


Growing Charter Strength: *Updates with OCS*




NCAPCS Conference
Summer 2025
Ashley Baquero,
Executive Director OCS


Topics



Legislative
Updates



OCS
Updates



Things to
Know

A scenic landscape photograph showing a winding asphalt road that curves through a lush green valley. The road is flanked by steep, grassy hillsides. In the distance, a small village is visible at the bottom of the valley, and the horizon is marked by rolling hills under a sky filled with soft, white clouds. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and scenic.

OCS Updates

01

Performance Framework

OCS continues to revise to ensure we are requiring what is most needed to ensure charters are operating within compliance standards but with a focus on “key levers” for operational excellence.

- Effectiveness
- Efficiency
- Impact
- Where do compliance issues arise from?

All with recognition of serving over 200 schools and having diverse stakeholders with varying perspectives.

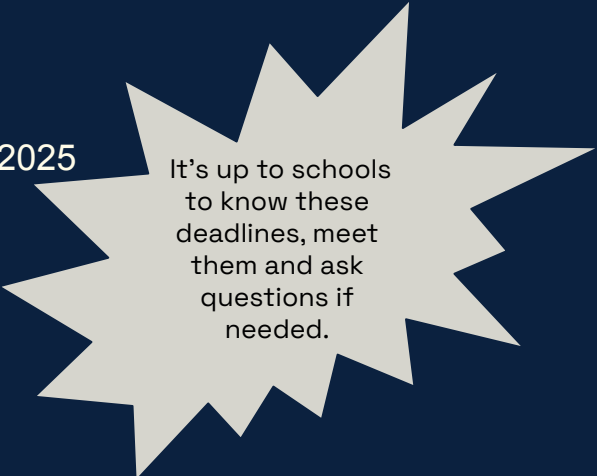
Performance Framework

Beginning this school year, we're implementing firm deadlines and certificate of completion tasks in Epicenter to streamline coordination between charter schools and various DPI divisions for required submissions.

Certificate of Completion Process Certificate of completion tasks serve as reminders for school leadership teams to complete required DPI submission surveys and/or access portal links. Instructions for these can be found within **Epicenter or in our OCS Newsletter communications**. After completing the required survey or portal submission, schools will mark the corresponding task as complete in Epicenter.

Certificate of Completion Requirements with Hard Deadlines:

- **OP5 - Parent's Bill of Rights:** September 15, 2025
- **OP4.1 - Immunization and Health Assessment Report:** November 30, 2025
- **OP4.2-4.5 - Student Health and Safety Requirements:** June 20, 2025
- **OP6 - Student Mental Health Plan:** September 15, 2025



It's up to schools to know these deadlines, meet them and ask questions if needed.

Performance Framework

GOV 1 - Student Lottery Policy & Application

- **NEW Hard Deadline:** October 31, 2025 - Failure to submit by this date will result in a "not met" rating on the Performance Framework. This timing ensures adequate review before schools begin their lottery and enrollment processes for the following year.

Updated Submission Requirements:

- Fire Drill Inspection requirements have been revised to Annual Fire Drill Monthly Log (due May 29, 2025)
- Conflict of Interest Policy and Nepotism Policy submissions have been consolidated into a single requirement

General Submission Deadline: All other submissions without specific certificate of completion requirements or hard deadlines must be completed by April 30, 2025. This earlier deadline allows us to provide coordinated feedback to school leadership teams and boards before the school year concludes.

Performance Framework

Goal: Better alignment and collaboration with other NCDPI Departments.

Items that are being **removed or amended** from the Performance Framework Template:

- **OP2 D/F letter** - Moving to School Improvement
- **OP4.5 Multilingual Plan** - Staying on Epicenter for collection (but overseen by the NC Department of Multilingual Learner/Title III)
- **OP6-Instructional Hours or Days Requirements** (reviewed by Infinite Campus)
- **OP8 - School Risk Management Plan** (overseen by Center for Safer Schools)
- **GOV2- Grievance Policy** -Removing Employee review (OCS does not handle personnel issues)
- **GOV6- Liability Insurance** - (reviewed within the annual Audit)



Legislative Updates

02

2025 State Budget

Any budget approvals, whether full budgets or “mini budget” bills approved in the future will be noticed by OCS and SBS. Keep an eye out for newsletters!

