

# New Charter School Application



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## Contents

Introduction.....	1
Application Requirements.....	1
<b>I. SCHOOL DESIGN.....</b>	<b>6</b>
1. Mission Statement .....	6
2. Measurable Goals and Objectives.....	6
3. Educational Program .....	6
4. School Accountability.....	6
5. School Community.....	7
6. Extra-curricular activities (athletics, publications and organizations).....	7
<b>II. NEEDS ASSESSMENT .....</b>	<b>8</b>
1. Statement of Need.....	8
2. School Demographics.....	8
3. District Relations/Evidence of Support .....	8
<b>III. DESCRIPTION OF FOUNDING/MANAGEMENT TEAM.....</b>	<b>9</b>
1. Profile of Founding Coalition.....	9
2. Governance .....	9
<b>IV. FINANCE AND FACILITY.....</b>	<b>11</b>
1. Financing .....	11
2. Facility.....	12
3. Liability and Insurance .....	12
4. Child Accounting.....	12
<b>V. IMPLEMENTATION AND ADMINISTRATION .....</b>	<b>13</b>
1. Recruiting and Marketing Plan.....	13
2. Enrollment Policy .....	13
3. Human Resource Information .....	13
4. Code of Conduct.....	14
5. Transportation.....	14
6. Food Service.....	14
7. Timetable.....	14
8. Safety.....	14
9. School Health Services.....	15

# CHARTER SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION

## Introduction

This application format serves as a tool for charter applicants and school boards. ASU will review applications from charter applicant groups or existing operators seeking to open new charter schools, however **applications are not currently being solicited at this time**. The requested information aligns with charter school research, literature and best practices nationally. The application will request the following six components:

- I. School Design**
- II. Needs Assessment**
- III. Description of Founding/Management Team**
- IV. Finance and Facility**
- V. Implementation and Administration**

Your response to the five components may serve as the charter school's plan as you develop your model. To fulfill all requirements, please complete all items in each section. Keep these points in mind as you address the sixteen broad components of the charter school plan.

## Application Requirements

1. The identification of the charter applicant.
2. The name of the proposed charter school.
3. The grade or age levels served by the school.
4. The proposed governance structure of the charter school, including a description and method for the appointment or election of the Board of Directors.
5. The mission and measurable education goals of the charter school, the curriculum to be offered, and the methods of assessing whether students are meeting educational goals. Charter school students shall be required to meet the same testing and academic performance standards established by law and regulations applicable to public school students.
6. The admission policy and criteria for evaluating student admission.
7. The procedures that will be used regarding the suspension or expulsion of pupils.
8. The information on the manner in which community groups will be involved in the charter school planning process.

9. The financial plan for the charter school and the provisions that will be made for auditing the school.
10. The procedures that shall be established to review complaints of parents regarding the operation of the charter school.
11. A description and an address for the physical facility in which the charter school will be located and the ownership thereof and any lease arrangements.
12. The proposed school calendar for the charter school, including the length of the school day and school year.
13. The proposed faculty and a professional development plan for the faculty of a charter school.
14. A report of criminal history record for all individuals who shall have direct contact with students.
15. An official clearance statement regarding child injury or abuse (relating to background checks for employment in schools) for all individuals who shall have direct contact with students.
16. How the charter school, the employees and the Board of Directors will be insured.

## CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION FACT SHEET

This application fact sheet is intended to be a “finger-tip” summary of your application. The information furnished below must be an accurate representation of the application and must correspond to the information provided in the body of the application.

### Proposed Charter School Name (Must Include “Charter School” in the Title):

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### Proposed Charter School Location

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

Intermediate Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Federal Employer Identification Number: \_\_\_\_\_

### Contact Person

First: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle: \_\_\_\_\_ Last: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Indicate Number of Representatives Per Group Founding Coalition**

Group	Number of Representatives
Parents	
Teachers	
Business Partners	
Community Based Organizations	
Museums	
Higher Education	
Other Group – Identify:	

**Grade and Age Ranges**

Group	Grade/Age Range
Elementary	
Secondary	
Age of Kindergarten	
Age of Beginners	
Grades Educated	<input type="checkbox"/> Pre K <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 7 <input type="checkbox"/> 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 9 <input type="checkbox"/> 10 <input type="checkbox"/> 11 <input type="checkbox"/> 12
Kindergarten	<input type="radio"/> Full Day <input type="radio"/> Half Day

**Projected Student Enrollment Year 1-5**

Year	Enrollment
1 <sup>st</sup> Year	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Year	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Year	
4 <sup>th</sup> Year	
5 <sup>th</sup> Year	
Total Number of Teachers	

Does the charter applicant have an existing retirement system?

☐ Yes      ☐ No

Does the applicant group presently have access to a facility suitable for the charter school?

☐ Yes      ☐ No

**School Focus:** In brief terms, please describe the school mission, educational focus, and other essential characteristics of the proposed charter school. (Use additional page if needed).

