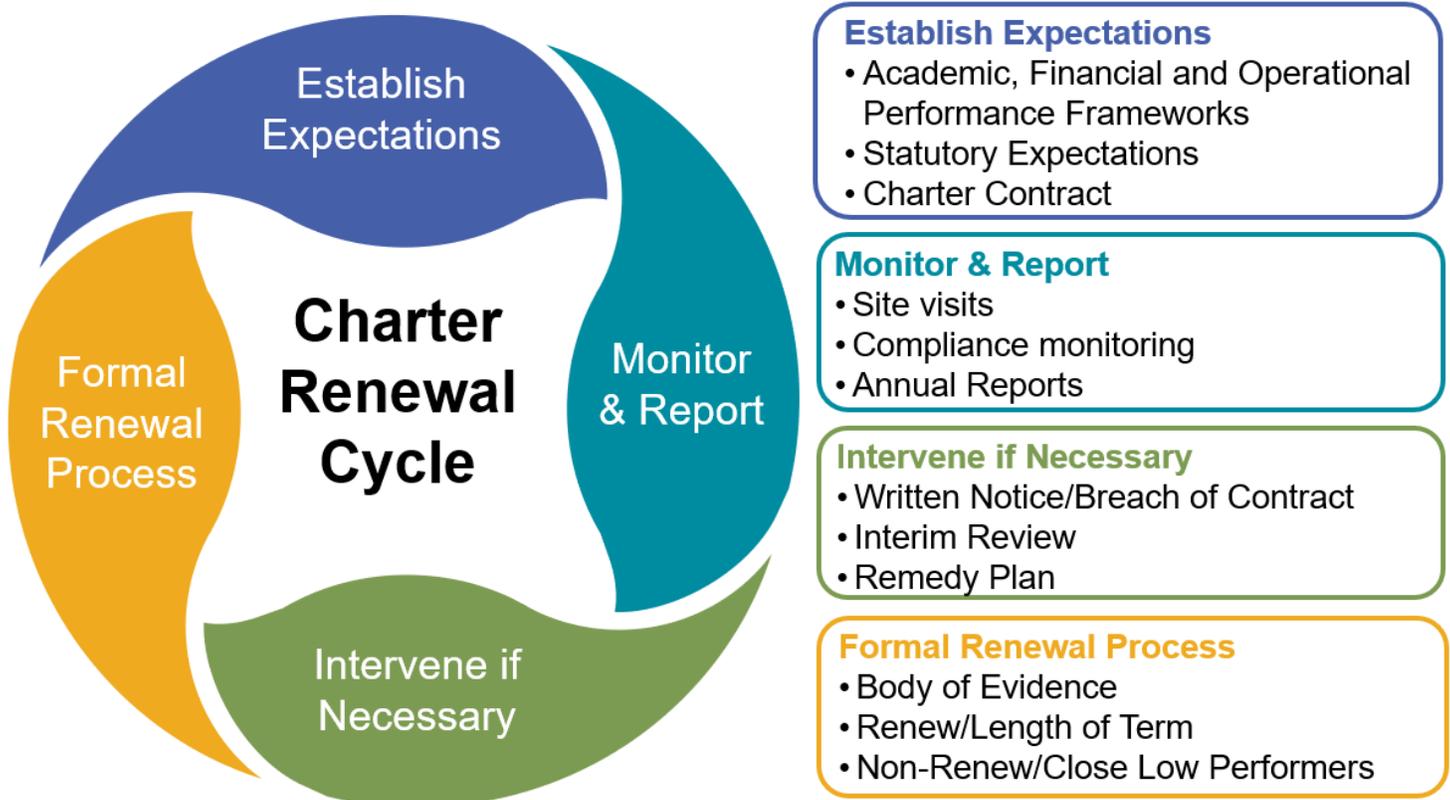


Why Charter Renewal?

- The authority to operate a charter school is granted through a limited-term, renewable contract.
- Renewal is not automatic – it must be earned through strong academic results, financial viability, and operational effectiveness.
- Charter schools are built around the promise of greater autonomy in exchange for greater accountability, and the renewal process provides an opportunity to review the charter school's prior performance.

A strong renewal process is critical to protect charter school autonomy, student rights, and the public interest, and ensures that schools are held to high standards.

The Charter Renewal Process



Quality Authorizer Practices

A quality authorizer designs and implements a transparent and rigorous process that uses comprehensive academic, financial, and operational performance data to make merit-based renewal decisions. Charter renewal is a NACSA Essential Practice, and the NACSA Quality Standards include several standards that focus on charter renewal. Here are some of the critical practices CSI employs as part of its standard renewal process.

Communication

Quality renewal practices include regularly updating and publishing the process for renewal decision-making, including guidance regarding required content and format for renewal applications.

Materials

- Comprehensive handbook
- Single page resources
- Website
- Supplemental resources

Process

- Year-long, aligned process
- Multiple board meetings
- Monthly phone calls

Data-Informed Decisions

Quality renewal practices include creating and using protocols and processes that allow for nuanced discussions, and collect numerous qualitative and quantitative data to inform and justify decisions with evidence.

Evaluation

- Annual Report
- Continuous improvement plan
- Multiple opportunities for engagement
- Streamlined application

Judgement

- Protocols and tools
- Collaborative review
- Time

Transparency

Quality renewal practices include the use of a renewal application that provides the school a meaningful opportunity and reasonable time to respond to the report and present additional evidence regarding its performance, when appropriate.

Expectations

- Renewal requirements/timelines
- Coaching support
- Alignment with annual reports
- Report, then recommendation

Feedback

- Aligned with annual reports
- Draft submission
- Authorizer board engagement

Site Visit

Quality renewal practices include formal site visits to collect information about schools to provide a more robust assessment of school performance, and often augment and amplify other quantitative performance information.

Implementation

- Alignment with continuous improvement plan
- Fidelity of implementation

Mission

- Highlight strengths
- Additional qualitative, observational and anecdotal information