SBE.

SB 254

Section I (a1)(5)

115c-218 Role of State Board and CSRB
(Entire section is new)

- Review of financial assistance. – The State Board shall assign the Review Board to conduct any hearings pursuant to 20 U.S.C. § 1231b-2, including making findings and recommendations regarding those hearings.

SB 254

Section I (b)(10)

115c-218 Role of State Board and CSRB Powers and Duties

(10) The Review Board shall have the following duties:

To **propose, recommend, and approve** rules **and policies** regarding all aspects of charter school operation, including time lines, **processes**, standards, and criteria for acceptance and approval of applications, monitoring of charter schools, and grounds for revocation of charters.

Greatly expands powers and duties of CSRB. Previously, duty was to make recommendations to SBE.

There is also an addition to the list of duties (e and f) that require CSRB to conduct hearings and make findings pursuant to the section above (a1)(5) and to contract for and employ legal counsel. Also changes Executive Director - "report to and serve at the pleasure of the Review Board" (previously Superintendent).

SB 254

115C-218.8 Nonmaterial revisions of charters

It shall **not be considered a material revision of a charter** and shall not require prior approval of the Review Board for a charter school to do any of the following:

Added new section

(4) Relocate the charter school within a 10-mile radius of the location specified and approved in the charter so long as the new location is located within the same local school administrative unit as the location specified and approved in the charter.

So - relocations under 10 miles and in same LEA
- provide documentation to OCS, but automatically approved.

All other relocations/subcampuses, over 10 miles or outside LEA - go to CSRB.

We must have ECO for ANY Facility - main, subcampus, etc. that children enter.

SB 254

115C-218.15(c)

Adds a new sentence -

The terms of the written charter shall be approved by the Review Board.

Previously, the terms of Charter Agreements were recommended by CSAB and approved by SBE. Now, CSRB approves Charter Agreement revisions.

SB 254

115C-218.85 is amended to add a new section:

Notwithstanding G.S. 116-11(10a) or any other provision of law to the contrary, a charter school shall not be required to list class rank on a student's official transcript or record.

Revisions to GRAD 009 policy are underway and this is going to be an option in IC.

SB 254

G.S. 115C-218.90(a) is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

(7) A charter school may develop and use any evaluation for conducting evaluations of teachers provided that it includes standards and criteria similar to those used in the North Carolina Professional Teaching Standards and North Carolina Teacher Evaluation Process, or such other evaluation standard and process required to be used by local school administrative units.

Self-explanatory but does present some questions regarding impact on things such as BTSP policy. Currently working with DPI staff to determine how this relates or conflicts with current policies or practices.

Practically, a charter school should have a teacher evaluation policy and (depending on application iteration) a charter approved evaluation system in place.

SB 254

G.S. 115C-218.94 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(c) The Review Board shall require charter schools that are identified as low-performing or continually low-performing to prepare and report on plans to improve the performance of the school. The requirements of G.S. 115C-105.27 shall not apply to charter schools.

Self-explanatory but does present some questions regarding impact on things such as access to NCStar and federal requirements related to TSI/CSI schools.

SB 254

§ 115C-218.105. State and local funds for a charter school.

(a2) (3) Changes who notifies the state board “that the charter school has failed to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management ...” from Superintendent to Review Board.

New section

"§ 115C-218.106. Initial financial data reporting expenses. The Department of Public Instruction shall provide a charter school access to any required financial data reporting platforms during the charter school's first year of operation at no cost to the charter school."

SB 254

§ 115C-218.105. State and local funds for a charter school.

(c2) Changes who “shall, in consultation with charter schools and local school administrative units, create a standardized enrollment verification and transfer request document that each charter school shall use to request the per pupil share of the local current expense fund from the local school administrative units.”

(c3) changes who “shall, in consultation with charter schools and local school administrative units, create a standardized procedure that local school administrative units shall use when transferring the per pupil share of the local current expense fund to charter schools.”

Previous - Superintendent

Now - CSRB

SB 254

G.S. 115C-218.123 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(c) If a school is operating under a charter that allows for a remote academy as part of the charter, and the school enrolls or intends to enroll 250 or more students in the remote academy, the school may request that the Review Board grant the remote academy portion of the school a separate charter by submitting the information listed under subsection (a) of this section with the request. Requests submitted pursuant to this section shall be reviewed through an expedited process to be established by the Review Board. The Review Board shall not require a planning year for remote academies granted a charter pursuant to this subsection.

SB 254

A new section is added to “Evaluation” section of RCA legislation.

"§ 115C-218.125. Evaluation.

(b) If a school is operating under a charter that includes in-person instruction and a remote charter academy, the remote charter academy shall receive a separate school performance grade and be treated as a separate school for the purposes of assessing the performance of the remote charter academy pursuant to G.S. 115C-12(9)c1., 115C-83.15, 115C-218.94, and 115C-218.95.



Office of

CHARTER SCHOOLS

NC Department of Public Instruction

OCS Director's Updates

NEW SCHOOL OPENINGS 2025

School	County	Projections	Actual as of 9/5
Anderson Academy	Forsyth	80	68 (school has enroll exemption)
Carolina Achieve	Orange	147	Pending (first day 9/8)
Honor Prep Academy	Charlotte- Meck	132	93
Liberty Charter	Guilford	645	161
North Oak Academy	Durham	520	443
Sledge Institute	Vance	125	91
Triad International Studies Academy	Guilford	144	93 (but significant no-shows to be dropped this week)

RTO COHORT 2026

School	County
Centerpoint Classical	Guilford
Hype Leadership Academy (Delay Y1)	Hoke
NC Connections Academy	Virtual
Warren Young Explorers School	Warren
West Triangle High School (Delay Y3)	Durham



RTO COHORT 2027

School	County
Legacy Traditional Academies (Delay Y1)	Guilford
Bettis Academy (Delay Y1)	Wake
Granite Charter Academy (Delay Y1)	Chatham





DYNS

Discovery Your New School - concluded first year and 100% of participants reported satisfaction with the learning material and appreciated the case study learning to support the development of their new school. This will start up again in February following application approvals.

Getting Charters RTO ready

UPCOMING

PARENTAL LEAVE

OPT IN
INFORMATION
CURRENTLY IN OCS
NEWSLETTERS -
DEADLINE OCTOBER
1ST

Transportation Grant

Keep an eye out for
information in OCS
newsletter
beginning in
October. Deadline
12/31/25.

SMHP

Due September 15th

GOV 1

New due date of
October 31st this year!
See memo in OCS
newsletter.

A decorative graphic in the top right corner consisting of a white triangle pointing towards the top right, with a black triangle pointing towards the top left, creating a corner effect.

Questions?