



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: South Carolina Charter School Sponsors

FROM: Ellen Weaver
State Superintendent of Education

DATE: May 21, 2024

RE: South Carolina Charter School Accreditation

In 2015, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) developed a State Charter School accreditation process as a means to ensure all stakeholders recognize South Carolina public charter schools as meeting operational expectations. This is an update to that initial guidance, taking into account a mechanism for accreditation in a school's initial year of operation.

The State Charter School Accreditation process uses the existing requirement that each charter school submit an annual report to its sponsor by December 31, and each sponsor must submit a report for each of their charter schools to the SCDE by January 31. The criteria for the annual report have been updated to include the following additional requirements:

- Each **charter school** must annually provide the most recent charter contract between the charter school and the sponsor.
- Each **charter school** must annually provide the most recent edition of their charter, if there have been any changes since the previous submission.
- Each **charter school** must annually review the Statement of Assurances for Charter Schools and submit it with the school leader's and board chair's signatures.
- Each **charter school sponsor** must annually review the Statement of Assurances for Charter School Sponsors and submit it with the signature of the sponsoring district's superintendent.

Schools in their **initial year** with students will be considered accredited under this process and be required to follow the above procedures to keep the accreditation in subsequent years. Completion of the above annual report requirements will result in a charter school satisfactorily meeting state charter school accreditation requirements. A listing of all state charter schools and their accreditation status will be posted to the SCDE Charter Schools webpage.

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