The Office of Charter Schools
2024 Updates

Ashley Baquero, Executive Director

North Carolina Department of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

OCS Team Workflow Updates

Jenna

Natasha
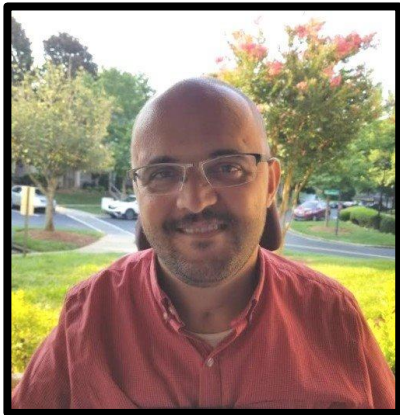
Melanie

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Team OCS

Brandi

Joseph

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Workflow Structure

To meet the increasing demands of the growing charter school network in North Carolina.

Authorizing

Applications

Ready to Open

Amendments

SBE/CSRB/Reports/Rules

Accountability

Performance Framework

Renewals

Risk Assessment

School Improvement

External Support

Partnerships and School Support

Stakeholder Support

Communications + Data

Authorizing

Applications:

★ Application window closed 4/26/2024.

★ CSRB interviews will take place in the Fall.

Ready to Open

★ Charter school boards that have their application approved by CSRB are given a planning year in which to prepare for their first school year.

★ RTO 2025: 14 schools in cohort.

Amendments

★ Any material change to the charter application must be approved pursuant to State Board of Education policy CHTR-014, North Carolina Administrative Code 16 NCAC 06g.0510 and 16 NCAC 06g.0511.

SBE/CSRB/Reports/Rules

Accountability

OHHHHH THE ACCOUNTABILITY

- Ensure schools are following their fiscal, operational, and academic goals and responsibilities as outlined by the school's charter agreement
  - Collaborate with other NCDPI departments
  - OCS must answer to GA, SBE, CSRB, public records, media, attorneys, your parents/staff …

- Performance Framework

- Conduct Site Visits for:
  - Renewals:
    - Cohort 2025: 38 schools
    - Cohort 2026: 41 schools
  - School Improvement: Visited 19 schools in Fall 2023

External Support

works to support diverse stakeholders of the NC Charter School System

★ Held **10** Virtual Office Hours

★ Held **3** Lunch+Learns networking events for School Leaders

★ Support the identification of a Charter School Teacher & Principal of the Year

★ Assisted in naming **10** SECU scholarship recipients

★ Responded to over **300** charter school inquiries

#weareNCcharters

Brag & Tag

Share excellence in education!
Post exceptional student work or exciting happenings from NC Charter Schools. Then tag or mention OCS on Twitter (X) for others to see!

