

Relations With Charter Schools

The Board of Education shall support efforts by parents, teachers or other interested persons or organizations interested in establishing charter schools within the district. In accordance with state law, among other purpose, charter schools are intended to:

- Expand learning opportunities for all students.
- Encourage diverse approaches to learning and education through the use of different, innovative, research-based, or proven-teaching methods.
- Provide parents and students with expanded choices in the types of educational opportunities that are available within the public school system.
- Encourage parental and community involvement with public schools.

A charter school shall be a public, nonsectarian, nonreligious, non-home-based school, which operates within the school district and is accountable to the Board of Education. It is subject to all federal and state laws and constitutional provisions prohibiting discrimination on the basis of disability, race, creed, color, gender, national origin, religion, ancestry or need for special education services.

Enrollment shall be open to any child who resides within the school district and to non-resident students as provided by law. However, no charter school shall be required to make alterations in the structure of its facility or the arrangement or function of rooms within the facility except as may be required by state or federal law. A charter school shall not charge tuition except as otherwise provided by law.

Each charter school shall be governed by its own governing body in a manner agreed to by the charter school applicant and the Board. Pursuant to contract, the charter school may operate free from specified Board policies and state regulations.

A charter school shall be responsible for its own operation including but not limited to preparation of a budget, contracting for services and personnel matters. Services for which a charter school contracts with the school district shall be negotiated and provided at district cost. No rent shall be charged for use of district facilities that may be deemed available by the Board for the charter school. All charter schools shall annually complete a governmental audit that complies with the requirements of the Colorado Department of Education.

The relationship between the district and the charter school shall be established by a contract which shall incorporate the charter application once it is approved. The contract also shall reflect all agreements between the district and the charter school including the release of the charter school from Board policies and all requests for release from state regulations which the Board and the charter school shall jointly request from the State Board of Education.

Each charter school shall have an educational program that is researched-based and proven to be effective with student performance standards and curriculum that meets or exceeds district and state standards.

The date for submitting charter school applications for schools which propose to operate during the following school year shall be September 1.

All charter school applications shall be ruled upon, by resolution of the Board, within seventy-five (75) days of being filed. If approval is granted with stated conditions, a date for fulfilling the conditions shall be stated which, except in unusual circumstances, shall not be later than March 15. If the application is denied, the Board shall state its reason for denial.

A charter school shall begin in the fall following the date the application is approved, unless another starting time is agreed upon by the Board and the applicant.

Pursuant to section 109 of the Charter Schools Act the Board shall not impose a moratorium on the approval of charter schools within the School District.

The applicant and the Board of Education may jointly waive the deadlines contained in this policy.

Adopted: April 1994
Revised: January 1995
Revised: June 26, 2001
Revised: August 28, 2001
Revised: May 10, 2005
Revised: May 28, 2013

LEGAL REF.: C.R.S. 22-30.5-101 *et seq.* (Charter Schools Act)