

Wilson County Board of Education

Policy Description:

Charter Schools

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Policy Number:

1.704

Amended Date:

06/04/07

Rescinds:

Reviewed: 06/10

Issued: 06/03/04

1 DEFINITION

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3 A charter school shall be a public, nonsectarian, non-religious, non-home based school which operates within a
4 public school district. It shall be subject to all state and federal laws and constitutional provisions prohibiting
5 discrimination on the basis of disability, race, creed, color, gender, national origin, religion, ancestry, or need for
6 special education services.¹

7
8 Charter schools may be formed to:²

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10 1. Provide alternatives for students in schools failing to make adequate yearly progress;
11 2. Address the unique needs of students eligible for special education services;
12 3. Provide local school systems the option to work in concert with the state's public higher education
13 teacher training institutions.

14 APPLICATION PROCESS²

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17 A sponsor requesting that the Board approve a charter school must provide a written application on the form
18 provided by the state and a list of requirements that the sponsor wants to waive. In the application, the sponsor
19 must demonstrate that the proposed charter school meets the purpose prescribed by law for the formation of a
20 charter school, and the proposed charter school will be able to implement a viable program of quality education
21 for its students. In the case of a conversion school, the application must include documents showing the
22 necessary parental or teacher support for a charter school.

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24 On or before November 15 of the year preceding the year in which the proposed charter school plans to begin
25 operation, the sponsor seeking to establish a public charter school shall file with the Board the written application
26 with required supporting documents.

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¹ Tennessee Public Charter Schools Act of 2002, Section 5

² Tennessee Public Charter Schools Act of 2002, Section 6

1 **REVIEW TEAM**

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3 The Board shall establish a review team consisting of appropriate school personnel and a local business
4 representative. The Board shall designate a chairman of the review team as the contact person for answering
5 questions about the application process and receiving applications. The review team shall work cooperatively
6 with applicants for charter schools.

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8 The Board shall require a procedure of receiving, reviewing, and ruling on applications for the establishment of
9 charter schools. The procedure must include a timeline for the application and review process and the means for
10 reviewing and evaluating each application, including the criteria on which the decision to grant or deny a charter
11 will be based. A copy of the procedure, including the review criteria, shall be available to any interested party
12 upon request. The review team shall:

- 13
14 1. Evaluate all charter school applications based on the review criteria adopted by the Board;
15 2. Recommend one of the following options to the Board for each application: approve, reject, or reject
16 with stipulations for reconsideration;
17 3. Monitor charter school progress; and
18 4. Make recommendations for revocation, renewal, or non-renewal of charter contracts.

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20 **APPROVAL/DENIAL OF APPLICATION¹**

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22 The Board shall rule by resolution on the approval or denial of a charter application within sixty (60) days of
23 receipt of the completed application.

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25 Upon receipt of the grounds for denial, the sponsor shall have fifteen (15) days within which to submit an
26 amended application to correct the deficiencies. The Board shall have fifteen (15) days either to deny or to
27 approve the amended application.

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29 A denial of an application for new schools formed to address low performers by the Board may be appealed by
30 the sponsor within ten (10) days of the final decision to deny to the State Board of Education.

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¹ Tennessee Public Charter Schools Act of 2002, Section 8