

Emanuel County Schools Reaffirms Charter School Policy in Compliance with State Requirements

Emanuel County Schools

August 29, 2025

Emanuel County Schools reaffirms and continues to enforce **Board Policy IBB: Charter Schools**, ensuring compliance with state law and Georgia State Board of Education regulations governing the establishment and operation of charter schools.

Policy IBB, originally adopted on **March 13, 2017**, outlines the procedures and requirements for submitting charter school petitions to the LBOE. This policy serves as a critical component of Emanuel County Board of Education's commitment to transparency, accountability, and educational innovation within the framework of Georgia's charter system law. In compliance with State Board Rule 160-4-9-.05 IEB(2) Charter Schools Petition Process, below is an amended timeline for submitting and reviewing petitions for new start up charters.

Key Provisions of Policy IBB

Who May Apply: Representatives from an existing public school within the district, private individuals, private organizations, or state/local public entities may submit charter petitions. By law, home study programs, sectarian or religious schools, for-profit schools, and existing private schools are prohibited from applying.

Submission Process: Petitioners must contact the Superintendent or designee for detailed guidelines and timelines for submission.

Approval Timelines:

Start-Up Charter Schools – Key Requirements

1. Letter of Intent

- Must be submitted to both the local Board of Education (LBOE) and the Office of Charter School Compliance (OCSC) **at least six months before** the full petition is submitted.

2. Petition Submission

- The final charter petition must be submitted **on or before January 1**, unless an alternative deadline is pre-approved by the OCSC.

3. Pre-Opening Period

- A minimum **six-month period** is required between LBOE approval of a petition and the opening of the charter school.
- 4. **Board Action** (*O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2064(b)*)
 - The LBOE must approve or deny a petition by **majority vote within 90 days** of its submission, unless the petitioner consents to an extension.
 - In all cases, board action must occur **no later than June 30**.
- 5. **Denials**
 - If a petition is denied, the LBOE must, within **20 days**, provide the petitioner and the SBOE with:
 - A written explanation of the reasons for denial.
 - A list of deficiencies in the petition.
 - If denial is based on “not in the public interest,” a detailed explanation as to why.
 - Petitioners may resubmit a revised petition that addresses the stated deficiencies.
- 6. **Approvals**
 - If a petition is approved, the LBOE must, within **30 days**, provide a copy of the approved petition to the SDOE for review by the SBOE.

The superintendent is authorized to develop and enforce administrative regulations needed to ensure compliance with state law and SBOE/SDOE requirements. Such regulations shall provide for an expedited review process for high quality charter school renewal, expansion, and replication.

“This policy ensures that our district upholds the highest standards of governance and compliance while supporting educational options that serve students and families,” said Denise B. Warnock, Superintendent of Emanuel County Schools.