

Palmyra Area School District

SECTION: PROGRAMS

TITLE: CHARTER SCHOOLS

ADOPTED: May 14, 1998

REVISED: June 9, 2005

<p>1. Purpose SC 1702-A</p> <p>2. Definitions SC 1703-A 1715-A 1717-A</p> <p>SC 1703-A 1718-A</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">140. CHARTER SCHOOLS</p> <p>The purpose of this policy is to set forth policies and procedures for the Board’s review and evaluation, in accordance with the requirements of the Charter School Law (Act 22 of 1997) and any requirements established by the Board, of an application submitted for a charter school located within the school district.</p> <p>The Board shall work cooperatively with any individual or group which chooses to submit an application for a charter school.</p> <p>Appeal Board means the State Charter School Appeal Board established by the Charter School Law.</p> <p>Board means the Board of School Directors of the Palmyra Area School District.</p> <p>Charter School means an independent, non-sectarian public school established and operated under a charter from the Board and in which students are enrolled or attend. A charter school must be organized as a public, nonprofit corporation; a charter may not be granted to any for-profit entity or to support home schooling programs.</p> <p>Regional Charter School means an independent, non-sectarian public school established and operated under a charter from more than one (1) local Board of School Directors and approved by an affirmative vote of a majority of all Board members of each of the school districts.</p> <p>School District means the Palmyra Area School District.</p>
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<p>3. Authority</p> <p>SC 1717-E</p>	<p>The Board shall ensure that each charter school application provides appropriate assurances of compliance with the requirements of the Charter School Law and any additional requirements established by the Board.</p> <p>The Board shall evaluate submitted applications for charter schools based on the criteria established by law and any additional appropriate criteria as determined by the Board as set forth below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The demonstrated, sustainable support for the charter school plan by teachers, parents, other community members and students, including comments received at the public hearings. 2. The capability of the charter school applicant, in terms of support and planning, to provide comprehensive learning experiences to students pursuant to the adopted charter. 3. The extent to which the application considers the information requested in Section 1719-A of the Charter School Law and conforms to the legislative intent outlined in Section 1702-A of the Charter School Law. 4. The extent to which the charter school may serve as a model for other public schools. 5. The extent to which the applicant demonstrates the manner in which it will provide a free and appropriate education to all students eligible for special education in accordance with individualized education plans. 6. The extent to which the applicant demonstrates existing tangible educational results for its program or that the program that it intends to implement has achieved demonstrable results. 7. The extent to which the applicant will apply any quality assessment criteria or quality assurance standards generally utilized by the school district. 8. The acceptance of standards for assessment and evaluation of students which are at least as rigorous as those utilized by the school district. 9. Documented financial resources sufficient to insure delivery of a quality education to students. 10. The adoption of a disciplinary code and due process procedures applicable to students which provide at least the same student rights as exist under the regulations of the State Board of Education. 11. A plan demonstrating that the applicant will recruit and accept students with extraordinary social, economic and/or educational needs.
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	<p>12. The extent to which the applicant will provide a program which will deliver, at least in part, educational services that are not presently provided by the school district.</p> <p>13. The extent to which the applicant’s program will assure a stable pupil population without excessive turnover.</p> <p>14. The extent to which the applicant will utilize child accounting procedures that are at least as stringent as those used by the school district.</p>
<p>SC 1717-E 1717-F 65 P. S. 271 et esq</p>	<p>A charter school application shall be approved or denied by a majority vote of all Board members at a public meeting held in accordance with the provisions of the Sunshine Act.</p>
<p>SC 1720-A</p>	<p>Upon approval of an application for a charter school, the Board and the charter school’s Board of Trustees shall sign the written charter, which shall be binding on both. The charter shall be for a period of three (3) to five (5) years as determined by the Board and may be renewed for five-year periods by the Board.</p> <p>If the application is denied, written notice of the Board’s decision shall be sent to the applicant, the Department of Education and the Appeal Board, including reasons for the denial and a clear description of application deficiencies. The Board shall evaluate denied applications that are revised and resubmitted.</p>
<p>SC 1728-A 1728-B</p>	<p>The Board shall annually assess whether each charter school is meeting the goals and requirements of its charter and shall require each charter school to submit an annual report no later than August 1 of each year.</p>
<p>SC 1728-A</p>	<p>The Board shall conduct a comprehensive review prior to granting a five-year renewal of the charter.</p>
<p>SC 1729-G</p>	<p>In cases where the health or safety of a charter school’s students, staff or both is at risk, the Board may take immediate action to revoke a charter.</p>
<p>SC 1728-A</p>	<p>The Board shall have ongoing access to the records and facilities of a charter school to ensure that the charter school is in compliance with its charter, Board policy and applicable laws.</p>
<p>4. Delegation of Responsibility SC 1717 1719-A</p>	<p><u>Applications</u></p> <p>Applications for charter schools must contain all the information specified in the Charter School Law and any additional information required by the Board.</p>

Applications for charter schools shall be submitted to the Superintendent by November 15 of the school year preceding the school year in which the charter school will be established.

Within forty-five (45) days of receipt, the Board shall hold at least one (1) public hearing on the charter application in accordance with the Sunshine Act.

At least forty-five (45) days must pass between the first public hearing and the final decision of the Board. No later than seventy-five (75) days after the first public hearing, the Board shall grant or deny the application.