🔍 #weareNCcharters or @NCCharterOffice
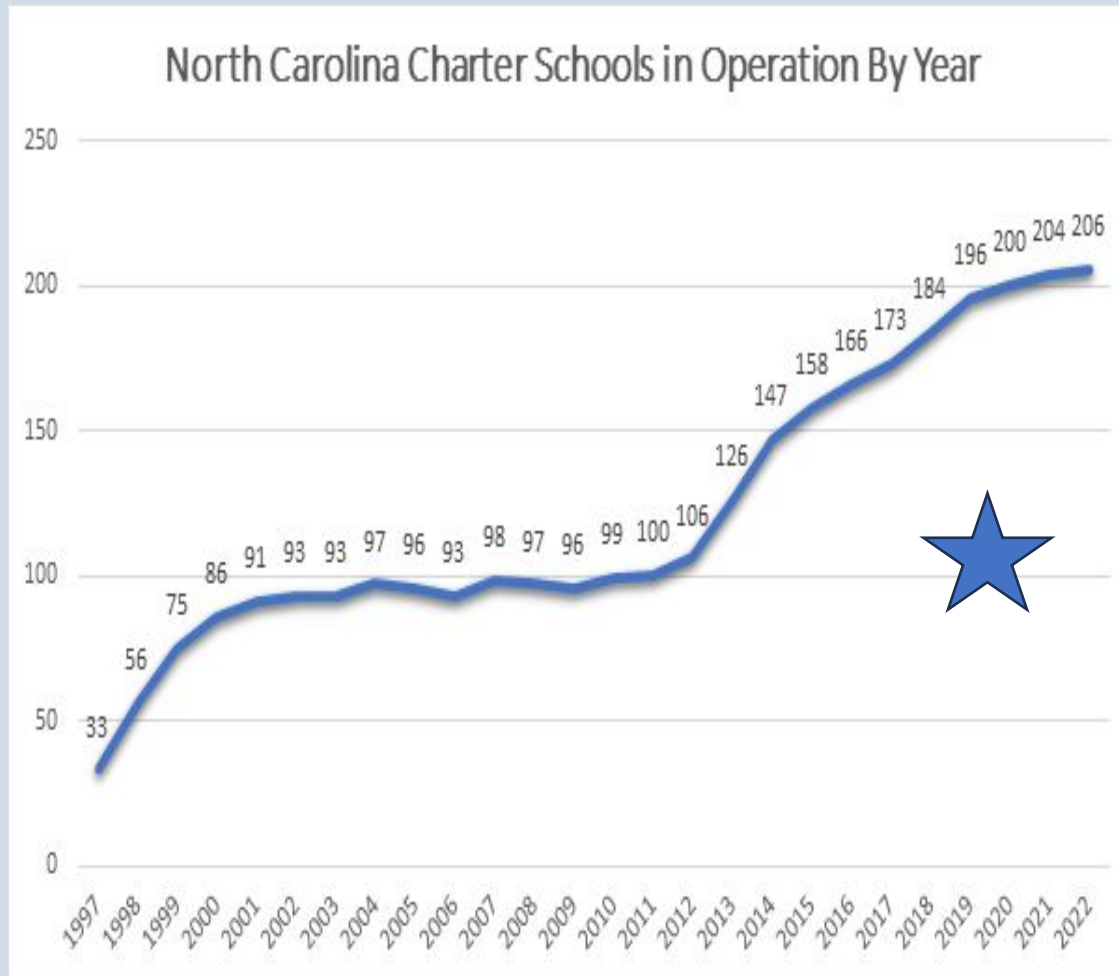
State of NC Charter Schools

