

Authorizing the Authorizers: The State Board's Application Process



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Goals for this Presentation



- Outline the process for districts to apply to be charter authorizers.
- Discuss the SBE's process for evaluation and approval of authorizer applications.
- Describe proposed changes to SBE rules on authorizer applications and approvals.
- Take your questions.



Guiding Principles for Authorizer Approval



- Faithfulness to the statute and rules.
- Clarity and fairness for school districts.
- Rigorous but attainable standards for approval.
- Goal: High-quality authorizing for high-quality charter schools.



The Authorizer Application: Five Parts



Each part is linked to one of the five required components of the application in the charter law:

- I. Authorizer Strategic Vision for Chartering
- II. Authorizer Capacity and Commitment
- III. Draft Request for Proposals
- IV. Draft Performance Framework
- V. Draft Renewal, Revocation and Nonrenewal Processes



The Authorizer Application: Format



- Statutory citation – RCW 28A.710.090(2).
- Guiding question for each part of application.
- Instructions
 - Information required for each part of the application, from SBE rules, WAC 180-19-030(3).
- Criteria for evaluation
 - From 28A.710 RCW and NACSA *Principles & Standards*.



Part I: Strategic Vision for Chartering



RCW 28A.710.090

(2) At a minimum, each applicant must submit to the state board:

(a) The applicant's strategic vision for chartering;



Part I: Strategic Vision for Chartering



The district must state:

- Its purposes for wishing to be an authorizer.
- The educational goals it wishes to achieve by being an authorizer.
- The characteristics of the schools it is most interested in authorizing.
- How it will give priority to authorizing schools serving at-risk students.
- How it will protect charter school autonomy.
- How it will ensure charter school accountability.



Part I: Strategic Vision for Chartering



Criteria for Evaluation

- Clearly aligns with statutory intents for charter schools.
- Clearly articulates any additional purposes that are particular priorities for the district.
- Articulates in specific terms how it will give priority to proposals to serve at-risk students.
- Describes with specificity the desired characteristics of the schools it will charter.
- Reflects a commitment to providing flexibility to charter schools in day-to-day operations.
- Demonstrates a sound understanding of performance-based accountability.



Part II: Capacity and Commitment



RCW 28A.710.090

(2) At a minimum, each applicant must submit to the state board:

(b) A plan to support the vision presented, including explanation and evidence of the applicant's budget and personnel capacity and commitment to execute the responsibilities of quality charter authorizing.



Part II: Capacity and Commitment



The application must:

- Provide a detailed description of staff resources to be devoted to charter authorizing;
- Define the responsibilities of authorizing staff;
- Provide biographical info of staff expected to have principal authorizing responsibilities;
- Describe any external resources intends to rely on;
- Provide estimates of financial needs and resources for authorizing;



Part II: Capacity and Commitment



Criteria for Evaluation

- Conveys clear and accurate understanding of the district's responsibilities as an authorizer.
- Staff resources to be devoted to authorizing are appropriate to fulfill those responsibilities.
- Clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of chartering staff.
- Demonstrates that it has or will secure access to expertise in all areas essential to charter authorizing.
- Estimates of financial needs and resources for authorizing are reasonable and supported by data.



Part III: Request for Proposals



RCW 28A.710.090

(2) At a minimum, each applicant must submit to the state board:

(c) A draft or preliminary outline of the request for proposals that the applicant would, if approved as an authorizer, issue to solicit charter school applicants.



Part III: Request for Proposals



The application must:

- Provide as an attachment a draft or preliminary outline of the request for proposals that the district would, if approved as an authorizer, issue to solicit charter applicants.
- Identify any key outstanding issues the district needs to resolve with respect to the RFP. Discuss the district's current assessment of these issues, and how they will be resolved by the date for issuance of the RFP.



Part III: Request for Proposals



Criteria for Evaluation: (In part)

- Meets the requirements for RFPs in law, including criteria that will guide decision whether to approve a charter application.
- Demonstrates the district will implement a comprehensive application process that follows fair procedures and rigorous criteria, based on performance framework meeting requirements in law.
- Has clearly articulated criteria for evaluating charter applicant's proposed mission and vision that are aligned with the purposes of Washington's charter school law.
- Has clear and rigorous requirements for presenting and criteria for evaluating applicant's educational, financial and organizational plans.



Part IV: Performance Framework



RCW 28A.710.090

(2) At a minimum, each applicant must submit to the state board:

(c) A draft of the performance framework that the district would, if approved as an authorizer, use to guide the establishment of a charter contract and for ongoing oversight and evaluation of charter schools.



Part IV: Performance Framework



The draft performance framework must:

- Meet each of the requirements of RCW 28A.710.170.
- Include measures and metrics for each indicator of academic, organizational and financial performance.
- Provide that proficiency, growth, achievement gaps, graduation rates, and career and college readiness are measured and reported in accordance with the Washington Achievement Index.
- Identify any key issues for finalizing the performance framework.



