

By Senator Simmons

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to charter schools; amending s.  
3       1002.33, F.S.; revising the requirements of charter  
4       school applications regarding the submission of  
5       detailed financial information and annual employee  
6       compensation; requiring a charter school application  
7       to demonstrate that the applicant is financially  
8       capable and qualified to open, operate, and maintain a  
9       high-quality charter school; revising the requirements  
10      of a charter to include a requirement that the charter  
11      school comply with applicable law, its  
12      representations, and agreements provided in the  
13      application for the charter school; requiring a  
14      charter to set forth a program of reporting by the  
15      charter school and review by the sponsor of the  
16      financial operations of the charter school; requiring  
17      the term of a charter to provide for cancellation of  
18      the charter under certain circumstances; revising the  
19      grounds in which a sponsor may choose not to renew or  
20      terminate a charter; defining the term "welfare" as it  
21      relates to the termination of a charter; authorizing a  
22      governing board of a charter school, with the consent  
23      of the sponsor, to choose a corrective action if the  
24      charter school receives certain failing grades;  
25      providing that a charter school system is designated  
26      as a local educational agency solely for the purpose  
27      of receiving federal funds in the same manner as if  
28      the charter school system were a school district if  
29      the charter school system meets certain requirements;

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30 providing an effective date.

31  
32 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

33  
34 Section 1. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (6),  
35 paragraph (a) of subsection (7), paragraphs (a) and (d) of  
36 subsection (8), paragraph (n) of subsection (9), and subsection  
37 (25) of section 1002.33, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

38 1002.33 Charter schools.—

39 (6) APPLICATION PROCESS AND REVIEW.—Charter school  
40 applications are subject to the following requirements:

41 (a) A person or entity wishing to open a charter school  
42 shall prepare and submit an application on a model application  
43 form prepared by the Department of Education which:

44 1. Demonstrates how the school will use the guiding  
45 principles and meet the statutorily defined purpose of a charter  
46 school.

47 2. Provides a detailed curriculum plan that illustrates how  
48 students will be provided services to attain the Sunshine State  
49 Standards.

50 3. Contains goals and objectives for improving student  
51 learning and measuring that improvement. These goals and  
52 objectives must indicate how much academic improvement students  
53 are expected to show each year, how success will be evaluated,  
54 and the specific results to be attained through instruction.

55 4. Describes the reading curriculum and differentiated  
56 strategies that will be used for students reading at grade level  
57 or higher and a separate curriculum and strategies for students  
58 who are reading below grade level. A sponsor shall deny a

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59 charter if the school does not propose a reading curriculum that  
60 is consistent with effective teaching strategies that are  
61 grounded in scientifically based reading research.

62 5. Contains an annual financial plan for each year  
63 requested by the charter for operation of the school for up to 5  
64 years and provides detailed financial information evidencing  
65 that the applicant is financially qualified and capable of  
66 opening, operating, and maintaining a high-quality charter  
67 school in accordance with the applicant's plan and applicable  
68 law. This plan must contain anticipated fund balances based on  
69 revenue projections, a spending plan based on projected revenues  
70 and expenses, including annual compensation to all employees,  
71 and a description of controls that will safeguard finances and  
72 projected enrollment trends.

73 6. Documents that the applicant has participated in the  
74 training required in subparagraph (f)2. A sponsor may require an  
75 applicant to provide additional information as an addendum to  
76 the charter school application described in this paragraph.

77 7. For the establishment of a virtual charter school,  
78 documents that the applicant has contracted with a provider of  
79 virtual instruction services pursuant to s. 1002.45(1)(d).

80 (b) A sponsor shall receive and review all applications for  
81 a charter school using an evaluation instrument developed by the  
82 Department of Education and in compliance with this section. A  
83 sponsor shall receive and consider charter school applications  
84 received on or before August 1 of each calendar year for charter  
85 schools to be opened at the beginning of the school district's  
86 next school year, or to be opened at a time agreed to by the  
87 applicant and the sponsor. A sponsor may receive applications

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88 later than this date if it chooses. A sponsor may not charge an  
89 applicant for a charter any fee for the processing or  
90 consideration of an application, and a sponsor may not base its  
91 consideration or approval of an application upon the promise of  
92 future payment of any kind. Before approving or denying any  
93 application, the sponsor shall allow the applicant, upon receipt  
94 of written notification, at least 7 calendar days to make  
95 technical or nonsubstantive corrections and clarifications,  
96 including, but not limited to, corrections of grammatical,  
97 typographical, and like errors or missing signatures, if such  
98 errors are identified by the sponsor as cause to deny the  
99 application.

