



Responsible Office(s): Office of Strategies and Ombudsman 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.

DEFINITIONS

1. A charter school is a political subdivision of the State of Nevada for the purposes of 43 U.S.C. §§ 869 et seq. and law relating to purchasing or leasing public land, but operates independently of the established public school district in which it is located.
2. A charter application is submitted to the District for the proposition of opening a new District sponsored charter school.

POLICY

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. The District uses data to drive accountability for all schools and holds District sponsored charter schools to a high academic and fiscal standard.
4. The District shall:
 - a. Adopt a performance framework and incorporate it into the charter contract.
 - b. Have policies and practices that outline the procedure and criteria for soliciting and evaluating new charter school applications.

- c. 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.
 - i. An initial written charter contract must be for a term of 6 years.
 - ii. A charter contract may be renewed for not less than three years and not more than ten years. At the completion of the charter contract, the charter school will need to seek renewal through the sponsor.
 - d. Build a culture of collaboration between the District and District sponsored charter schools.
 - e. Provide a District administrator who will serve as a District liaison to District sponsored charter schools. The District administrator will be responsible for coordinating:
 - i. annual monitoring/auditing of the performance and compliance of District sponsored charter schools; and
 - ii. The renewal process for District sponsored charter schools.
 - f. Offer technical support and inclusion in District professional learning to District sponsored charter schools.
 - g. 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.
5. Each District sponsored charter school shall:
- a. Maintain a minimum two-star classification on the Nevada State Performance Framework annually.
 - b. Maintain a stable and sustainable financial condition.
 - c. 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.
 - d. 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.
6. The Board will receive an annual monitoring report for each District sponsored charter school at a Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS & 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

REVISION HISTORY

Date	Revision	Modification
11/18/2014	1.0	Adopted
6/27/2017	2.0	Revised to include the basic structure of the District's responsibilities for sponsorship of a charter school
10/15/2019	3.0	Revised to comply with Senate Bill 451 (2019) related to renewal terms