

Thinking of Becoming a Charter School?

What is a charter school? A charter school is a public school not a private school. Charter schools are similar to a traditional school in most ways; however they are exempt from several public school requirements. These exemptions include the local school district's curriculum, textbooks, program, calendar, and scheduling requirements. Also, AS 14.03.255(a)(2) states: "...is exempt from AS 14.14.130(c); the principal of the charter school shall be selected by the academic policy committee and shall select, appoint, or otherwise supervise employees of the charter school..." Alaskan charter schools, like all other public schools belong to a school district. In order to become a charter school the planning committee for the new charter school must first obtain local approval. 'Local approval' means the local school board must adopt a charter school contract/application process which the potential school must complete successfully and be approved with a simple majority vote.

Once approval is obtained at the local level, the applicants have 20 working days (approximately one month) to send an application (follow the Charter Schools Application Form 05-01-027 as a guide, found on our website at: <http://www.eed.state.ak.us/forms/CharterSchools/05-01-027.doc> to the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development which must include the approved minutes of the local school board meeting with the vote count approving the charter school. All items in the application must be addressed. Please read the instructions carefully.

The application will then be reviewed by a technical review committee and the Commissioner's office and then forwarded with a recommendation to the State Board of Education & Early Development. An application will not be approved if insufficient evidence is provided to prove compliance with all applicable state laws and regulations.

Here is the timeline:

Timeline:

- (a)** *A charter application (after local school board approval) for a new or conversion school may not be submitted to the Department of Education & Early Development sooner than twelve (12) months prior to the start-up of the school.*
- (b)** *The completed state application materials shall be presented to the local school board, which will then forward the application to the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development's charter school program manager as required by [AS 14.03.250\(c\)](#).*
- (c)** *Mail to: Alaska Department of Education & Early Development, Attn: Charter School Program Manager, 801 W. 10th Street, Suite 200, Juneau, P.O. Box 110500, Alaska 99811-0500.*
- (d)** *[4 AAC 33.110\(g\)](#) states: "No later than 20 working days after a local school board's decision to approve or deny an application for a charter school, the local school board shall mail to the*

Department of Education & Early Development the application and the decision, including the supporting documents required by (a) of this section, and the minutes of the local school board meeting at which the charter school was approved or denied....”

The completed application must be in the hands of the charter school program manager no later than 90 days before the next regular scheduled meeting of the State Board of Education & Early Development. See schedule at: http://www.eed.state.ak.us/State_Board/

Below is a list of references that will be helpful.

Alaska Department of Education & Early Development Charter School Website:

http://www.eed.state.ak.us/Alaskan_Schools/Charter/

4AAC 33.110

AS 14.03.250

Charter Schools Application

Rating Template

If you have any questions please feel free to contact:

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