100 1. In order to facilitate an accurate budget projection  
101 process, a sponsor shall be held harmless for FTE students who  
102 are not included in the FTE projection due to approval of  
103 charter school applications after the FTE projection deadline.  
104 In a further effort to facilitate an accurate budget projection,  
105 within 15 calendar days after receipt of a charter school  
106 application, a sponsor shall report to the Department of  
107 Education the name of the applicant entity, the proposed charter  
108 school location, and its projected FTE.

109 2. In order to ensure fiscal responsibility, an application  
110 for a charter school shall include a full accounting of expected  
111 assets, a projection of expected sources and amounts of income,  
112 including income derived from projected student enrollments and  
113 from community support, and an expense projection that includes  
114 full accounting of the costs of operation, including start-up  
115 costs. The application must evidence that the applicant is  
116 financially capable and qualified to open, operate, and maintain

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117 a high-quality charter school in accordance with the applicant's  
118 plan and applicable law.

119 3.a. A sponsor shall by a majority vote approve or deny an  
120 application no later than 60 calendar days after the application  
121 is received, unless the sponsor and the applicant mutually agree  
122 in writing to temporarily postpone the vote to a specific date,  
123 at which time the sponsor shall by a majority vote approve or  
124 deny the application. If the sponsor fails to act on the  
125 application, an applicant may appeal to the State Board of  
126 Education as provided in paragraph (c). If an application is  
127 denied, the sponsor shall, within 10 calendar days after such  
128 denial, articulate in writing the specific reasons, based upon  
129 good cause, supporting its denial of the charter application and  
130 shall provide the letter of denial and supporting documentation  
131 to the applicant and to the Department of Education.

132 b. An application submitted by a high-performing charter  
133 school identified pursuant to s. 1002.331 may be denied by the  
134 sponsor only if the sponsor demonstrates by clear and convincing  
135 evidence that:

136 (I) The application does not materially comply with the  
137 requirements in paragraph (a);

138 (II) The charter school proposed in the application does  
139 not materially comply with the requirements in paragraphs  
140 (9) (a) - (f);

141 (III) The proposed charter school's educational program  
142 does not substantially replicate that of the applicant or one of  
143 the applicant's high-performing charter schools;

144 (IV) The applicant has made a material misrepresentation or  
145 false statement or concealed an essential or material fact

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146 during the application process; or

147 (V) The proposed charter school's educational program and  
148 financial management practices do not materially comply with the  
149 requirements of this section.

150

151 Material noncompliance is a failure to follow requirements or a  
152 violation of prohibitions applicable to charter school  
153 applications, which failure is quantitatively or qualitatively  
154 significant either individually or when aggregated with other  
155 noncompliance. An applicant is considered to be replicating a  
156 high-performing charter school if the proposed school is  
157 substantially similar to at least one of the applicant's high-  
158 performing charter schools and the organization or individuals  
159 involved in the establishment and operation of the proposed  
160 school are significantly involved in the operation of replicated  
161 schools.

162 c. If the sponsor denies an application submitted by a  
163 high-performing charter school, the sponsor must, within 10  
164 calendar days after such denial, state in writing the specific  
165 reasons, based upon the criteria in sub-subparagraph b.,  
166 supporting its denial of the application and must provide the  
167 letter of denial and supporting documentation to the applicant  
168 and to the Department of Education. The applicant may appeal the  
169 sponsor's denial of the application directly to the State Board  
170 of Education pursuant to sub-subparagraph (c)3.b.

171 4. For budget projection purposes, the sponsor shall report  
172 to the Department of Education the approval or denial of a  
173 charter application within 10 calendar days after such approval  
174 or denial. In the event of approval, the report to the

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175 Department of Education shall include the final projected FTE  
176 for the approved charter school.

177 5. Upon approval of a charter application, the initial  
178 startup shall commence with the beginning of the public school  
179 calendar for the district in which the charter is granted unless  
180 the sponsor allows a waiver of this subparagraph for good cause.

