

Board File: LBD

CHARTER SCHOOLS

The Douglas County School District Re-1 embraces school choice by offering a wide variety of pathways to learning. Matching students to a learning model or school creates a level of synergy not found in historic educational models, creating the highest probability of success for all. One option in our district is charter schools.

A charter school shall be a public, nonsectarian, nonreligious, non-home-based school, which operates within a public school district. A charter school shall be a public school of the school district that approves its charter application and enters into a charter contract with the charter school. The charter school shall be subject to accreditation by the school district. A charter school applicant cannot apply to, or enter into a charter contract with, the school district unless a majority of the charter school's pupils, other than on-line pupils, will reside in the school district or in a contiguous district.

A charter school shall be subject to all federal and state laws and constitutional provisions prohibiting discrimination on the basis of disability, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, ancestry, or need for special education services. Enrollment decisions shall be made in a nondiscriminatory manner specified by the charter school applicant in the charter school application. Enrollment in a charter school must be open to any child who resides within the school district; except that no charter school shall be required to make alterations in the structure of the facility used by the charter school or to make alterations to the arrangement or function of rooms within the facility, except as may be required by state or federal law. Except as otherwise provided by statute, a charter school shall not charge tuition. All decisions regarding the planning, siting, and inspection of charter school facilities shall be made in accordance with state statute and as specified by contract with the school district.

A charter school shall be administered and governed by a governing body in a manner agreed to by the charter school applicant and the Board of Education. The contract between the charter school and the Board of Education shall designate responsibility for charter school operations including, but not limited to, preparation of a budget, contracting for services, facilities, and personnel matters. A charter school, as a public school, is a governmental entity. Direct leases and financial obligations of a charter school shall not constitute debt or financial obligations of the school district unless the school district specifically assumes such obligations.

A charter school application may be submitted pursuant to the district application process or in response to a Request for Proposal (RFP) from the district, and shall be in accordance with the timelines set forth in the application process. The timeline for final board approval of a charter application and opening of a charter school may be accelerated in the event that a charter school applicant, (a) provides evidence satisfactory to the Superintendent or designee of a contractually-binding leasehold or ownership interest in a move-in ready school facility adequate to serve the needs of the student population intending to enroll in the charter school upon opening, and (b) has, in the discretion of the Superintendent, met all other quality criteria and/or conditions for approval

set forth in the district's application process. The Superintendent is authorized to create procedures and regulations concerning charter application process and the supervision of charter schools.

Adopted: June 3, 2008

Revised: October 16, 2012

Revised: November 18, 2014

LEGAL REF.:

C.R.S. 22-30.5-101 et seq. (*Charter Schools Act*)

C.R.S. 22-32-124 (*Building Codes-Zoning-Planning-Fees-Rules-Definitions*)

C.R.S. 22-20-109 (*Tuition*)

CROSS REF.:

LBD-R-1 Charter School Application Process

LBD-R-2 Charter School Application Contents