

Charter Schools

May 19, 2011



Overview

Charter schools are public schools that operate under a performance contract, or a “charter” which frees them from many regulations created for traditional public schools while holding them accountable for academic and financial results.

Who **may authorize** (sponsor) a charter school?

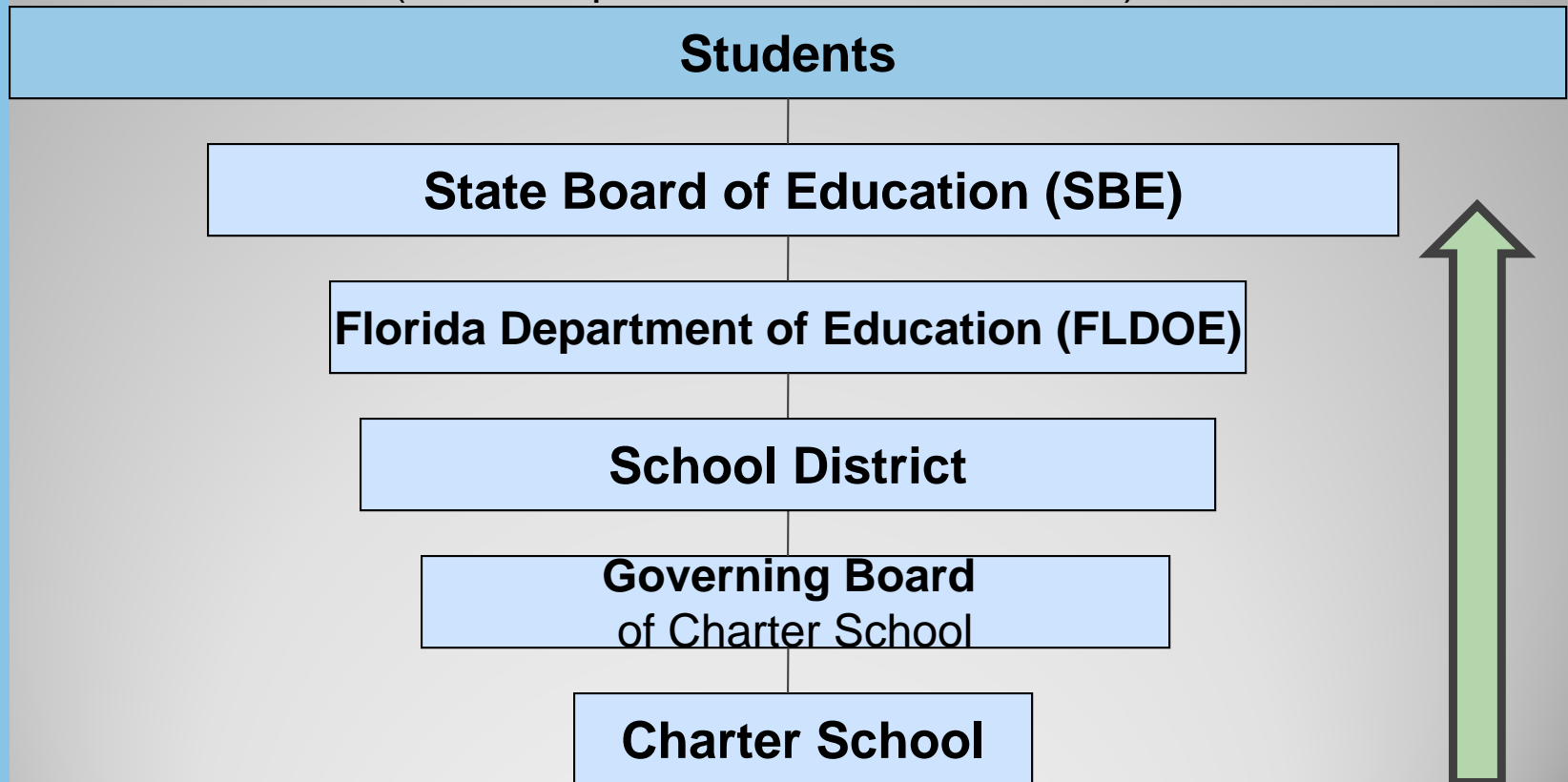
District School Board

State University (charter lab school)

Community College (in cooperation with a district)

Overview...continued

Accountability
(District-Sponsored Charter Schools)



Overview... continued

Who is **eligible** to apply?

