

PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY FOR A PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

The performance framework is the most important tool that the Commission and charter schools will utilize as they collectively strive to create student centered, academically rigorous, fiscally sound and organizationally vibrant public charter schools. The Commission will look to the framework as a tool to "ensure the highest standards of accountability and oversight" RCW 28A.710.180 (1), and engage in continuous learning and compliance conversations with charter schools. Charter schools might also view the framework as a critical self-evaluation tool for both continuous improvement and compliance. As such, it is a tool for charter school planning, implementation, self-evaluation, authorizer monitoring and continuing improvement. As is the case with all tools, tools themselves do not transform environments; tool users do.

The Commission operates through the belief that expectations of charter schools need to be clear and transparent to both charter schools operators and the public. The Performance Framework is essentially three frameworks with associated measures and metrics that assure the Commission and the public of the school's academic growth and progress, financial health and viability, and compliance with state and federal regulations. It will be designed to treat all schools as though they are the same only in terms of meeting minimum legal and ethical requirements, thus enabling charter schools to retain flexibility and autonomy in determining their mission, vision and educational program.

Using a performance framework ensures high standards and accountability not by dictating inputs or controlling processes, but rather by **setting expectations** and supporting schools in being **responsible for results**.

Dual Development Focus

As important as the development of the Performance Framework measures is, the **process** the Commission will engage in to develop the framework is equally important. This process will include but is not limited to ongoing collaborations with charter schools and Commission partners via meetings, presentations, document review, trial runs, and focus groups.

The following are guiding questions that the Commission will address as it develops the framework:

- To what extent is the **purpose** of the framework understood by all users?
-

- To what extent does the framework accurately reflect a charter school’s impact on students in terms of academic growth and proficiency?
- To what extent is the framework clear, transparent, and user friendly, and are its results readily available?