# I. SCHOOL DESIGN

## 1. Mission Statement

- A. Briefly describe the core philosophy or underlying purpose of the proposed school.
- B. What is your overarching vision of the school?

*Explanation: Define a concise plan for an innovative public school that will lead to improved educational performance and consistency between mission and the educational programs. The plan should be articulated to achieve improved performance.*

## 2. Measurable Goals and Objectives

- A. What are the school's measurable academic goals and objectives to promote student learning?
- B. What are the school's measurable non-academic goals and objectives to promote student performance?

*Explanation: Develop clear, **measurable** goals with objectives for building the educational program that reflects a commitment to academic excellence for all students.*

## 3. Educational Program

- A. Describe the educational program of the school, providing an overview of the curriculum and the content in all subject areas.
- B. Describe how your school will meet the educational needs of students with disabilities. Describe your projections for special education instructional programs that will be **operated directly by the charter school or operated by others under contract** with your charter school. List any support staff and related service providers that might be **employed directly by the charter school or provided under contract**, who will provide required support for students with disabilities receiving special education.
- C. What teaching methods will be used? How will this pedagogy enhance student learning?
- D. Attach the school calendar and identify hours of the school operation.

*Explanation: Describe effective teaching methods, curriculum, and a specific plan to meet the needs of students with disabilities that are consistent with the mission of your school.*

## 4. School Accountability

### School

- A. What methods of self-assessment or evaluation will be used to ensure that the school is meeting its stated mission and objectives?
- B. How will teachers and administrators be evaluated? Describe your standards for teacher and staff performance.
- C. How do you plan to hold your school accountable to the parents of the children attending your school?



- D. Discuss your plan for regular review of school budgets and financial records.
- E. Describe your system for maintaining school records and disseminating information as required under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
- F. Describe your system for maintaining accurate student enrollment information.

#### **Student Evaluation**

- A. Describe plans to evaluate student performance.
- B. How will student development toward the school's overall learning goals and objectives be measured?
- C. Describe how student evaluation will be used to improve student achievement and attain the stated learning objectives.

*Explanation: Describe your commitment to high academic standards for all students; well- developed evaluation program for either school-developed or standardized testing; and compliance with applicable auditing requirements.*

#### **5. School Community**

- A. Describe the relationship of your school with the surrounding community.
- B. Describe the nature and extent of parent involvement in the school's mission.
- C. Describe procedures established to review complaints of parents regarding operation of the charter school.

*Explanation: Describe expectations of family members (or guardians) to be active participants in their children's education and the integration plan of the school to collaborate with other community organizations.*

#### **6. Extra-curricular activities (athletics, publications and organizations)**

- A. Describe the program of extracurricular activities planned for the charter school.
- B. Describe whether any agreements have been entered into or plans developed with the local school district regarding participation of the charter school students in extracurricular activities within the school district.

*Explanation: Identify organized program of activities that complements the mission of the charter school and the similar programs in the school district of students' residence.*

## **II. NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

### **1. Statement of Need**

- A. Why is there a need for this type of school?
- B. Explain why the charter school model is an appropriate vehicle to address this need.

*Explanation: Provide recognition of potential opportunities to improve service and expand choices for students and parents.*

### **2. School Demographics**

- A. What are the school's enrollment projections for the first five years? What is the school's ultimate enrollment goal? What grades will be served? What is the age of kindergarten and age of beginner students? How many students are expected to be in each grade or grouping?
- B. Describe the community or region where the school will be located.
- C. Why was this location selected? Are there other locations suitable to the needs and focus of the school?
- D. Describe any unique demographic characteristics of the student population to be served, including primary languages spoken.

*Explanation: Provide a description of the students to be served and the community in which the school will be located.*

### **3. Evidence of Support**

- A. Convey the scope of community backing for the proposed charter school and its founding coalition. Document community support among teachers, parents, students, educators, community members, institutional leaders and others through the use of letters of support, surveys, or other tangible means.

*Explanation: Document efforts to foster open communications with local school districts; evidence that the founders inspire the confidence of their targeted community; evidence that the program provides an attractive educational alternative to students and parents, and evidence that the breadth of community support extends beyond the core group of founders.*

### **III. DESCRIPTION OF FOUNDING/MANAGEMENT TEAM**

#### **1. Profile of Founding Coalition**

- A. Describe the makeup of the group or partnership that is working together to apply for a charter, including the names of the founders, their background and experiences, and references for each.
- B. Discuss how the group came together, as well as any partnership arrangements with existing schools, educational programs, businesses, non-profits, or any other entities or groups.
- C. Include any plans for further recruitment of founders or organizers of the school.
- D. Provide information on the manner in which community groups are involved in the charter school planning process.

