

Update on Charter Schools



What is the SBE's role for charter schools?



- Approve or deny applications by school districts to be authorizers of charter schools.
- Oversee the performance of district authorizers.
- Set an authorizer oversight fee.
- Establish timeline for charter school applications .
- Monitor compliance with statutory limits on the number of charter schools.
- Report annually on the state's charter schools.
- After five years, recommend whether the Legislature should authorize additional charter schools.



How does our role differ from the Washington Charter School Commission's?



- The State Board of Education is an *approver of authorizers*, not an authorizer of charter schools.
- The SBE sets regulatory requirements that apply to all authorizers, including the Commission.
 - Timelines for charter applications.
 - Reporting on approvals or denial of charter applications.
 - Authorizer oversight fee.
 - Annual authorizer reports.



Rule-Making on Charter Schools -- Adopted



RCW	Subject	WAC	Date
28A.710.090	Charter authorizers-- Approval process	180-19-010- 050	2/26/13
28A.710.110	Authorizer oversight fee	180-19-060	5/9/13
28A.710.130	Charter applications – Requests for proposals	180-19-070	5/9/13
28A.710.140	Charter applications – Submission. Approval or denial	180-19-080	5/9/13
28A.710.150	Number of charter schools	180-19-090	5/19/13
28A.710.100	Authorizer annual report	180-19-210	9/15/13



Rule-making ahead



RCW	Subject	Status
28A.710.120	SBE oversight of authorizers	Draft rules approved for PH 1/8/14.
28A.710.210	Charter school termination – Transfer of charter contract	Draft rules for review 3/5/14.
RCW 28A.710 -- All	Review adopted rules for possible amendment.	

Timeline for authorizer applications

WAC 180-19-030



Action	2013 Approval Only	2014 Approvals And Ongoing
District notice of intent to submit authorizer application.	April 1, 2013	October 1, 2013
SBE must post authorizer application.	April 1, 2013	October 1, 2013
Closing date to submit authorizer application to SBE.	July 1, 2013	December 31, 2013
Closing date for SBE to approve or deny authorizer applications.	September 12, 2013	April 1, 2014



How does a district become an authorizer?

WAC 180-19-030



Five-part application, each part linked to a required component of the application in RCW and rule:

- 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



SBE evaluation of applications -- Goals



- Fidelity to the statute and rules.
- Rigor, with high but attainable standards for approval.
- Clarity, transparency and fairness for districts.
- Quality schools for children, meeting intent of the law.



What are the criteria for approval of applications?



WAC 180-19-040 sets two-part test for approval of applications:

1. Must be satisfactory in providing all of the information required to be set forth in the application.
2. Must be consistent with nationally recognized standards for quality charter 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.



What is the process for evaluating applications?



- Rubrics for evaluation of each part of the application.
- Three-tier rating scale for each part of the application: Well-developed, Partially Developed, Undeveloped.
- Five-member evaluation team made up of SBE and OSPI staff and external reviewers.
- Personal interview with district.
- Written evaluation report.



Key considerations for districts thinking about becoming an authorizer



- *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 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 capacity
- Financial capacity.
- Extensive preparation.
- Strong external partnerships.
- Support from school board, staff and community.



What were SBE actions on Spokane application?



- Evaluation of written application: Rating of each part and identification of issues for district interview.
- On-site district interview August 21, focusing on issues identified in written evaluation.
- Staff recommendation and Board approval, September 11.
- Authorizing contract executed October 10.



Authorizer Applications for December 31



- Three districts submitted nonbinding notices of intent by Oct. 1 for second round of applications:
 - Highline
 - West Valley (Yakima)
 - Tacoma
- Applications due Dec. 31, 2014.
- SBE decisions to approve or deny must be made by April 1, 2014.



Timeline for Charter Applications

WAC 180-19-070-080



Action	Applications in 2013 Only	Applications in 2014 And Ongoing
Last date for all authorizers to issue requests for proposals.	September 22, 2013	April 15, 2014
Closing date for submission of charter applications to authorizers.	November 22, 2013	July 15, 2014
Closing date for authorizer approval or denial of charter applications.	February 24, 2013	October 15, 2014
Last date for authorizers to report actions to approve or deny applications to SBE.	March 6, 2014	October 25, 2014



First round of charter applications



- ❑ **Commission: 19 applications received.**
 - One is from private school wishing to become public charter school. All others are for new schools.
 - Three are from charter management organizations (CMO's), 16 "home-grown."

- ❑ **Spokane: Three applications received.**
 - Seeking information from district at this writing.



What input are we seeking from you on charter schools?



- Input on rules still to be adopted. Your comments needed!
- Input on how adopted rules can be improved from a district perspective.
- Input on how application and evaluation can be made more manageable for districts, more effective for SBE, while still faithful to the law.
- Opportunities to inform your members, address their concerns.
- Questions, questions, questions – Send them our way.



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