181 (7) CHARTER.—The major issues involving the operation of a  
182 charter school shall be considered in advance and written into  
183 the charter. The charter shall be signed by the governing board  
184 of the charter school and the sponsor, following a public  
185 hearing to ensure community input.

186 (a) The charter shall address and criteria for approval of  
187 the charter shall be based on:

188 1. The school's mission, the students to be served, ~~and~~ the  
189 ages and grades to be included, and the requirement that the  
190 charter school comply with applicable law, its representations,  
191 and agreements that are outlined in its application that was  
192 approved by the sponsor.

193 2. The focus of the curriculum, the instructional methods  
194 to be used, any distinctive instructional techniques to be  
195 employed, and identification and acquisition of appropriate  
196 technologies needed to improve educational and administrative  
197 performance which include a means for promoting safe, ethical,  
198 and appropriate uses of technology which comply with legal and  
199 professional standards.

200 a. The charter shall ensure that reading is a primary focus  
201 of the curriculum and that resources are provided to identify  
202 and provide specialized instruction for students who are reading  
203 below grade level. The curriculum and instructional strategies

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204 for reading must be consistent with the Sunshine State Standards  
205 and grounded in scientifically based reading research.

206       b. In order to provide students with access to diverse  
207 instructional delivery models, to facilitate the integration of  
208 technology within traditional classroom instruction, and to  
209 provide students with the skills they need to compete in the  
210 21st century economy, the Legislature encourages instructional  
211 methods for blended learning courses consisting of both  
212 traditional classroom and online instructional techniques.  
213 Charter schools may implement blended learning courses which  
214 combine traditional classroom instruction and virtual  
215 instruction. Students in a blended learning course must be full-  
216 time students of the charter school and receive the online  
217 instruction in a classroom setting at the charter school.  
218 Instructional personnel certified pursuant to s. 1012.55 who  
219 provide virtual instruction for blended learning courses may be  
220 employees of the charter school or may be under contract to  
221 provide instructional services to charter school students. At a  
222 minimum, such instructional personnel must hold an active state  
223 or school district adjunct certification under s. 1012.57 for  
224 the subject area of the blended learning course. The funding and  
225 performance accountability requirements for blended learning  
226 courses are the same as those for traditional courses.

227       3. The current incoming baseline standard of student  
228 academic achievement, the outcomes to be achieved, and the  
229 method of measurement that will be used. The criteria listed in  
230 this subparagraph shall include a detailed description of:

231       a. How the baseline student academic achievement levels and  
232 prior rates of academic progress will be established.

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233           b. How these baseline rates will be compared to rates of  
234 academic progress achieved by these same students while  
235 attending the charter school.

236           c. To the extent possible, how these rates of progress will  
237 be evaluated and compared with rates of progress of other  
238 closely comparable student populations.

239

240 The district school board is required to provide academic  
241 student performance data to charter schools for each of their  
242 students coming from the district school system, as well as  
243 rates of academic progress of comparable student populations in  
244 the district school system.

245           4. The methods used to identify the educational strengths  
246 and needs of students and how well educational goals and  
247 performance standards are met by students attending the charter  
248 school. The methods shall provide a means for the charter school  
249 to ensure accountability to its constituents by analyzing  
250 student performance data and by evaluating the effectiveness and  
251 efficiency of its major educational programs. Students in  
252 charter schools shall, at a minimum, participate in the  
253 statewide assessment program created under s. 1008.22.

254           5. In secondary charter schools, a method for determining  
255 that a student has satisfied the requirements for graduation in  
256 s. 1003.428, s. 1003.429, or s. 1003.43.

257           6. A method for resolving conflicts between the governing  
258 board of the charter school and the sponsor.

259           7. The admissions procedures and dismissal procedures,  
260 including the school's code of student conduct.

261           8. The ways by which the school will achieve a

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262 racial/ethnic balance reflective of the community it serves or  
263 within the racial/ethnic range of other public schools in the  
264 same school district.

