As per the recommendations in the <u>Legislative Audit Report</u> dated June 2021, the Charter Institute at Erskine (Institute) is establishing a policy for school closure in the event of a charter revocation.

## **Institute Revocation Policy**

Pursuant to §59-40-110 (C) of the Charter Act of 1996, "a charter must be revoked or not renewed by the sponsor if it determines" the school:

- Committed a material violation of the conditions, standards, performance expectations, or procedures provided in the charter application, charter school contract, or both;
- Failed to meet the academic performance standards and expectations as defined in the charter application, charter school contract or both;
- Failed to maintain its books and records according to generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), failed to create an appropriate system of internal control, or both; or
- Violated any provision of law from which the charter school was not specifically exempted.

## Additionally, per §59-40-110 (D and E):

- A sponsor summarily may revoke any charter school determined by the sponsor to pose an imminent threat of harm to the health or safety of students, or both, based on documented and clear and convincing data; and
- Any charter school shall automatically and permanently close at the conclusion of the school year in which the school first becomes subject to automatic closure for receiving the lowest performance level rating as defined by the federal accountability system for three consecutive years beginning with student achievement data from the 2013-2014 school year.

## **Charter Revocation Process:**

- School fails to fulfill its obligations per the Charter/Charter Contract/State and/or Federal Law;
- Institute issues Notice of Noncompliance and may impose sanctions;
- Corrective Action Plan ("CAP") is developed and issued to the School;
- School fails to comply or violates CAP;
- Institute Staff may issue additional sanctions, corrective actions, and/or recommend the Institute Board revoke the School's charter;
- Institute Staff presents recommendation to revoke School's charter to Institute Board during a public Institute Board meeting;
- If Institute Board accepts Staff's recommendation, Institute Board issues Notice of Charter Revocation to School, and a Notice will be sent to the Stakeholders, including School Board, School Leadership, and SCDE.
- In accordance with S.C. Code § 59-40-110(H), the School may request a hearing before the Institute Board within fourteen days of receiving notice of nonrenewal or termination of charter;
  - If the School waives/fails to request a hearing, the Institute Board's vote to revoke the School's charter is final and School Closure Protocol is initiated;
- If the School timely requests a hearing in accordance with the Charter Act, the Institute Board shall give reasonable notice to the School's governing body of the hearing date;
- The Institute Board shall conduct a charter revocation hearing during a public board meeting before taking final action;
  - o If the charter revocation is upheld, the School Closure Protocol shall be initiated;
  - o If the charter revocation is overturned, the School and Institute may revisit the CAP and the Institute may impose additional corrective actions, sanctions, or place the School on revocation review.

This is a live document. As such, the most updated version can be found on the Charter Institute at Erskine website.

In alignment with state law requirements, the Charter Institute at Erskine (the "Institute")'s School Closure Protocol outlines tasks assigned in the closure process along with the person(s) or entity responsible for overseeing the task completion. The Institute's School Closure Protocol includes, but is not limited to:

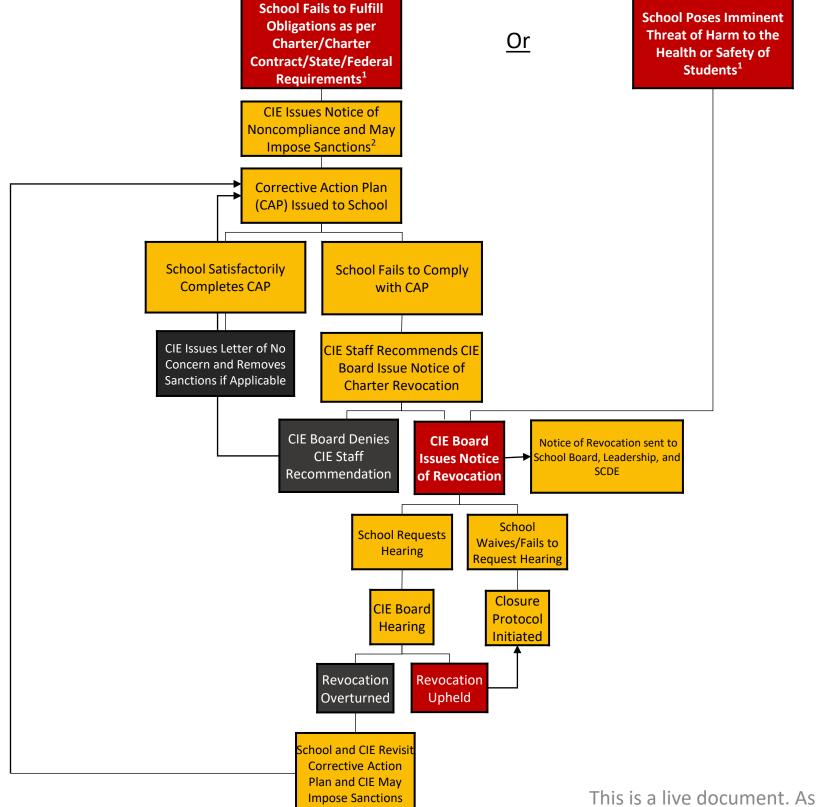
- School site visit(s);
- Notification to parents/guardians/SCDE/school board, leadership, and employees of school being issued Notice of Revocation, revocation of charter, and closure;
- Communication to parents/guardians of alternative public school options;
- Transfer of students and student records; and
- Disposition of school funds, property, and net assets.

Additionally, the Institute shall provide access to public documents related to the revocation review or Notice of Revocation to any stakeholders, including parents, guardians, students over 18, and employees of the School upon request.

Once the Institute Board makes the decision to revoke the charter, enrollment of additional students is prohibited, and all assets become property of the sponsor at the end of the fiscal year in which the charter was revoked (§59-40-120). The Institute shall provide notice of revocation to the South Carolina Department of Education with a copy of the board resolution within 10 business days of the Institute Board's decision to revoke the school's charter.

As per §59-40-110 (H), a charter school's governing body may request in writing a hearing before the Institute Board within 14 days of the Institute Board's issuance of the Notice of Revocation. The Institute shall give reasonable notice to the school board of the hearing date and conduct the hearing before taking final action. The Institute Board's decision must be made by the last day of classes in the school year.





<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>See Section §59-40-110 of the Charter Act of 1996

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Including enrollment freeze, etc.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Parents/Guardians, Students 18+, and Employees of School