○ Budget Proposals

Governor Stein released his proposed budget. Senate proposed and approved its budget. House proposed and approved its budget.

○ Conference Committee

Chambers appoint legislators to conference committee with goal of sending a budget to Governor.

○ Current Status

GA went on break June 26th with no agreed upon budget.

○ What's next

Without a new budget, state will operate under continuation budget - recurring funds at same levels of previous year.

As of July 14th 2025, the state has sued the Trump Administration for withholding of federal funds related to specific Title funds primarily for migrant, EL, McKinney Vento funding.

FEDERAL FUNDING UPDATE

SB 254 - Charter School Changes

SB 254: Charter School Changes — Amends various charter school laws, including to provide greater authority to the Charter School Review Board (CSRB); clarify that a change in the location or boundaries of charter school within a 10-mile radius is not a material charter revision; clarify a charter school is not required to list class rank on a student's official transcript or record; require DPI to continue to provide a charter school access to required financial data reporting platforms during the charter's first year of operation at no cost to the charter; and clarify laws regarding requirements for remote charter schools.

STATUS: VETOED; Conference report passed House and Senate on 6/25; vetoed by Governor on 7/2

SB 227- DEI

SB 227: Eliminating “DEI” in Public Education — Prohibits “discriminatory practices” and “divisive concepts” in public school units with notable exceptions (First Amendment, impartial classroom discussion, etc.); prohibits the State Board of Education from “approving providing, recommending, or requiring professional development that includes or advocates for divisive concepts or discriminatory practices”; and requires each PSU to certify in writing to DPI by Sept. 1 of each year that it fully complies with the requirements of the bill, including any actions taken to achieve compliance.

STATUS: VETOED; Passed Senate 3/11 and House 6/25; vetoed by Governor on 7/3

HB 832 - Education Omnibus

HB 832 takes provisions from a number of various House and Senate bills and Appropriation bills. Includes the same charter provisions as the vetoed SB 254.

STATUS: ACTIVE; Passed in Senate, sent to House

HB 378 - Various Ed Laws

HB 378: Various Ed Law/Tax Acct/NIL Changes (formerly “Leon’s Law (Dual Enrollment Info Parents)”) —

- Requires SBE to adopt rules requiring all PSUs to evaluate the long term cost of ownership when purchasing any technology, hardware or software. Required to report on break/fix rate of school technology annually. Apply with this upcoming school year.
- Community colleges must provide ed records for students under 18 to parents and school administrators/counselors (“Leon’s Law”)
- Additional CTE pathways
- Allows UAAA to allow student athletes to use registered agents for NIL contracts.

Passed in Senate 6/19 and House 6/24; signed by Governor 7/1

STATUS: SIGNED BY GOVERNOR 7/1

HB 959 - Various Education Changes

HB 959: Various Education Changes –

*requires PSUs to adopt wireless communication policies that prohibit students from using, displaying, or having a wireless communication device turned on during instructional time except in certain situations. “The governing body of a PSU shall establish a wireless communication policy.”

*Internet Safety Policy - DOES NOT apply to charters, local boards required

*The standard course of study shall include instruction on social media and its effects on health, including social, emotional, and physical effects. Instruction shall be provided once during elementary school, once during middle school, and twice during high school. Applies with 26-27 SY.

STATUS: Conference report passed by House 6/24 and Senate 6/25; signed by Governor 7/1

STATUS: SIGNED BY GOVERNOR 7/1

SB 600 - Health and Human Services

SB 600: Improve Health and Human Services -

- Allows epinephrine “delivery systems” as opposed to “auto injectors” so nasal sprays are allowable.
 - Applies to both districts and charters.
- Revises school nurse requirements. Four year degrees not required.

