

Relations with Charter Schools

The Board of Education supports efforts by parents, teachers or other interested persons or organizations interested in establishing charter schools within the District. The State of Colorado has authorized charter schools as one avenue for parents, teachers and community members to provide for education of children within the public school system. In accordance with state law, charter schools are intended to:

- Improve pupil learning by creating schools with high, rigorous standards for pupil performance
- Increase learning opportunities for all students, with special emphasis on expanded learning experiences for pupils identified as academically low achieving
- Encourage diverse approaches to learning through the use of different, proven or innovative teaching methods
- Allow development of different and innovative forms of measuring pupil learning and achievement
- Create new professional opportunities for teachers, including the opportunity to be responsible for the learning programs at a school site
- Provide parents 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
- Create a legitimate avenue for parents, teachers, and community members to take responsible risks, and create new innovative and more flexible ways of educating students
- Create an atmosphere where research and development of different learning opportunities are actively pursued

A charter school shall be a public, nonsectarian, nonreligious, non-home-based school which operates within the school district and is accountable to the 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, gender, national origin, religion, ancestry or need for special education services and any court-ordered desegregation plan in effect for the district. A 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 shall be open to any child who resides within the school district and who meets the criteria in the charter school application. However, no charter school shall be required to make alterations in the structure of its facility or the arrangement or function of rooms within the facility except as may be required by state or federal law. The majority of the charter school's students, other than online students, must reside in the school district or in a contiguous school district. A charter school shall not charge tuition except as otherwise provided by law.

Each charter school shall be governed by its own governing body in a manner agreed to by the charter school applicant and the Board of Education. Pursuant to contract, the charter school may operate free from specified Board of Education policies and state regulations, except that a charter school shall not operate free of the requirements in the Public School Finance Act of 1994, Article 54 of the Charter School Act, or requirements contained in the "Children's Internet Protection Act".

A charter school shall be responsible for its own operation including but not limited to preparation of a budget, personnel matters, contracting for services, and acquiring facilities. Services for which a charter school contracts with the school district shall be negotiated and provided at District cost. No rent shall be charged for use of District facilities which may be available for the charter school. Any moneys received by a charter school from any source that remain at the end of any budget year shall remain in the charter school account for use by the charter school in subsequent years.

The relationship between the District and the charter school shall be established by a yearly contract. The contract also shall reflect all agreements between the District and the charter school including the release of the charter school from Board of Education policies, negotiated agreement, and all requests for release from state regulations which the Board of Education and the charter school shall jointly request from the State Board of Education.

Each charter school shall have an educational program with student performance standards and curriculum that meets or exceeds district and state standards.

A charter school shall begin operation in the fall following the date the application is approved.

The period for which a new charter may be approved is a minimum of three academic years and a maximum of five academic years. Renewal of a charter shall be for a period of not more than fifteen years.

Adopted: May 11, 1994
Revised: March 22, 1995
Revised: August 13, 1997
Revised: September 8, 1999
Revised: October 13, 2004
Revised: January 12, 2011

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

St. Vrain Valley School District RE-1J, Longmont, Colorado