

Charter School Application Review Criteria

Per PA Charter School Law, charter school applications are to be evaluated based on criteria including, but not limited to:

- 1. The demonstrated, sustainable support for the charter school plan by teachers, parents, other community members and students, including comments received at the public hearing**
- 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 charter school may serve as a model for other public schools**

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4. The extent to which the application considers the information requested in section 1719-A and conforms to the legislative intent of the law

Among the criteria included in Section 1719-A:

- Proposed governance structure of the charter school, including a description and method for the appointment or election of members of the board of trustees
- The mission and education goals of the charter school, the curriculum to be offered and the methods of assessing whether students are meeting educational goals
- The financial plan for the charter school and the provisions which will be made for auditing the school under section 437
- A description of and address for the physical facility in which the charter school will be located and the ownership thereof and any lease agreements

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Legislative Intent of Charter School Law

1. Improve pupil learning.
2. Increase learning opportunities for all pupils.
3. Encourage the use of different and innovative teaching methods.
4. Create new professional opportunities for teachers, including the opportunity to be responsible for the learning program at the school site.
5. Provide parents and pupils with expanded choices in the types of educational opportunities that are available within the public school system.
6. Hold the school established under this act accountable for meeting measureable academic standards and provide the school with a method to establish accountability systems.

PPS Charter School Application Review Criteria based on Charter School Law

1. Mission, Purpose and Needs, Marketing Data
2. Strategic Planning
3. Management Plan
4. Education Plan
5. Operations
6. Personnel/Leaders

Final Checklist for Compliance Under Charter School Law

Criteria	Yes	No
1a. Does the charter school have current petitions and letters of support from teachers, parents, students and the community?		
1b. Did the charter school have support from the community at the public hearing?		
2. Does the charter school provide the School District of Pittsburgh with expanded choices in the types of educational opportunities currently being offered?		
3. Is the governance structure of the charter school in compliance with all federal, state and local regulations and the PA school code?		
4. Does the application consider all the information requested in section 1719-A and conform to the legislative intent outlined in section 1702-A?		
5. Is the curriculum complete and comprehensive; aligned to state standards?		
6. Does the charter school provide a continuum of services to meet the needs of all students, including students with disabilities, English language learners and at-risk students?		
7. Is the proposed charter school financially viable?		
8. Is a location identified that can comply with all federal, state and local health and safety regulations?		
9. Can the charter school serve as a model for other schools in the District?		