



Frequently Asked Questions

General Information

What are charter schools?



Who is eligible to attend charter schools?



How are charter schools created, organized, and operated?



Charter schools are created when an individual, a group of parents or teachers, a business, a municipality, or a legal entity submits an application to the school district; the school district approves the application; the applicants form a governing board that negotiates a contract with the district school board; and the applicants and district school board agree upon a charter or contract. The district school board then becomes the sponsor of the charter school. The negotiated contract outlines expectations of both parties regarding the school's academic and financial performance.

A charter school must be organized as, or be operated by, a nonprofit organization. The charter school may serve at-risk students, or offer a specialized curriculum or core academic program, provide early intervention programs, or serve exceptional education students.

Are virtual charter schools allowed?



How does the application process work for a charter school?



What is the Charter School Appeal Commission?



What specific statutory requirements apply to charter school operations?



Are there parental involvement requirements for charter schools?



Are charter schools exempt from state statutes?



Are charter school teachers required to be certified?



What are conversion charter schools?



What are charter schools-in-the-workplace?



Are charter school administrators required to be certified?



What are charter schools-in-a-municipality?



What are community college charter schools?



What is a high-performing charter school?



What is a high-performing charter school system?



What are the benefits offered to a high-performing charter school?



How do the instructional and administrative personnel of a charter school compare with the personnel of a traditional public school?



Accountability

How are charter schools held accountable?



How are the constitutionally mandated class size reduction requirements being implemented in charter schools?



Funding

How are charter school operations funded?



What services does the district provide for the charter school?



How do charter schools provide transportation?



How are charter school facilities funded?



What are the eligibility criteria for charter schools to receive capital outlay?



What are the permissible uses of capital outlay funds by charter schools?



What happens to charter school funds and property when a charter school is closed?



What are the applicable statutes and rules?

