

UNIVERSAL ENROLLMENT UPDATE

Community Foundation of New Jersey Funders' Group
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AGENDA

Update on Common Enrollment and MOU Negotiations

Recent History of UE

- **In 2017, the NPS Advisory School Board voted to dismantle UE**
 - They did this with no plan for replacement, so at next meeting they voted to not dismantle in order to study issue further.
- **The Board's assumption of full powers with the return to local control in January 2018 renewed talks of changing or ending UE**
 - Three board members formed their own committee to examine the issue; they have called for two separate systems for charters and NPS.
 - Despite acknowledging the advantages of a common enrollment system and the improvements over time, they remained upset about the history of UE being state-imposed by Superintendents Anderson and Cerf.
- **Publicly, new Superintendent Roger Leon suggested improvements, but not the dismantling of UE or excluding charters**
 - Nevertheless, he abruptly forced the resignation of the 3-person leadership team at NPS responsible for overseeing the system; these personnel actions took effect on July 1 (his first day as Superintendent).

Timeline of UE MOU Negotiation

- **April-May 2018**
 - NCSF engages with NPS Board committee reviewing universal enrollment
 - NCSF contingency plans for separate charter system, developing business plan
- **June 2018**
 - Incoming Superintendent Roger León fires key people on enrollment team
 - NCSF contracts with research group to study algorithm so it can be replicated if needed.
- **July 2018**
 - Roger León holds meeting with charters, publicly committing to universal enrollment.
- **August 2018**
 - PDC prepares MOU 6 with minor changes and submits to NPS for review and approval
- **September 2018**
 - NPS accepts our changes and proposes several more, including eliminating overmatching
- **October 2018**
 - PDC pushes back on the overmatching issues, which is critical for independent charters
 - NPS Board does not vote on UE MOU at regular meeting, making it impossible for charter to approve

Current Status of UE MOU

- **On November 8, Superintendent León met with charter leaders explaining MOU**
 - Charters expressed overmatching is a serious issue and NPS not passing MOU holds up their approval
- **On November 12, NPS Board held an emergency meeting to approve MOU**
 - Superintendent gave vocal defense of UE and reaffirmed his commitment to current system
 - 6 members voted yes, 2 abstained, one was absent
- **Language limiting overmatching was simply omitted**
 - Charters celebrated lack of limits on overmatching
 - Superintendent León said he doesn't believe it is necessary but said no major changes were made to the agreement

NCSF and partners have successfully negotiated a MOU agreement that all previously committed charters have agreed to and that the Newark Board of Education has approved. We must continue to be vigilant to ensure that the system is implemented effectively by the District for our charter school partners.

Next Steps with UE

Currently in motion:

- MOU has been shared for charter approval during their November/December board meetings
- NCSF and NJCF considering ways to support NPS to ensure smooth implementation

In the coming weeks:

- December 3: Application opens
- December 8: School Fair & Guidebook Launch
- February 15: Application closes
- Week of April 15: Matches released

Discussion and Questions