2023-2024

156,149 students
9.9% total PSU enrollment
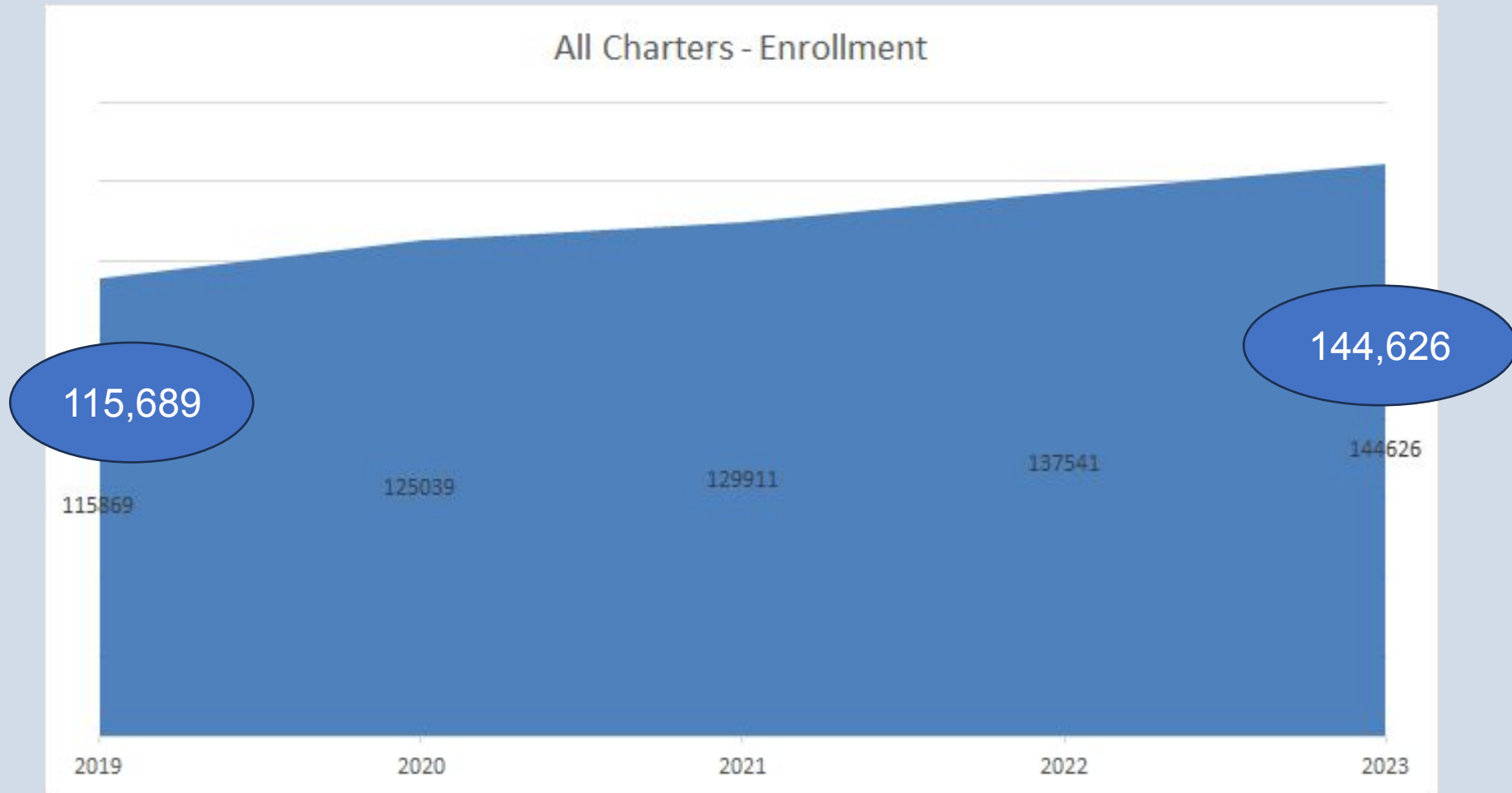$ 1,071,911,255 state funding

Charter Schools Per Year

North Carolina Charter Schools in Operation By Year

- 211 start of 23-24SY
- 210 full year operations
- 3 closed at end of SY
- 2 new schools opening 2024-2025 SY 209 schools

Charter Enrollment Growth

All Charters - Enrollment

115,689

144,626

115869   125039   129911   137541   144626

2019   2020   2021   2022   2023

Legislative and Policy Updates

Legislative Updates

- CSAB to CSRB
- No impact statement consideration allowed
- Subgroup performance
- Enrollment max removed for non-low performing schools – LP schools can request
- Parent's Bill of Rights
- Remote Charter Academies

Funding in Arrears

- All PSUs initially funded using prior year Mth 2 ADM.
  - No longer based on CSADM projection.
  - Allows for better planning/adjusting for changing ADMs.
- No reduction in event ADM is lower than allotted ADM. Increase per ADM if actual is above initial funding.

Renewal Policy/Guidelines

Summary of Changes

- Aligned the 10-year and Non-Renewal Guidelines to align exactly with the Renewal and Termination Statutes.

- Added specifications to the 7- and 5-year Guidelines to more clearly differentiate.

- Added Financial Noncompliance to the guidelines.

