Book Policy Manual

Section Section L: Education-Agency Relations

Title Relations with Charter Schools

Code LBD

Status Active

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RELATIONS WITH CHARTER SCHOOLS

Office/Custodian - Education/Superintendent

The Board of Education supports efforts by parents/guardians, teachers, or other interested persons or organizations interested in establishing charter schools within the District. In accordance with state law, District charter schools are intended to:

Expand learning opportunities for all students.
Encourage diverse approaches to learning through the use of different, innovative, research-based or proven teaching methods.
Provide parents/guardians 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 District charter school is a public, nonsectarian, nonreligious, non-home-based school which operates within the District and is accountable to the District's 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, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, religion, ancestry, age, genetic information, need for special education services, or conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth. A District charter school has standing to sue and be sued in its own name for the enforcement of any contract it is authorized by law to enter into.

Enrollment is open to any child who resides within the District or in contiguous school districts and who meets the criteria in the charter application. Students participating in any on-line program offered by the District charter school are not required to reside in the District or contiguous districts. There shall be no restriction on the number of on-line students that may enroll in any on-line program offered by the District charter school. No District charter school is required to make alterations in the structure of its facility or the arrangement of function of rooms within the facility except as may be required by state or federal law. A District charter school shall not charge tuition except as otherwise provided by law.

Each District charter school is governed by its own governing body in a manner agreed to by the District charter school applicant and the Board. An approved District charter application will serve as the basis for a contract between the District charter school and the Board. The contract must reflect all agreements between the District and the District charter school including the waiver of local District policies and the waiver of statutory requirements of rules by the State Board of Education.

A District charter school must comply with all the state financial and budget rules, regulations and financial reporting requirements with which the District is required to comply.
A District charter school is responsible for its own operation, including but not limited to preparation of a budget, contracting for services, and personnel matters.

Services for which a District charter school contracts with the District will be negotiated and provided at District cost.

Any money received by a District charter school from any source that remains at the end of any budget year will remain in the District charter school account for use by the District charter school in subsequent years.

The District charter school will use the District student information system (SIS), including the student registration system, as their primary source of student data. The cost of the SIS to the District charter school will be provided at District cost. A District charter school can apply for a waiver, with a replacement plan and rationale. Schools that are approved for a waiver could incur an additional service fee.

The District charter school will use the District Special Programs Management System (SPMS) as their primary source of student data as it relates to special programs. The cost of the SPMS to the District charter school will be provided at District cost. A District charter school can apply for a waiver, with a replacement plan and rationale. Schools that are approved for a waiver could incur an additional service fee.

A District charter school may offer any educational program that may be offered by a school district, including an on line program, unless expressly prohibited by its charter or state law. Each District charter school shall have an educational program designed to enable students to meet or exceed District and state content standards.

The Board encourages District charter applicants to develop an educational program to serve the needs of students considered academically disadvantaged as evidenced by poor performance on the state assessments, among other things.

A District charter school will begin at the beginning of the next school year following the date the application is approved, unless another starting time is agreed upon by the Board and the applicant.

The period for which a new District charter may be approved is a minimum of four academic years and a maximum of five academic years except that a District charter school and the local board may agree to extend the charter beyond five years for the purpose of enhancing the terms of any lease or financial obligation. Renewal of a charter must be for a period of not more than five years.

Legal

42 U.S.C. 2000ff et seq. (Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008)

C.R.S. 13-80-103.9 (liability for failure to perform an education employment required background check)

C.R.S. 19-2-402 (3)(c) (charter schools pay the proportionate share of educational expense of students in juvenile detention facilities)

C.R.S. 22-2-119 (inquiries prior to hiring)

C.R.S. 22-30.5-101 et seq. (Charter Schools Act)

C.R.S. 22-30.5-110 (1.3) (district must adopt procedures and timelines for the charter renewal process)

C.R.S. 22-30.5-110 (6) (district must adopt procedures for closing a charter)

C.R.S. 22-30.5-701 et seq. (Charter School Emergency Powers Act)

C.R.S. 22-32-109 (1)(pp) (district must annually distribute to district charter schools informational materials relating to federal student loan repayment programs and student loan forgiveness programs)

C.R.S. 22-32-120 (5) (district charter school may apply to the Colorado Department of Education for authorization as a school food authority)

C.R.S. 22-32-124 (Pursuant to section 104 of the Charter School Act, all decisions regarding the planning, siting, and inspection of charter schools must be made in accordance with the same statute that applies to school districts.)

1 CCR 301-88 (State Board of Education's rules establishing guiding principles for charter schools and charter school authorizers)

LBD-E-Charter School Application.pdf (350 KB)