

Series 3000: Operations, Finance, and Property

3100 General Operations

3121 Public School Academy Authorization [Optional] [Note: If the Board elects not to adopt this Policy, delete the body of the policy and replace the title with “Intentionally Left Blank” after the policy number and in the Table of Contents to ensure accurate numbering of subsequent policies in the Policy Manual.]

The Board believes that the establishment of a public school academy (“PSA”), as authorized by the Michigan Legislature under the Revised School Code (the “Code”), may offer a means of furthering the mission and goals of the District by [insert basis for serving as an authorizer, such as fostering diversity of educational opportunity within the District without sacrificing quality of education or creating unnecessary duplication].

Consistent with these purposes, the Board may determine from time to time, in its sole discretion, whether to open a PSA application window.

A. Definitions

1. “Application window” means a 14-calendar day period in which the Board will accept applications from PSA(s) in which the Board may choose to authorize. Opening an application window does not require that a Board select a PSA for authorization.
2. “Public School Academy” or “PSA” means a school authorized under Part 6A of the Michigan Revised School Code, a school of excellence authorized under Part 6E of the Code, and a strict discipline academy authorized under MCL 380.1311b-1311m.

B. Delegation of Authority

The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible to the Board to develop, recommend to the Board, and administer such processes as necessary for the Board to fulfill the following statutory responsibilities:

1. to issue (or to enter into an interlocal or intergovernmental agreement with another authorizing body to issue) PSA contracts only in compliance with controlling law;
2. to oversee (or to enter into an agreement with one or more other authorizing bodies to oversee) compliance by the board of directors of the PSA operating under a contract issued by the Board with the contract and all applicable law (this subsection does not relieve any other governmental entity of its enforcement or supervisory responsibility); and
3. to serve as fiscal agent for the PSA operating under a contract issued by the Board to receive state school aid payments for the PSA, which then shall be forwarded to the PSA, in accordance with such contract.

The Superintendent also is responsible to the Board to develop and administer a PSA board selection and appointment process, consistent with the method of selection resolution adopted by the Board, establishing the method of selection, length of term, and number of members of the board of directors of the PSA subject to its jurisdiction.

C. Contract Issuance

The Board is not required to issue a charter contract to any person or entity. If the Board determines from time to time, in its sole discretion, to open an Application Window, any charter contract that may be issued will be issued on a competitive basis taking into consideration required statutory criteria.

The Board may authorize PSAs which best meet the following guidelines [Note: These are examples. This list can be modified to reflect the District's hopes/expectations for a PSA]:

1. further a well-defined and clearly stated mission and goals consistent with the mission and goals of the District;
2. fill an identified and substantiated educational need or provide an opportunity for new learning experiences at a facility located within the boundaries of the District;
3. involve students, parents, faculty, community and administration in planning, operating, and/or evaluating the program, as appropriate;
4. reflect the needs, interests, resources and facilities of the area;
5. utilize resources creatively, possibly incorporating the use of community resources;
6. design programs to attract diverse and representative enrollments;
7. work to establish and maintain constructive relationships with existing public schools in the area, including striving to create similar school calendars and expectations for staff and students;
8. use a rigorous curriculum consistent with existing public schools in the area;
9. adopt policies and procedures that are consistent with state and federal law;
10. ensure students are assessed using approved assessment tools; and
11. adequately meet the needs of potential students, which must include providing meals and transportation within an established transportation zone.

D. Authorization Limitations

1. Operational Boundaries

The Board shall *not* issue a charter contract for a PSA that is not a cyber school to operate outside the District's geographic boundaries, and a PSA authorized by the Board that is not a cyber school shall *not* operate outside the District's boundaries.

2. Enrollment Boundaries

The Board shall include in any contract that it executes authorizing a PSA to operate a requirement that enrollment in the PSA: (a) *shall* be open to all pupils who reside within the geographic boundaries of the District that meet the PSA's enrollment policy; (b) *may* be open to all pupils who reside in the state of Michigan that meet the PSA's enrollment policy, provided, however that an School of Excellence operating as a cyber school *shall* be open to pupils in grades K-12 in the state; and (c) except for a foreign exchange student who is not a United States citizen, *shall not* be open to a pupil who is not a resident of the state of Michigan.

3. Limitation on Cyber Schools

The Board will not authorize more than one (1) school of excellence that is a cyber school.

E. Contract Terms and Conditions

The Board also shall include in any contract that it executes authorizing or re-authorizing a PSA to operate such terms and conditions as required by law.

F. Supplemental Agreements

The Board may require execution of such companion agreements to the Terms and Conditions of the Charter Contract as it deems necessary or appropriate, including, by way of example, an Oversight Agreement and Master Calendar of Reporting Requirements and Fiscal Agency Agreement.

G. Submission of Contract to MDE

Within 10 days after issuing a contract for a PSA, the Board (or its designee) shall submit to the State Superintendent (or designee) a copy of the contract and of the PSA application as required under the Revised School Code.

Legal authority: MCL 380.501, *et seq.*, 380.551, *et seq.*, MCL 380.1311b-1311m

Date adopted:

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