- Aligned the guidelines to what the Review Board and SBE do in practice such as additional factor consideration.

- More clearly defined terms such as "comparable", "local administrative unit", and "targeted subgroups".

Renewal Policy/Guidelines

- Renewal Process will remain largely the same.
- The Self-Study will now instruct schools to include items such as targeted subgroups served, LEAs of enrolled students, and school improvement plans.
- Full Policy Can Be Found <u>HERE</u>

Performance Framework

Why the changes?

No substantial modifications since implementation in 2014. Since then - major charter growth and legislative/policy changes.

Provide a transparent accountability tool that is concise, easy to understand, and demonstrates accurate and relevant compliance metrics.

✔focused on the most reliable indicators of charter school health

✔aligned to statute, Charter Agreement, policy, and rules

✔should provide an "at a glance" picture of the academic, financial, governance, and operational foundation of a school

Timeline

2023: Began OCS discussions/work sessions in which the team reviewed every single measure and made determinations/proposals re: keep, remove, revise.

2024: OCS leadership worked with Acct/PF staff to determine final revisions.

June 2024: CSRB unanimously approved.

July-August 2024: roll out to schools/boards

Sept 2024: 2025 PF collection begins

OCS Outlook for 2024-2025

School Support

- Continued Lunch + Learns
- Continued Virtual Office Hours
- Two IABS/MTSS support staff joining team!
- More guidance resources/best practices
- Continued refining of OCS website/Epicenter
- SIT year two - site visits/1:1 support
- School Leader Mentor Network

Office Staff

- Assistant Director
- Continue to advocate for more staff
- Administrative assistance

Reporting

- More highlighting the many successes of charter schools
- Understanding challenges
- Data data data
- Myth v. reality

Quick Reminders

- EDDIE
    - This is the authoritative source of information in the state.
    - Update every time a new BOD Chair/Vice Chair/Admin/Title IX coordinator/EL/EC person comes in.
    - How about ... calendar time to update?

- Epicenter
    - Epicenter is used to collect, store, and report charter school information.
    - Everything from performance framework and renewals to amendments and Ready to Open is submitted and stored in Epicenter.

School/Board is responsible for updating these both!!

Quick Reminders

- Amendments
  - Anything considered a material change to an application requires an amendment.
  - There are specific rules in law for these. Please contact OCS if you have questions about whether something requires an amendment or not.
  - Examples of things that require approval:
    - Relocation - subcampus
    - Ed Plan/curriculum
    - Lunch plan changes
    - Board Bylaws
  - Most policies do not require amendment but do require BOD approval.

Quick Reminders

- Nepotism and Conflict of Interest
  - Make sure you review Section 4 of your Charter Agreement.
  - Be aware of federal requirements for COI if you receive federal funds.

- McKinney-Vento
  - Schools must designate a liaison for children and youth experiencing homelessness. It is highly recommended that information regarding this act is posted on your website.

- Understand and follow the state attendance/enrollment rules

this, is a red flag

Quick Reminders

- Hiring and Licensure
  - Minimum 50% of your teaching staff must have a license
  - 100% of your EC staff must be licensed
  - You may not offer employment to any person on the SBE's revoked license list.
  - You may not offer volunteer opportunities to any person on the SBE's revoked license list.

Resources + Links

- [2023 Annual Report](#)
- [OCS Website](#)
- [Sign-up for OCS Newsletter](#)
- [PD Resources](#)
- [DPI Testing Dashboard](#)

OCS WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

How to Stay in the Know…

OCS Weekly Newsletter

Leadership Blasts

Newsletters from Other DPI Offices
- Office of Early Learning
- Office of Exceptional Children
- School Business
- Others

Systems Guidance
- EpiCenter
- Infinite Campus
- Records Request
- EDDIE

Connect:: ocs@dpi.nc.gov

𝕏 @NCCharterOffice

TEAM OCS (first.last@dpi.nc.gov)
ocs@dpi.nc.gov

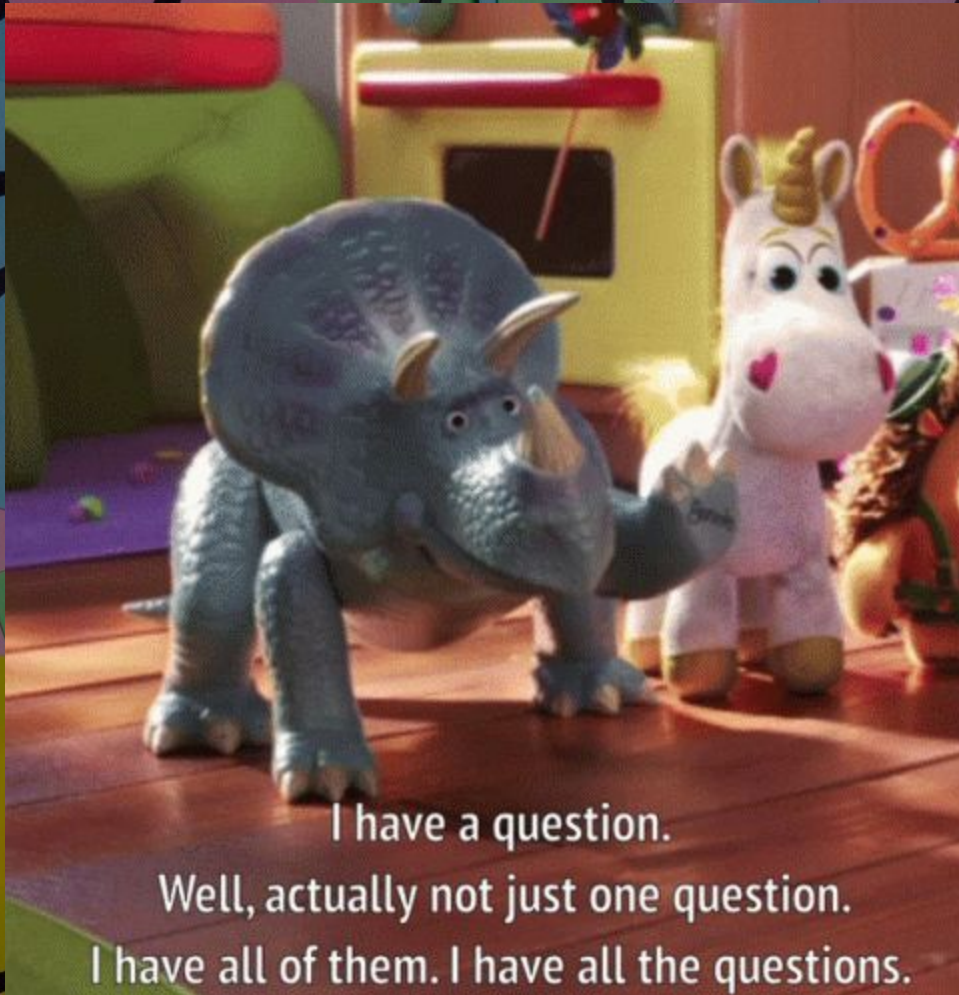| Ashley Baquero, Director	Jenna Cook, Renewals, Risk, Reports/Rules, Performance Framework, School Improvement
	Joseph Letterio, Performance Framework, External Support, Communications & Data
	Nicky Niewinski, Reports/Rules, SBE/CSRB, Risk & Renewals, School Improvement
	Dr. Natasha Norins, RTO/Planning Year, External Support, & School Partnerships
	Melanie Rackley, Applications, Amendments, Reports/Rules
	Dr. Brandi Gill, External Support, School Improvement & Risk
	Megan Carter, Performance Framework, Risk, School Improvement & Renewals
	Julie Whetzel, Applications, RTO, Amendments & External Support