



Understanding Bulletin 126’s Section 518

On March 5, 2015, the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) approved changes to Bulletin 126. Specifically, Section 518 sets out the academic, financial, and organizational requirements that must be met before an existing BESE-authorized charter may open subsequent approved charter schools. These standards include:

	Proposed Standards
Academic	<p>The school portfolio of the charter operator must have either:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An average SPS of a C or higher, calculated in a manner that correlates to the district performance score formula; or 2. If the portfolio of the charter operator is not at least a C average, each school must have made an average of five or more points of growth per year from the school’s pre-assessment index (if available) for all schools awarded a T, D, or F letter grade. <p>In the event that a charter operator contracts with a management organization, the State Superintendent may take into consideration the academic performance of all schools affiliated with the management organization in determining whether or not the charter operator is allowed to open a subsequent approved school.</p>
Financial	A majority of the charter operator’s schools meet the financial performance expectations in the Charter School Performance Compact, and each school has no unresolved notices of concern or breach.
Organizational	A majority of the charter operator’s schools meet the organizational performance expectations in the Charter School Performance Compact, and each school has no unresolved notices of concern or breach.

*Full language can be found at [http://www.boarddocs.com/la/bese/Board.nsf/files/9U222C000A8A/\\$file/SIT_3.1_Bulletin_126.charter%20revisions.pdf](http://www.boarddocs.com/la/bese/Board.nsf/files/9U222C000A8A/$file/SIT_3.1_Bulletin_126.charter%20revisions.pdf)

To be clear, this differs from BESE’s policy surrounding grade expansion. For state-authorized charter schools seeking changes in the grade levels they serve, they must request a material amendment from BESE.

District-authorized charters should check with their authorizer. Rules and regulations regarding expansion, replication, etc. should be found either in a charter’s contract with their district or in district policy.

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