Part IV: Performance Framework



Criteria for evaluation

- Meets requirements for the performance framework in law, including named indicators and measures.
- States any additional, district-selected indicators and measures of student and school performance.
- Identifies data sources for indicators and measures.
- Requires disaggregation of student performance data by major subgroup.
- Has clear and valid criteria for evaluating the financial performance of the charter school.
- Has clear and valid criteria for evaluating the organizational performance of the charter school;



Part V. Renewal, Revocation and Non-Renewal Processes



RCW 28A.710.090

(2) At a minimum, each applicant must submit to the state board:

(e) A draft of the applicant's proposed renewal, revocation, and nonrenewal processes, consistent with RCW 28A.710.190 and 28A.710.200



Part V. Renewal, Revocation and Non-Renewal Processes



The draft renewal, revocation and nonrenewal processes must:

- Outline a plan to take appropriate actions in response to identified deficiencies in a charter school's performance or legal compliance.
- Establish clear standards for renewal, nonrenewal and revocation of charters meeting the requirements in RCW 28A.710.190 and RCW 28A.710.200.
- Describe how academic, financial and operational data will drive decisions.



Part V. Renewal, Revocation and Non-Renewal Processes



Criteria for evaluation (In part)

- Clearly articulates a process for continual monitoring and oversight of school performance, consistent with the charter contract and performance framework.
- Identifies corrective actions, short of revocation, in response to identified deficiencies, based on the charter contract and performance framework.
- Includes sound plans for communicating standards for renewal, revocation and nonrenewal to charter school board and leadership during the term of the charter contract.
- Clearly sets forth how opportunity will be provided for the charter school board to present evidence challenging the stated reasons for revocation or nonrenewal of charter contract.



Part VI: Statements of Assurance



RCW 28A.710.090 and WAC 180-19-030(4)

- Seven “assurances” that if approved as an authorizer, the district will meet certain requirements set out in statute and rule.
- Incorporated in the authorizing contract between the district and the SBE, which must be executed within 30 days of application approval.
- A finding that a district is not in compliance with the authorizing contract is grounds for revocation of chartering authority. (RCW 28A.710.120)



Approval of Authorizer Application



For an application to be approved, it must be:

1. Satisfactory in providing all the information required to be set forth in the application;
2. Consistent with NACSA *Principles & Standards for Quality Authorizing* in at least:
 - ✓ Organizational capacity
 - ✓ Solicitation and evaluation of charter applications
 - ✓ Performance contracting
 - ✓ Ongoing charter school oversight and evaluation
 - ✓ Charter renewal and revocation processes



Approval of Authorizer Application



For an authorizer application to be approved, all parts must meet standard.

“A determination that an application does not provide the required information, or does not meet standards of quality authorizing in any component, shall constitute grounds for disapproval.”

-- WAC 180-19-040(2)



SBE Process for Evaluating the Application



- Rubrics to guide whether criteria for approval are met in each part of the application.
- Expert, external reviewers for independent evaluation.
- In-person interviews with district leadership.
- Rating scale for each part of the application.



Rating Scale



Well Developed	The response meets the expectations established by the State Board of Education and NACSA's <i>Principles & Standards</i> in material respects and warrants approval subject to satisfactory execution of an authorizing contract with the State Board of Education.
Partially Developed	Incomplete in that the response contains some aspects of a well-developed practice but is missing some key components, is limited in its execution, or otherwise falls short of satisfying the expectations established by the SBE and NACSA's <i>Principles & Standards</i> .
Undeveloped	Wholly inadequate in that the applicant has not considered or anticipated the practice at all, or intends to carry it out in a way that is not recognizably connected to the expectations established by the SBE or NACSA's <i>Principles & Standards</i> .



Rating the Application



- Evaluators assess the degree to which each criterion is met, rating responses from Undeveloped to Well Developed.
- Based on the ratings, evaluators assign an overall rating to each of the five parts of the application.
- An applicant receiving an overall rating of Well Developed is recommended for approval.
- An applicant receiving a rating lower than Well Developed for any part – after the interview – is recommended for denial, in accordance with rule.



If the Application Is Approved . . .



- Within 30 days, the SBE must execute a renewable *authorizing contract* with the district. Initial term of six years.
- Sets out district's agreement to serve as a contractor in accord with Washington's charter school law. May set out additional performance terms, based on the district's plan for chartering.
- An approved district cannot authorize charter schools without an authorizing contract with SBE.



If the Application Is Not Approved . . .



- SBE must document the reasons for disapproving the application.

“If the state board disapproves an application it shall state in writing the reasons for the disapproval, with specific reference to the criteria established in these rules.” – WAC 180-19-040(4)

- The district may revise and resubmit for the next application date.



Proposed Changes to SBE Rules



- In July the SBE approved amendments to its charter school rules for action at its September meeting. The amendments would:
 - ❑ Increase prospectively the length of time for districts to submit authorizer applications.
 - ❑ Make various changes to smooth and clarify the application process.
 - ❑ Bring SBE's process for evaluation of authorizer applications into rule, for clarity and transparency.
 - ❑ Clarify the use of a lottery to determine certification of approved charter schools as within the limits on the number of schools that may be established.



Current Timeline for Authorizer Approval



	Oct. 15	Dec. 31	Apr. 1	Apr. 15	Apr. 30
AUTHORIZER APPROVAL PROCESS	SBE posts authorizer application by this date	District authorizer applications due by this date	SBE approve/deny applications by this date	All authorizers issue RFP by this date	SBE authorizing contract with districts complete by this date
	Districts submit notice of intent by this date				



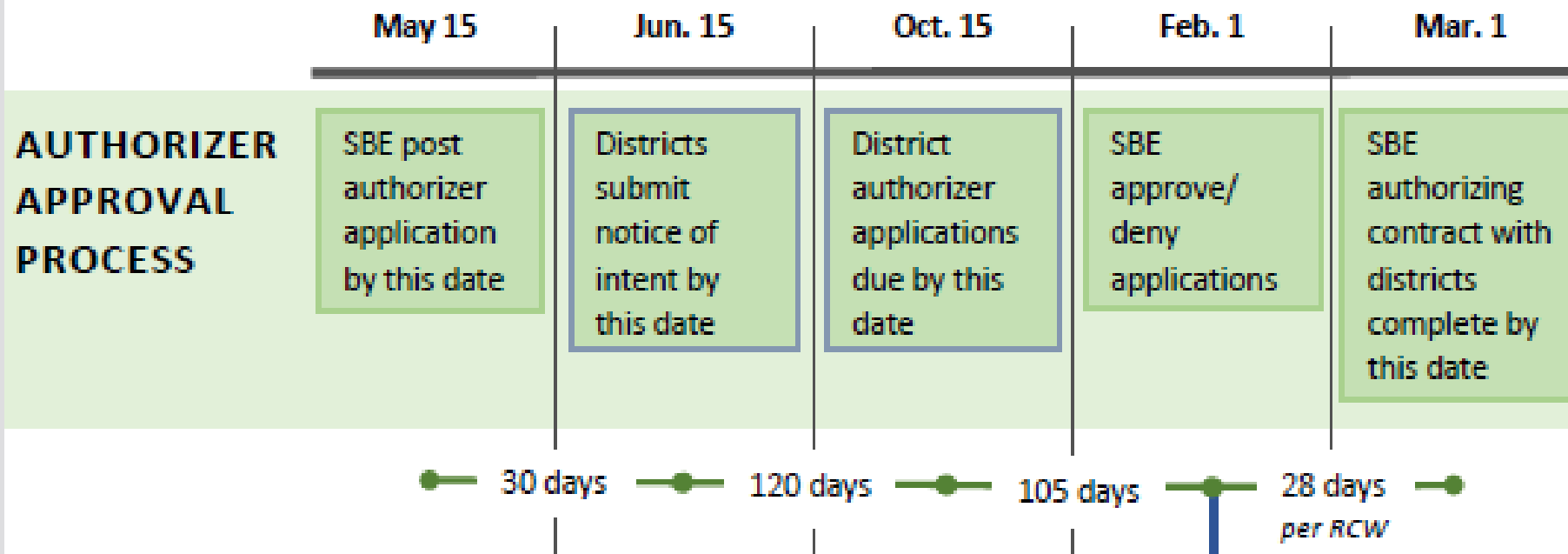
Proposed Changes to Timeline



Action	Current	Proposed
Last date for SBE to post authorizer application.	October 1	May 15
Last date for district to submit nonbinding notice of intent to submit authorizer application.	October 1	June 15
Last date for district to submit authorizer application.	December 31	October 15
Last date for SBE to approve or deny authorizer applications.	April 1	February 1
Last date for all authorizers to issue requests for proposals for charter applicants.	April 15	March 1
Last date for SBE and approved district authorizer to execute authorizing contract.	April 30	March 1



Proposed Timeline for Authorizer Approval



Key Considerations In Thinking about Becoming an Authorizer



- *A district vision* for chartering
 - Leadership
 - Capacity
- Community support
- Commitment



What made the Spokane application so strong?



- Highly developed vision for chartering, closely aligned with district's strategic plan.
- Targeting of at-risk students, high-poverty areas for choice options.
- Well-articulated priorities for charter applications.
- High-quality leadership and evaluation teams.
- Staff and financial capacity.
- Extensive preparation.
- External partnerships.
- Support from school board, staff and community.



Your Questions



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Frequently Asked Questions

<http://sbe.wa.gov/faq/charters.php>



SBE Resources



- Website: www.SBE.wa.gov
- Blog: washingtonSBE.wordpress.com
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/washingtonSBE
- Twitter: www.twitter.com/wa_SBE
- Email: sbe@sbe.wa.gov
- Phone: 360-725-6025

