



Proposed ASD Deferred Operator Amendment Policy

September 2015

Deferred Operators Definition

The Achievement School District (ASD) authorizes partners for 10-year charters, in accordance with the state. Operators authorized by the ASD may choose to “sit on” a charter for multiple years as they incubate, engage in a multi-authorizer strategy, and/or have other special planning considerations. A Deferred Operator is one that chooses to sit on their charter for a period of 3+ years after the date authorized. Deferred Operators may be new start or experienced operators.

Deferred Operator Authorization “True Up” Requirements

Given the delay since authorization-and knowing that board members, leaders, and school models can all change in a matter of a few years-deferred operators must “true-up” their application through a brief amendment process prior to opening a school if the school launch is 3+ years after authorization. The Deferred Operator amendment process verifies three components, an operator’s 1) academic model, 2) governance model, and 3) financial health. As is the case during authorization, New Start applicants must also have a school leader in place at the time of the amendment process. Similarly, Experienced Operators will have to supply 3-year data to ensure the operator still has a strong academic track record. For all components, the operator will have an opportunity to confirm what is still the same from the original charter proposal (e.g. school model), explain what is different (e.g. new board members), and demonstrate that the organization has the financial capital necessary to launch a successful school.

Amendment Process

Charter operators who meet the above definition and requirements will be asked to complete the short amendment process the year prior to opening. For example, a school who was authorized in 2013 hoping to open their first school in the 2016-17 school year would need to submit an addendum in spring 2015. The amendment review process will include a short application and capacity interview parallel to the ASD’s authorization cycle.

The goal of the above policy is to increase the number of high-performing schools in our district’s portfolio, reducing obstacles for already-authorized deferred operators seeking to open their first school, while also promoting strong authorization practices that take into account operator changes in the extended time since authorization. Please direct all questions about the proposed ASD Deferred Operator Amendment Policy to Anna Kucaj, Charter Authorization and Special Projects Manager, at anna.kucaj@tn-asd.org.