

FILE: LBD

MEDFORD AREA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

DATE ADOPTED: February 17, 2005
DATE REVISED: December 17, 2009
DATE REVISED: August 20, 2015

**FILE SECTOR: EDUCATION AGENCY
RELATIONS**
POLICY TITLE: CHARTER EDUCATION

Charter schools provide an opportunity to develop innovative educational programs, governance structures, and provide parental and student instructional alternatives within the public school system. The board of education will consider the establishment of a charter school as provided by state statute and administrative procedures. Charter schools established by the district must adhere to the district's vision and mission statements, as well as its own, meet state and local educational goals, and measure student progress in attaining these goals. The granting, and renewal, of charter agreements will be at the sole discretion and autonomy of the board of education. Petitions regarding the establishment of a proposed charter school must be submitted no later than December 1 of the school year preceding intended implementation. A public hearing will be held within 30 days of the receipt of the petition. The board will make a final decision on establishing a new charter school no later than 30 days following the public hearing.

Criteria used to make a decision on renewal will include, but not be limited to, student achievement, stakeholder interest, experience under the existing charter, availability of staff, and district resources.

A charter may be revoked by the board of education for the following circumstances:

- a) The charter school violated its contract with the board of education; or
- b) The students enrolled in the charter school failed to make sufficient progress toward attaining its educational goals; or
- c) The charter school failed to comply with generally accepted accounting standards of fiscal management; or
- d) The charter school violated the Wisconsin Charter School Law.

CROSS REFERENCE: BBA & IGCG
LEGAL REFERENCE: Wis. Stat. 118.40

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The Medford Area Public School District has developed the following guidelines for Charter Schools within the district:

I. Establishment - A charter school may be established by board initiative or by petition.

A. Board Initiative

The administration, members of the staff, parent(s)/guardian(s), or community members may present proposals to the board seeking to initiate a charter. The proposals must indicate whether or not the proposed charter school is intended to be an instrumentality of the Medford Area Public School District.

A proposal to have the school board initiate a charter must be submitted to the district administrator in writing prior to January 1 of the year preceding the proposed opening of a charter school. The proposal will be forwarded to the school board to determine whether or not further consideration is warranted.

The proposal must include information outlined in the state statutes and district policy. The board will decide if the proposal is sufficiently complete and is aligned with the mission of the district and its own. In addition, the Charter must be sufficiently different from existing educational programs within the district to offer an alternative educational choice and must be financially feasible without imposing undue hardship on other schools/programs within the district.

B. Petition

A charter school may be established by petition in accordance with provisions of state statute. If a petition to establish a charter school is filed, the board will review the petition for adherence to statutory provisions and district policy. The board will hold a public hearing on the matter of the Charter within 30 days of receipt of the petition.

An individual, group, or organization seeking to petition the Medford Area Public School Board for Charter School status must submit the petition to the school board no later than December 1. The petition must include information outlined in the state statute and district policy.

The school board will hold a public hearing within 30 days of receipt of the petition. Following the public hearing, the school board must, within 30 days, decide whether or not to grant the petition. If the school board denies the petition, the applicant seeking to establish a charter school may appeal the decision to the state Department of Public Instruction. Such appeal must be made within 30 days of receipt of denial. The DPI decision is final and is not subject to judicial review.

II. Approval/Renewal Process

- A. The school board will, no later than 30 days after a public hearing on a petition, approve or deny a petition request for charter school status.
- B. The school board will, no later than the April school board meeting prior to proposed establishment approve or deny a request to establish a charter submitted under 1A. Board initiative of policy BBAB.
- C. The school board will notify the state superintendent of its intention to establish a charter school within the district municipality. The notification shall include a description of the proposed school. The description must include the following:
 - 1) The name of the person or persons who are seeking to establish the charter school.
 - 2) The name of the person who will administer the charter school and the manner in which administrative services will be provided.
 - 3) A description of the educational program of the charter school.
 - 4) The methods the charter school will use to enable students to attain the educational goals identified in state statute.
 - 5) The method by which student progress in attaining the educational goals identified in state statute will be measured and reported.
 - 6) The governance structure of the charter school, including the method to be followed by the charter school to ensure parental involvement.
 - 7) The qualifications that must be met by the individuals to be employed in the charter school, subject to state statute.
 - 8) The procedures that the charter school will follow to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of the students.
 - 9) The means by which the charter school will achieve a racial and ethnic balance among its students that is reflective of the school district population.
 - 10) The requirements for admission to the charter school.
 - 11) The manner by which annual audits of the financial and programmatic operations of the charter school will be performed.
 - 12) The procedures for disciplining students.
 - 13) The public school alternatives for students who reside in the school district and do not wish to attend or are not admitted to the charter school.
 - 14) A description of the charter school facilities and the types and limits of liability insurance that the charter school will carry.

- 15) The effect of the establishment of the charter school on the liability of the school district.
 - 16) The fiscal resource to be allocated to the charter school by the Medford Area Public School District during each school year of the contract and the budget for such.
 - 17) The services to be provided by the Medford Area Public School District to the charter school.
 - 18) The services which will be provided to special education students attending the charter school.
 - 19) Assurances that the charter school will follow and uphold all applicable policies of the Medford Area Public School District, including but not limited to, non-discrimination.
- C. The school board shall direct the administration to negotiate a contract with the charter school applicant(s). The contract may be for not less than two nor more than five years. The contract may be renewed for one or more terms not exceeding five school years each.
- D. An application for renewal of a charter school must be submitted to the board no later than six months prior to the expiration of the existing charter.

III. Evaluation

A. Annual Review

A charter school established by the school district will be reviewed on an annual basis for performance standards including, but not necessarily limited to, student attainment of educational goals. The annual review shall also include a report of the charter school's fiscal audit.

B. State Assessments

Students enrolled in the charter school will participate in all statutorily required student assessments.

CROSS REFERENCE: BBA & IGCG
LEGAL REFERENCE: Wis. Stat. 118.40