STATUS: Passed House 6/24; passed Senate 6/25; signed by Governor 7/3

STATUS: SIGNED BY GOVERNOR 7/3

A scenic landscape photograph showing a winding asphalt road that curves through a lush green valley. The road is flanked by steep, grassy hillsides. In the distance, rolling hills and a small town are visible under a bright sky with scattered white clouds. The image is partially overlaid by dark blue shapes containing text.

Things to Know

03

NCVPS



Leveraging NCVPS: A Resource for NC District Leaders

Please join our live webinar and discover how to utilize the programs and resources offered by NCVPS.

You are probably familiar with NCVPS's high-quality instruction and QM-certified courses, but you may not be as familiar with our intervention program, Partnership Course Program, Peer Tutoring Center, flexible funding, or our whole-class enrollment option when you have teacher loss.

NCVPS staff will share how to partner with NCVPS as a solution to your enrollment needs. Offered on two dates to serve you better:

Register for July 22nd; 10-11am

Register for July 23rd; 1-2pm

NC COLLEGE CONNECT



NC College Connect Informational Webinars
NC College Connect is a groundbreaking initiative offering direct college admission to eligible high school seniors across the state for the 2025–2026 school year! Open to public high school seniors with a weighted GPA of 2.8 or higher who meet course requirements, students will be matched with colleges where they already qualify — no traditional application needed. Eligible students will be notified this fall.

[Check out the website to learn more, or attend one of the webinars below.](#)

Educator Webinars

July 15, 1 p.m.

August 20, 1 p.m.

September 3, 10 a.m.

October 7, 1 p.m.

Student/Parent Webinars

August 5, 6 p.m.

September 16, 6 p.m.



DIGITAL ACCESS

Digital Accessibility Newsletter and Resources

Each issue of the Digital Accessibility Newsletter will bring you news, resources and insights on accessibility, along with topics like understanding WCAG standards, user experiences and upcoming events. Whether you are just starting to learn about digital accessibility or you are looking to deepen your knowledge, this newsletter has something for everyone. [Check out the most recent newsletter here.](#)

Anyone is welcome to [subscribe to the newsletter here](#). Please find additional digital accessibility resources linked below:

- [NCDPI Digital Accessibility Webpage](#)
- [Digital Accessibility Toolkit for LEAs](#)

ACADEMIC RESOURCES

Office of Teaching and Learning Standards External Implementation Guide

Check out the NCDPI Office of Teaching and Learning Standards External Implementation Guide. This repository is a one-stop shop for each content area related to the NC Standard Course of Study and includes standards and support resources.

[Find the Teaching and Learning Standards External Implementation Guide here.](#)

New Resource: Academic Discourse Playbook

The NCDPI ELA team just released the Academic Discourse Playbook — a powerful new tool designed to support student discussion and writing for grades K–12, and in all content areas! Inside the Playbook, you'll find:

- Three key recommendations to strengthen classroom conversations and written responses.
- Editable templates for anchor charts, note-catchers, and graphic organizers.
- Practical strategies to deepen comprehension and enrich learning.

The resource is aligned with the Comprehension: Discussion and Writing component of the Literacy Instruction Standards (LIS) and is perfect for use in professional development during the 2025–26 school year.

[Find the Academic Discourse Playbook here.](#)

SCHOOL BUSINESS

A glowing orange tent is pitched on a grassy hill at dusk. The tent's interior light is visible through the entrance. In the background, dark mountains rise against a sky filled with soft, purple and pink clouds. The overall scene is serene and atmospheric.

MUST KNOW RESOURCES

School Business Services Blue Book

SCHOOL BUSINESS WEBSITE

Student Attendance and Accounting
Manual

A photograph of a forest floor with moss and tree trunks, partially obscured by green shapes containing text.

Thank

OCS@DPI.NC.GOV

You