265 9. The financial and administrative management of the  
266 school, including a reasonable demonstration of the professional  
267 experience or competence of those individuals or organizations  
268 applying to operate the charter school or those hired or  
269 retained to perform such professional services and the  
270 description of clearly delineated responsibilities and the  
271 policies and practices needed to effectively manage the charter  
272 school. A description of internal audit procedures and  
273 establishment of controls to ensure that financial resources are  
274 properly managed must be included. Both public sector and  
275 private sector professional experience shall be equally valid in  
276 such a consideration. The charter must set forth, at least  
277 annually, a program of continual, detailed reporting by the  
278 charter school and review by the sponsor of the financial  
279 operations of the charter school, including, specifically, the  
280 capitalization, solvency, proper financial management, and  
281 compensation paid to employees of the charter school, so as to  
282 ensure that employees are not paid unreasonable compensation.

283 10. The asset and liability projections required in the  
284 application which are incorporated into the charter and shall be  
285 compared with information provided in the annual report of the  
286 charter school.

287 11. A description of procedures that identify various risks  
288 and provide for a comprehensive approach to reduce the impact of  
289 losses; plans to ensure the safety and security of students and  
290 staff; plans to identify, minimize, and protect others from

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291 violent or disruptive student behavior; and the manner in which  
292 the school will be insured, including whether or not the school  
293 will be required to have liability insurance, and, if so, the  
294 terms and conditions thereof and the amounts of coverage.

295 12. The term of the charter which must ~~shall~~ provide for  
296 cancellation of the charter if:

297 a. Insufficient progress has been made in attaining the  
298 student achievement objectives of the charter and if it is not  
299 likely that such objectives can be achieved before expiration of  
300 the charter;

301 b. The charter school, at any time, becomes insolvent or  
302 otherwise fails to pay its debts as they become due;

303 c. The charter school fails to provide a quality education  
304 to its students; or

305 d. The charter school does not comply with applicable law.  
306

307 The initial term of a charter shall be for 4 or 5 years. In  
308 order to facilitate access to long-term financial resources for  
309 charter school construction, charter schools that are operated  
310 by a municipality or other public entity as provided by law are  
311 eligible for up to a 15-year charter, subject to approval by the  
312 district school board. A charter lab school is eligible for a  
313 charter for a term of up to 15 years. In addition, to facilitate  
314 access to long-term financial resources for charter school  
315 construction, charter schools that are operated by a private,  
316 not-for-profit, s. 501(c)(3) status corporation are eligible for  
317 up to a 15-year charter, subject to approval by the district  
318 school board. Such long-term charters remain subject to annual  
319 review and may be terminated during the term of the charter, but

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320 only according to the provisions set forth in subsection (8).

321 13. The facilities to be used and their location.

322 14. The qualifications to be required of the teachers and  
323 the potential strategies used to recruit, hire, train, and  
324 retain qualified staff to achieve best value.

325 15. The governance structure of the school, including the  
326 status of the charter school as a public or private employer as  
327 required in paragraph (12)(i).

328 16. A timetable for implementing the charter which  
329 addresses the implementation of each element thereof and the  
330 date by which the charter shall be awarded in order to meet this  
331 timetable.

332 17. In the case of an existing public school that is being  
333 converted to charter status, alternative arrangements for  
334 current students who choose not to attend the charter school and  
335 for current teachers who choose not to teach in the charter  
336 school after conversion in accordance with the existing  
337 collective bargaining agreement or district school board rule in  
338 the absence of a collective bargaining agreement. However,  
339 alternative arrangements shall not be required for current  
340 teachers who choose not to teach in a charter lab school, except  
341 as authorized by the employment policies of the state university  
342 which grants the charter to the lab school.

343 18. Full disclosure of the identity of all relatives  
344 employed by the charter school who are related to the charter  
345 school owner, president, chairperson of the governing board of  
346 directors, superintendent, governing board member, principal,  
347 assistant principal, or any other person employed by the charter  
348 school who has equivalent decisionmaking authority. For the

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349 purpose of this subparagraph, the term "relative" means father,  
350 mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, first  
351 cousin, nephew, niece, husband, wife, father-in-law, mother-in-  
352 law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law,  
353 stepfather, stepmother, stepson, stepdaughter, stepbrother,  
354 stepsister, half brother, or half sister.

