

**Policy Statement #1915 (Administration) of the Board of Education
Regarding the Establishment of Public Charter Schools**

I. Purpose

- A. To provide parents and students an alternative means within the existing public-school system for additional innovative learning opportunities and creative educational approaches for the education of students that provides flexibility and autonomy in exchange for innovation, educational reform and high accountability

II. Definition

A. "Public Charter School" means a public school that:

1. Is nonsectarian in all its programs, policies, and operations;
2. Is a school to which parents choose to send their children;
3. Is open to all students on a space-available basis and admits students on a lottery basis if more students apply than can be accommodated;
4. Is a new public school or a conversion of an existing public school;
5. Provides a program of elementary or secondary education or both;
6. Operates in pursuit of a specific set of educational objectives;
7. Is tuition-free for all students who are eligible to attend any other Calvert County public school tuition-free;
8. Is subject to federal and state laws including those prohibiting discrimination;
9. Is in compliance with all applicable health and safety laws;
10. Requires students to be physically present on school premises for a period of time substantially similar to that which other Calvert County Public School students spend on school premises;
11. Operates under the supervision of the public chartering authority from which its charter is granted and in accordance with its charter. Is created in accordance with state law and regulations, and under the control of the Board of Education of Calvert County;
12. Will comply with all Board of Education policies and procedures unless they have obtained a waiver; and
13. Is responsible for providing its own facility that meets all federal, state, and local statutes, regulations, and ordinances in addition to all appropriate Board policies, regulations, procedures and guidelines.

- B. Public chartering authority – The primary chartering authority is the Calvert County Board of Education and the secondary chartering authority is the Maryland State Board of Education.

III. Policy Statement

- A. The Board of Education supports innovative and varied instructional programs to meet the needs and interests of students and recognizes that under certain conditions a non-traditional program may provide alternative educational opportunities for students. The Board of Education recognizes that providing flexibility and autonomy in exchange for innovative educational reform and high accountability is a key component of the charter school. Therefore, a public charter school may be established in Calvert County if an application is approved.

IV. Delegation of Authority

- A. The Superintendent of Schools is directed to implement this policy in accordance with all local policies and local, state, and federal laws and regulations and to communicate this policy and accompanying procedures to all relevant parties.

V. Exceptions

- A. There are no exceptions to this policy. However, the Board, by majority vote, may temporarily suspend all or part of this policy. Suspension of all or part of this policy, however, in no way relieves the Board of its obligation to comply with the pertinent local, state, and federal laws and regulations or the rules and regulations of the Maryland State Board of Education and the Maryland State Department of Education.

VI. Review

- A. This policy will be reviewed at the end of three years, or sooner, if approved by majority vote of the Board of Education in public session.

VII. Effective Date

- A. This policy is effective June 9, 2022.

Citations

State Law: Title 9 of the Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland

State Reg.:

Federal Law:

Adm. Reg.:

Neg. Agr.:

Other Citation: