

CHARTER SCHOOL

BP 6181 (a)

Charter schools are schools established under AS 14.03.250 that operate within the public school district. Charter schools are established upon the approval by the Board and the State Board of Education of an application for a charter school. Charter schools shall operate under a written contract between the charter school and the School Board.

Establishment of Charter Schools

The Board shall give appropriate consideration to any charter school petition, in light of its overall effect on the district's children and the proposed school's ability to function effectively and meet its goals. The Board desires to support innovations which improve student learning and views charter schools as an opportunity to implement school-level reform. In accordance with law, the proposed charter must include descriptions of the vision, mission and goals of the charter school, the governance structure which will be used, the educational outcomes to be attained by students, and the method by which progress in meeting these outcomes will be measured.

Applications for a charter school to operate during the next school year shall be submitted to the Board no later than October 15 of the current school year. Applications received after the October 15 deadline shall not be considered until the next school year. A charter school shall begin operation as agreed with the Board but no later than October 1st.

Charter schools in the Craig City School District shall comply with the following general requirements:

1. The charter school shall establish an Academic Policy Committee that will function according to the terms of law.
2. The charter school Academic Policy Committee shall report directly to the Board or a subcommittee of the Board unless mutually agreed otherwise.
3. The charter school shall operate in compliance with Craig City School District policies unless mutually agreed otherwise.
4. The charter school shall comply with the requirements of the district accounting system.
5. The charter school shall comply with the requirements of the district purchasing system.
6. The charter school shall be designed to advance basic skills areas (mathematics, science, language arts, and social studies) appropriate to the age of students included in the program. The charter school disciplinary program shall enforce Alaska statutes, state and federal regulations, and district policies with respect to drugs, alcohol, weapons, tobacco, harassment, and violence.
7. The charter school shall participate in the Craig City School District's report card process as required by Alaska statute.

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8. The charter school shall participate in all tests and assessments required by either the State Department of Education or the Craig City School District unless the contract specifies otherwise.
9. The charter school shall not promote religious ideologies or philosophies.
10. The charter school shall operate in compliance with negotiated agreements established between employee groups and the Board.
11. A charter school operating as a correspondence program shall comply with all requirements of Alaska statute and regulation.

State Notification of a Charter School Application

Upon approval or rejection of a charter school application, the School Board will submit to the State Board of Education a copy of the charter school application and a report on the action taken by the School Board no later than 20 (twenty) working days following the School Board action.

Annual Review of the Charter School

Once approved by both the School Board and the State Board of Education, the charter school will be subject to an annual review of its operations and finances by the School Board. Annually, the charter school will submit a written report and make a presentation to the School Board and the public. This report will include information on the attainment of student performance expectations, meetings of the governing bodies of the charter school, descriptions of charter school activities, and other information of interest to the School Board.

If there is evidence of a breach of contract, then the School Board shall have a right to investigate this breach of contract and meet with the charter school to discuss possible remedies, including termination of the charter school contract.

Organization and Operation of a Charter School

A charter school operates as a school in the school district except that a charter school:

- is exempt from the school district's textbook, program, curriculum, and scheduling requirements.
- is exempt from AS 14.14.130(c) which states "If the district employs a chief school administrator, the administrator shall select, appoint, and otherwise control all school district employees who serve under the chief school administrator subject to the approval of the school board."

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- operates under the charter school's annual program budget as set out in the contract between the Board and the charter school.
- shall designate a contact person for all communications between the charter school and the district administration.

"A charter school is subject to secondary school competency testing as provided in AS 14.03.075 and other competency tests required by the Department of Education and Early Development."

Operation of a Charter School

The charter school principal or designated administrator:

- shall keep financial records of the charter school;
- shall oversee the operation of the charter school to ensure that the terms of the contract are being met;
- shall meet regularly with parents and with teachers of the charter school to review, evaluate, and improve operations of the charter school; and
- shall meet with the Academic Policy Committee at least once each year to monitor progress in achieving the committee's policies and goals.

Definitions

"Designated Administrator" means a person selected by the Academic Policy Committee to perform the administrative functions of the charter school. An administrator who does not possess a current Type B administrative certificate may not conduct employee evaluations.

"Employees" of charter schools are considered employees of the Craig School District with all rights guaranteed by their respective collective bargaining agreements unless specifically waived by mutual agreement between the appropriate bargaining unit and Board.

"Principal" means a person selected by the Academic Policy Committee to select, appoint, or otherwise supervise employees of the charter school. This person is not required to possess an Alaska Type B Administrative Certificate. The school district assumes no responsibility for employing this person after the termination of the charter school contract unless the person is also employed as a teacher.

"Per-pupil allocation" means the funding generated, calculated on a per student basis, using the formula for basic need defined in AS 14.17.410.

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Legal Reference:

Alaska Statutes

14.03.250-14.03.280 Charter Schools

AS 14.16.100 Application for residential school

Alaska Administrative Code

4 AAC 33.110 Charter Schools

4 AAC 33.405 - .490 Correspondence Study Programs

4 AAC 33.090 District-operated statewide and district-wide residential schools

Added 1/12

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