355 19. Implementation of the activities authorized under s.  
356 1002.331 by the charter school when it satisfies the eligibility  
357 requirements for a high-performing charter school. A high-  
358 performing charter school shall notify its sponsor in writing by  
359 March 1 if it intends to increase enrollment or expand grade  
360 levels the following school year. The written notice shall  
361 specify the amount of the enrollment increase and the grade  
362 levels that will be added, as applicable.

363 (8) CAUSES FOR NONRENEWAL OR TERMINATION OF CHARTER.—

364 (a) The sponsor may choose not to renew or may terminate  
365 the charter for any of the following grounds:

366 1. Failure to participate in the state's education  
367 accountability system created in s. 1008.31, as required in this  
368 section, or failure to meet the requirements for student  
369 performance stated in the charter.

370 2. Failure to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal  
371 management, including, but not limited to, insolvency, payment  
372 of unreasonable compensation to employees, or unlawful diversion  
373 of the moneys or property of the charter school to the private  
374 benefit of an employee of the charter school.

375 3. Violation of law.

376 4. Other good cause shown.

377 5. Violation of the charter.

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378 6. Failure to implement a corrective action provided under  
379 sub-subparagraph (9) (n) 2.a., if applicable.

380 (d) A charter may be terminated immediately if the sponsor  
381 sets forth in writing the particular facts and circumstances  
382 indicating that an immediate and serious danger to the health,  
383 safety, or welfare of the charter school's students exists. The  
384 term "welfare" includes, but is not limited to, providing a  
385 quality education to students of the charter school. The  
386 sponsor's determination is subject to the procedures set forth  
387 in paragraphs (b) and (c), except that the hearing may take  
388 place after the charter has been terminated. The sponsor shall  
389 notify in writing the charter school's governing board, the  
390 charter school principal, and the department if a charter is  
391 terminated immediately. The sponsor shall clearly identify the  
392 specific issues that resulted in the immediate termination and  
393 provide evidence of prior notification of issues resulting in  
394 the immediate termination when appropriate. Upon receiving  
395 written notice from the sponsor, the charter school's governing  
396 board has 10 calendar days to request a hearing. A requested  
397 hearing must be expedited and the final order must be issued  
398 within 60 days after the date of request. The sponsor shall  
399 assume operation of the charter school throughout the pendency  
400 of the hearing under paragraphs (b) and (c) unless the continued  
401 operation of the charter school would materially threaten the  
402 health, safety, or welfare of the students. Failure by the  
403 sponsor to assume and continue operation of the charter school  
404 shall result in the awarding of reasonable costs and attorney's  
405 fees to the charter school if the charter school prevails on  
406 appeal.

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407 (9) CHARTER SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS.—

408 (n)1. The director and a representative of the governing  
409 board of a charter school that has earned a grade of "D" or "F"  
410 pursuant to s. 1008.34(2) shall appear before the sponsor to  
411 present information concerning each contract component having  
412 noted deficiencies. The director and a representative of the  
413 governing board shall submit to the sponsor for approval a  
414 school improvement plan to raise student achievement. Upon  
415 approval by the sponsor, the charter school shall begin  
416 implementation of the school improvement plan. The department  
417 shall offer technical assistance and training to the charter  
418 school and its governing board and establish guidelines for  
419 developing, submitting, and approving such plans.

420 2.a. If a charter school earns three consecutive grades of  
421 "D," two consecutive grades of "D" followed by a grade of "F,"  
422 or two nonconsecutive grades of "F" within a 3-year period, the  
423 charter school governing board, with the consent of the sponsor,  
424 shall choose one of the following corrective actions:

425 (I) Contract for educational services to be provided  
426 directly to students, instructional personnel, and school  
427 administrators, as prescribed in state board rule;

428 (II) Contract with an outside entity that has a  
429 demonstrated record of effectiveness to operate the school;

430 (III) Reorganize the school under a new director or  
431 principal who is authorized to hire new staff; or

432 (IV) Voluntarily close the charter school.

433 b. The charter school must implement the corrective action  
434 in the school year following receipt of a third consecutive  
435 grade of "D," a grade of "F" following two consecutive grades of

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436 "D," or a second nonconsecutive grade of "F" within a 3-year  
437 period.