- Individual person
- Teachers
- Parents
- Group of individuals
- Legal entity organized under the laws of Florida. Includes, but is not limited to a:
 - nonprofit organization
 - municipality (preference given to children of residents)
 - business (charter in workplace, preference given to children of employees)
 - developmental research school
 - an existing district school (conversion)

Who is **NOT** eligible to apply?

- Private Schools
- Parochial Schools
- Home Education Programs

Overview... continued

Accountability

(District-Sponsored Charter Schools)

School District

- Monitor & review the charter school in its progress towards goals established in charter
- Monitor revenues and expenditures
- Ensure the charter is innovative and consistent with the state education goals established in §1000.03(05), F.S.
- Ensure the charter participates in the state's education accountability system
- Provide fair and equitable access to charter school students

Overview... continued

Accountability (District-Sponsor Charter Schools) **Governing Boards**

- Exercise continuing oversight of charter school operations
- Adopt/maintain an annual operating budget
- Ensure retention of a CPA or auditor for the annual financial audit
- Receive/approve audit report, including findings & recommendations
- Monitor corrective action & financial recovery plan, if applicable
- Make annual progress reports to the sponsor: Student achievement data, financial status, status of facilities/plans & school personnel information

Overview...continued

Accountability

(District-Sponsored Charter Schools)

