



Responsible Office(s): Office of Student Services

**BOARD POLICY 6700
CHARTER SCHOOLS**

PURPOSE

As a sponsor of charter schools, the Board of Trustees (“Board”) recognizes the importance of parent choice when selecting public education options for families. The Board supports student success by sponsoring charter schools that provide rigorous, innovative, high-quality learning opportunities for the students in the Washoe County School District (“District” or “WCSD”). The Board shall consider the sponsorship of charter schools that support the District’s mission and core beliefs as provided by law. This policy, and any associated documents, support these commitments.

POLICY

1. Guiding Principles

- a. The District promotes educational options for students and families to ensure that all students remain academically engaged and prepared to graduate college-and career-ready.
- b. Through its commitment to work with families and community partners, the District will sponsor charter schools that provide a variety of educational options to students and families in the Washoe County community.
- c. The District uses data to drive accountability for all schools and holds District sponsored charter schools to a high academic and fiscal standard.

2. Guiding Practices

- a. The District shall:
 - i. Adopt a performance framework and incorporate it into the charter contract.
 - ii. Have policies and practices that outline the procedure and criteria for soliciting and evaluating new charter school applications.
 - iii. Negotiate and execute charter agreements between the District and the District sponsored charter schools. Such agreements shall

state the obligations of both the District as a sponsor of the charter school and the obligations of the charter school.

- 1) A charter may be renewed for six years. At the completion of the charter contract, the charter school will need to seek renewal through the sponsor.
- iv. Build a culture of collaboration between the District and District sponsored charter schools.
 - v. Provide a District administrator who will serve as a District liaison to District sponsored charter schools. The District administrator will be responsible for coordinating:
 - 1) annual monitoring/auditing of the performance and compliance of District sponsored charter schools; and
 - 2) the renewal process for District sponsored charter schools.
 - vi. Offer technical support and inclusion in District professional learning to District sponsored charter schools.
 - vii. Reconstitute the governing body of a charter school, revoke a written charter or terminate a charter contract before the expiration of the charter should the District determine the charter school is in violation of state law (NRS 388A.330). This process is documented in administrative regulation.
- b. Each District sponsored charter school shall:
- i. Maintain a minimum two-star classification on the Nevada State Performance Framework annually.
 - ii. Maintain a stable and sustainable financial condition.
 - iii. Maintain sound governance practices in reporting and administration and comply with the requirements of Nevada state laws and regulations, to include those of the Nevada Department of Education.
 - iv. Meet the needs of diverse student populations, including but not limited to English Learners, students with disabilities, students on Section 504 Plans, Gifted and Talented students, and students with behavior concerns.

DEFINITIONS

1. A charter school is a school that receives public funding but operates independently of the established public school district in which it is located.
2. Charter application: Application received by the District for the proposition of opening a new District sponsored charter school.

DESIRED OUTCOMES

1. Through this policy, the Board states its belief that the following ideals are vital to meeting the unique needs and interests of all children in Washoe County:
 - a. Providing educational options to students and families; and
 - b. Ensuring that all students are challenged by a rigorous curriculum, encouraged and engaged by differentiated instruction, and graduate fully prepared for future careers and/or further educational opportunities.

IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES & ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

1. This policy reflects the goals of the District's Strategic Plan and aligns/complies with the governing documents of the District.
2. This policy complies with Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) and Nevada Administrative Code (NAC), to include:
 - a. Chapter 388A, Charter Schools

REVIEW AND REPORTING

1. This document shall be reviewed as part of the bi-annual review and reporting process, following each regular session of the Nevada Legislature. The Board of Trustees shall receive notification of any required changes to the policy as well as an audit of the accompanying governing documents.
2. The Washoe County School District Board of Trustees will receive an annual monitoring report for each district sponsored charter school at a Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees.

REVISION HISTORY

Date	Revision	Modification
11/18/2014	1.0	Adopted
6/27/2017	2.0	Revised: