

On Sep 11, 2015, at 4:03 PM, Louis Erste <LErste@doe.k12.ga.us> wrote:

September 11, 2015

R. Stephen Green, Ed.D.
CEO and Superintendent
DeKalb County School District

Robert R. Freeman Administrative and Instructional Complex
1701 Mountain Industrial Blvd.
Stone Mountain, GA 30083

Dear Dr. Green:

Thank you for submitting the DeKalb County School System (DCSS) proposed charter school policy and regulation for our review. We sincerely appreciate the spirit of partnership you have demonstrated as we move forward together in ensuring that only high quality charter schools with strong academic results and well-trained and high-functioning governing boards that can and do ensure financial sustainability and legal and regulatory compliance are created and renewed in DeKalb County.

We have reviewed these documents for compliance with Georgia's charter school laws, State Board of Education (SBOE) rules, and Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) guidance. The guidance for each rule has recently been combined into each rules, and references to rules in this letter are to the combined rule/guidance versions (see attached). We have identified several things in DCSS's proposed policy and regulation that require revision.

One of the major changes needed is to clearly state what DCSS charter schools are authorized to do, specifically as it relates to charter school governing boards making decisions related to personnel, finance, curriculum and instruction, resource allocation, and school operations. Charter schools cannot be truly held accountable by a local board of education unless the local board is, in fact, providing the flexibility, autonomy, and support outlined in Georgia law and SBOE rules/guidelines.

The list below includes 36 revisions to the proposed DCSS charter school policy and regulation. These changes are designed to provide charter schools with the maximum flexibility to which they are entitled by law.

[Revisions to Proposed DCSS Charter Schools Policy](#)

Thank you again, Dr. Green. We look forward to assisting your team as it incorporates the revisions included in this letter. These changes are essential to the very nature of chartering – providing increased autonomy in exchange for increased results and accountability. Additionally, these revisions are necessary for DCSS to have charter school Policy and Regulation that is legally congruent to the SBOE Rules as well as state and federal law. We are committed to DCSS's success as a strong charter school authorizer. Please let me know if you or your team have any questions or needs any clarification about the contents of this letter.

Lou

Louis J. Erste
Associate State Superintendent for Policy, Charter Schools,
District Flexibility, and Governmental Affairs
Georgia Department of Education

----- Original Message -----

On Sep 11, 2015, at 7:26 PM, R. Stephen Green (Superintendent's Office) <RSGreen@dekalbschoolsga.org>wrote:

Lou,

I will give your suggestions and advice due consideration and will proceed in a manner that is in the best interest of students and families the DCSD.

Thank you.

Regards,
Steve

Dr. R. Stephen Green
CEO & Superintendent
DeKalb County School District

----- Original Message -----

From: Louis Erste [mailto:LErste@doe.k12.ga.us]
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2015 7:31 PM
To: R. Stephen Green (Superintendent's Office)
Cc: Jose Boza (Leadership Development); Richard Woods; Ramona Tyson (Superintendent's Office); Laura Lashley; Alice Thompson (Sch Leader/Op Support)
Subject: Re: Policy IBB and Regulation

Thank you, Steve. We are ready to help.

Your response will be a good indicator of DCSS's commitment to being a good charter partner. The State Superintendent and SBOE are as hopeful as we are that our renewed partnership will continue in a healthy fashion.

Lou

Louis J. Erste
Associate Superintendent for Policy, Charter Schools,
District Flexibility, and Governmental Affairs
Georgia Department of Education

----- Original Message -----

On Sep 11, 2015, at 8:06 PM, R. Stephen Green (Superintendent's Office) <RSGreen@dekalbschoolsga.org>wrote:

Lou,

I assume that the principle you have outlined below applies to all involved parties. Thus, your response will also be a “good indicator” of your willingness to be a “good charter partner” as well.

Steve

Regards,
Steve

Dr. R. Stephen Green
CEO & Superintendent
DeKalb County School District

----- Original Message -----

From: Louis Erste

Sent: Friday, September 11, 2015 8:12 PM

To: R. Stephen Green (Superintendent's Office) <RSGreen@dekalbschoolsga.org>

Cc: Jose Boza (Leadership Development) <Jose_Boza@dekalbschoolsga.org>; Richard Woods <rwoods@doe.k12.ga.us>; Ramona Tyson (Superintendent's Office) <ramona_tyson@dekalbschoolsga.org>; Laura Lashley <laura.lashley@nelsonmullins.com>; Alice Thompson (Sch Leader/Op Support) <alice_a_thompson@dekalbschoolsga.org>

Subject: Re: Policy IBB and Regulation

Thus our commitment in my email and in my letter to assist you and your team in succeeding as a strong local charter authorizer and, concomitantly, as a good charter partner.

Onward and upward!

Lou

Louis J. Erste
Associate Superintendent for Policy, Charter Schools,
District Flexibility, and Governmental Affairs
Georgia Department of Education