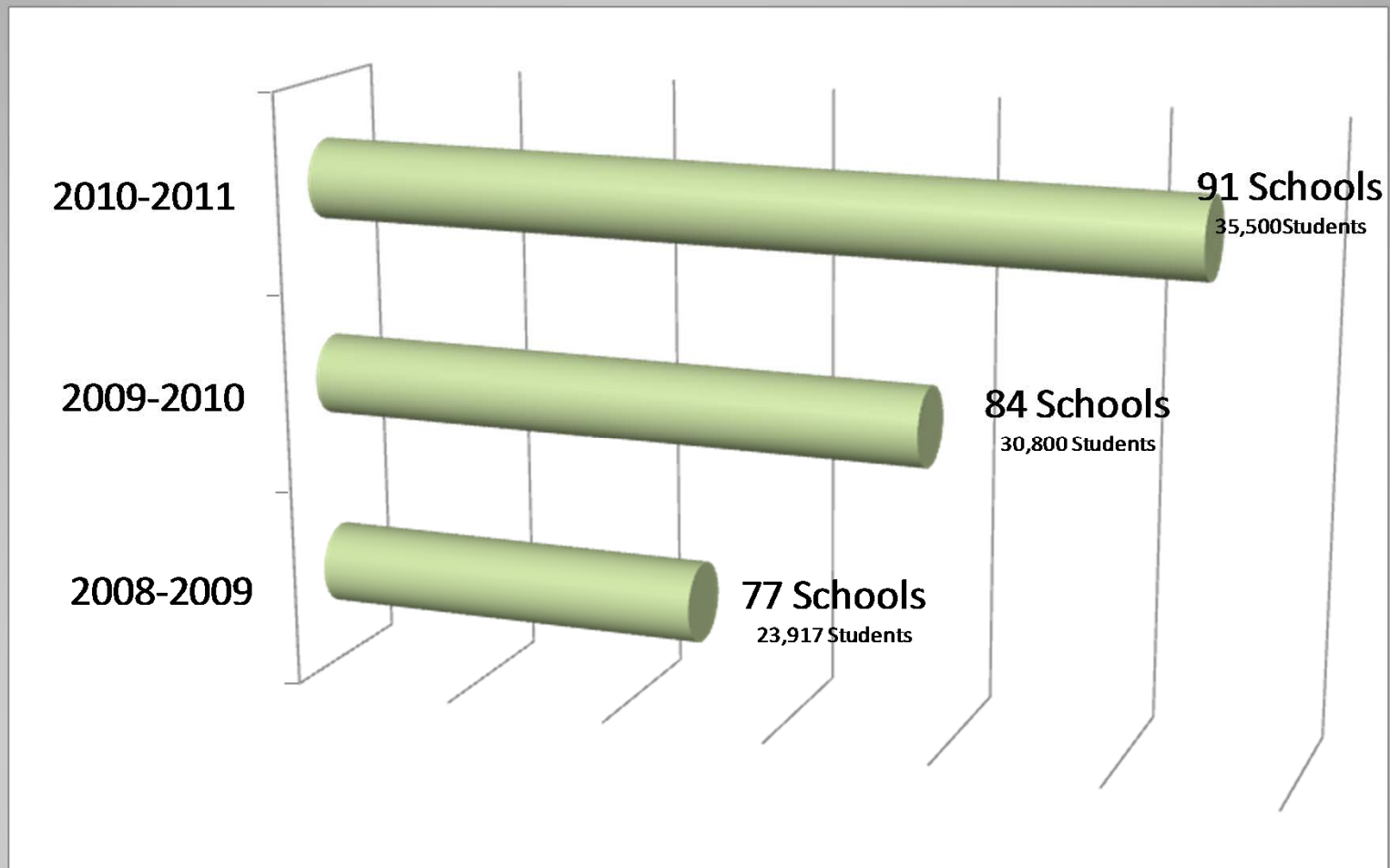
Cause for Nonrenewal or Termination

- Failure to participate in the education accountability system
- Failure to meet fiscal management standards
- Violation of law
- Other good cause
- Health, safety, or welfare of the students is threatened

Comparisons

	Miami-Dade County Public Schools	Charter Schools
Principal Training/Certification	Principal must be FLDOE Certified / extensive training	No training, educational background or Educational Leadership certification required
Teacher Training/Certification	Teachers Certified by FLDOE	Teachers Certified by FLDOE
Facilities	Facilities – Built to State Requirements for Educational Facilities (SREF)	Compliance with Florida Building Code & Fire Prevention Laws
Union Contracts	Must follow Union Contracts	Union organizations are rare
Teacher/Staff Salaries	Teacher Salary schedule followed	Develops salary schedule
Budget	Central Office directed and monitored	Oversight of budget(governing Board) & School Based Budgeting

Growth of Charter Schools



By The Numbers (continued)

- **#4** Florida ranks 4th in the nation in # of charter schools
- **#7** Miami-Dade ranks 7th in the nation in charter school enrollment
- **91** Schools serving **35,500** in Miami-Dade County
- **24%** Charter schools students statewide attend Miami- Dade County Charter Schools

By The Numbers (continued)

- **28%** 40 of the 91 Charter Schools classified as Differentiated Accountability Schools
- **51** Applications received to open new charter schools in 2011-2012
- **69** Applications received to open new charter schools in 2010-2011
- **3** Charter schools closed during 2009-2010

Challenges

- Lack of parent education (quality charter school, rights, expectations)
- Increased competition with traditional schools
- Increased district resources for operational support and technical assistance without power to mandate changes outside the scope of the law
- Inability to control mobility between charter and traditional schools
 - impact funding (survey periods)

Challenges

- Charter school becoming a safe haven for private school students
- Current legislation does not provide adequate power to district to ensure proper accountability
- District is fiscal agent for charters thereby requiring high levels of due diligence and monitoring (moneys flow through the district but the district has no authority to direct spending)
- Parents use the District as a forum for complaints instead of the Charter School's Board

Questions





Goodbye.....