438 c. The sponsor may annually waive a corrective action if it  
439 determines that the charter school is likely to improve a letter  
440 grade if additional time is provided to implement the  
441 intervention and support strategies prescribed by the school  
442 improvement plan. Notwithstanding this sub-subparagraph, a  
443 charter school that earns a second consecutive grade of "F" is  
444 subject to subparagraph 4.

445 d. A charter school is no longer required to implement a  
446 corrective action if it improves by at least one letter grade.  
447 However, the charter school must continue to implement  
448 strategies identified in the school improvement plan. The  
449 sponsor must annually review implementation of the school  
450 improvement plan to monitor the school's continued improvement  
451 pursuant to subparagraph 5.

452 e. A charter school implementing a corrective action that  
453 does not improve by at least one letter grade after 2 full  
454 school years of implementing the corrective action must select a  
455 different corrective action. Implementation of the new  
456 corrective action must begin in the school year following the  
457 implementation period of the existing corrective action, unless  
458 the sponsor determines that the charter school is likely to  
459 improve a letter grade if additional time is provided to  
460 implement the existing corrective action. Notwithstanding this  
461 sub-subparagraph, a charter school that earns a second  
462 consecutive grade of "F" while implementing a corrective action  
463 is subject to subparagraph 4.

464 3. A charter school with a grade of "D" or "F" that

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465 improves by at least one letter grade must continue to implement  
466 the strategies identified in the school improvement plan. The  
467 sponsor must annually review implementation of the school  
468 improvement plan to monitor the school's continued improvement  
469 pursuant to subparagraph 5.

470 4. The sponsor shall terminate a charter if the charter  
471 school earns two consecutive grades of "F" unless:

472 a. The charter school is established to turn around the  
473 performance of a district public school pursuant to s.  
474 1008.33(4)(b)3. Such charter schools shall be governed by s.  
475 1008.33;

476 b. The charter school serves a student population the  
477 majority of which resides in a school zone served by a district  
478 public school that earned a grade of "F" in the year before the  
479 charter school opened and the charter school earns at least a  
480 grade of "D" in its third year of operation. The exception  
481 provided under this sub-subparagraph does not apply to a charter  
482 school in its fourth year of operation and thereafter; or

483 c. The state board grants the charter school a waiver of  
484 termination. The charter school must request the waiver within  
485 30 days after completion of school grade appeals. The state  
486 board may waive termination if the charter school demonstrates  
487 that the learning gains of its students on statewide assessments  
488 are comparable to or better than the learning gains of similarly  
489 situated students enrolled in nearby district public schools.  
490 The waiver is valid for 1 year and may only be granted once.  
491 Charter schools that have been in operation for more than 5  
492 years are not eligible for a waiver under this sub-subparagraph.

493 5. The director and a representative of the governing board

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494 of a graded charter school that has implemented a school  
495 improvement plan under this paragraph shall appear before the  
496 sponsor at least once a year to present information regarding  
497 the progress of intervention and support strategies implemented  
498 by the school pursuant to the school improvement plan and  
499 corrective actions, if applicable. The sponsor shall communicate  
500 at the meeting, and in writing to the director, the services  
501 provided to the school to help the school address its  
502 deficiencies.

503 6. Notwithstanding any provision of this paragraph except  
504 sub-subparagraphs 4.a.-c., the sponsor may terminate the charter  
505 at any time pursuant to subsection (8).

506 (25) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY STATUS FOR CERTAIN CHARTER  
507 SCHOOL SYSTEMS.—A charter school system shall be designated a  
508 local educational agency solely for the purpose of receiving  
509 federal funds, the same manner as if ~~though~~ the charter school  
510 system were a school district, if the governing board of the  
511 charter school system has adopted and filed a resolution with  
512 its sponsoring district school board and the Department of  
513 Education in which the governing board ~~of the charter school~~  
514 ~~system~~ accepts ~~the~~ full responsibility for all local education  
515 agency requirements and if the charter school system meets all  
516 of the following:

517 (a) Includes both conversion charter schools and  
518 nonconversion charter schools. †

519 (b) Has all schools located in the same county. †

520 (c) Has a total enrollment exceeding the total enrollment  
521 of at least one school district in the state. †

522 (d) Has the same governing board. † and

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523 (e) Does not contract with a for-profit service provider  
524 for management of school operations.

525

526 Such designation does not apply to other provisions of law  
527 unless specifically provided in law.

528 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.