

Summary of Public Comments Concerning Proposed Amendments to the Massachusetts Charter School Regulations, 603 CMR 1.00

DRAFT for DISCUSSION ONLY - February 2014

| Key Comments | Department Response to Comments and Recommendations |
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| Requests for clarification about Horace Mann charter schools | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collective bargaining (“work rules” versus “agreed upon provisions of collective bargaining agreement”) | Clarified the regulation |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffing decisions (Hiring, firing, etc.) | Agreed that there are some ambiguities, but absent legislation, Department focus is on holding board of trustees responsible – no change recommended |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District/school responsibilities | Clarified the regulation |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOU (union sign-off opening procedures, etc.) | Response to some misperceptions - no change recommended |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrollment preferences | Clarified the regulation |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendments | Clarified the regulation |
| Concerns about changing the requisite two phase application process – (losing the current transparency and thoroughness of our review process) | Removed sentence in its entirety |
| Request for applicants and the Department to respond to public comment during the application review process | Response to some misperceptions - no change recommended |
| Proven provider – more focus on access and equity, more disaggregated data (statute doesn’t talk about race); requiring information about suspension, along with expulsion | Incorporated some of the suggested changes |
| Allowing weighted lotteries of some kind | Beyond the scope of statute – no change recommended |
| Recruitment and Retention plan – including specific strategies about disciplinary issues | Beyond the scope of statute – no change recommended |
| Boards of Trustees – training (clarification); requests that we emphasize fiduciary responsibilities, along with state ethics and open meeting law responsibilities, also requests to require | Incorporated some of the suggested changes |

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| board meeting in the local communities | |
| Charter schools and teacher evaluations | Beyond the scope of the statute – no change recommended |
| Investigations – “all significant matters” | Clarified the regulation |
| Amendments – concerns about charter schools changing location of facilities | Clarified the regulation about changing locations in districts already specified in charter |
| Closing schools if they don’t have comparable populations – failure to comply with Recruitment and Retention plan | Inconsistent with statute – no change recommended |
| Concerns about waivers (in general, opening procedures, delegation) | No change recommended |
| General concerns about delegation of authority from Board to Commissioner (Amendments, possible waivers-not even included in the amended regulations) | No change recommended |