*Explanation: Describe a group that is composed of people with a range of professional skills capable of the organizational, financial, pedagogical, legal and other skills required to operate a functioning public school.*

#### **2. Governance**

- A. Describe the proposed management organization of the school and how it will comply with Open Meeting Laws and charter school legislation or applicable law.

- i) How will the Board of Directors be selected?
  - ii) What steps will be taken to maintain continuity between the founding coalition's vision and the Board of Directors?
  - iii) Describe the roles and responsibilities of the Board.
  - iv) What steps will be taken to facilitate a productive relationship between administrators and teachers?
  - v) Discuss the nature of parental and student involvement in decision-making matters where appropriate.
  - vi) Submit copies of the school's bylaws, contracts and other documents required by pending charter school legislation or applicable law. The requirements for the bylaws follow:
    - The bylaws must contain a provision for "failure to organize or neglect of duty". Specifically, the bylaws must outline a removal procedure for the failure of a board member to perform his or her duties.
    - A charter school Board of Directors shall have a designated Officers as required by the Arizona Corporation Commission.
- B. Submit board members' names, addresses, phone numbers and resumes.

*Explanation: Describe the effective governance model; consistency with the mission; clearly defined roles of the Board of Directors; teacher, student and parent input in school decision-making; and the well-developed, viable management structure.*

## **IV.FINANCE AND FACILITY**

### **1. Financing**

- A. Develop a preliminary startup and operating budget and a 3-5 year proforma budget. Develop a purchasing procedure that addresses a competitive way to purchase goods and services. Include enrollment forecasting for each year respectively, by grade.
- B. What fund raising efforts have occurred and/or are planned to generate capital or to supplement the per pupil allocations?
- C. Describe the implementation of financial procedures. All deposits of charter school funds shall be made in the name of the charter school. The Board of Directors of a charter school shall invest charter school funds consistent with sound business practice.

A comprehensive school audit shall be conducted annually. Charter School Boards of Directors shall follow requirements set forth by Arizona Charter School statutes.

## **2. Facility**

- A. Provide descriptions of and addresses for the physical facilities under consideration and the ownership thereof and any lease arrangements.
- B. Explain how this site(s) would be a suitable facility for the proposed school. Consider the necessity of renovation to the facility and compliance with applicable building codes and accessibility for individuals with disabilities. Describe the services of the facility including heating, ventilating, lighting, sanitary conditions and water supply.
- C. Discuss the plan for maintaining the facility on a daily basis (custodial) and extended basis (facility maintenance).
- D. Discuss any progress, partnership developments or other future steps toward acquisition of a facility/land.
- E. Describe facility financing plans.

*Explanation: Describe progress toward identifying and acquiring a school facility, with a back- up plan considering alternative facilities.*

## **3. Liability and Insurance**

- A. Describe your school's insurance coverage plans, including health, general liability (including school operation, extracurricular activities and parent volunteer activities), property, and director and officer's liability coverage.

*Explanation: Provide evidence of insurability in all areas identified above.*

## **4. Child Accounting**

- A. Describe your school enrollment and attendance procedures.

*Explanation: Charter school funding is based on enrollment; therefore, a totally accurate child count is necessary to meet audit standard.*

## **V. IMPLEMENTATION AND ADMINISTRATION**

### **1. Recruiting and Marketing Plan**

- A. Demonstrate how you will publicize the school to attract a sufficient pool of eligible applicants.
- B. What type of outreach will be made to potential students and their families?
- C. Provide an enrollment schedule and forecast through maximum capacity, by grade.

*Explanation: Develop a solid plan to attract sufficient students to operate a school; publicize the school; and ensure a match between the school program and applicants' educational and personal needs.*

### **2. Enrollment Policy**

- A. Describe the enrollment methods and eligibility criteria you will use to select students. Explain administrative procedures to ensure compliance with laws pertaining to Special Education.
- B. Describe the timetable to be used for admitting students.
- C. Explain how these policies further the mission of the school in a non-discriminatory fashion.

*Explanation: Establish consistency with the mission of the school and the non-discriminatory policies for timely and realistic procedures for admitting students in accordance with charter school law.*

### **3. Human Resource Information**

- A. Describe the standards to be used in the hiring process of teachers, administrators and other school staff.
- B. What is the targeted staff size and teacher/student ratio?
- C. What professional development opportunities will be available to teachers and other staff?
- D. Describe your human resource policies governing salaries, contracts, hiring and dismissal, **sick and other leave**, and benefits.
- E. Identify the proposed faculty.
- F. Attach a report of criminal history record for all individuals who shall have direct contact with students.
- G. Attach an official clearance statement regarding child injury or abuse for all individuals who shall have direct contact with students.

*Explanation: Establish high professional standards for teachers and other staff; commitment to professional development of staff; and working conditions and compensation packages that will attract and retain quality staff as per compliance with labor laws.*

#### **4. Code of Conduct**

- A. Discuss any rules or guidelines governing student behavior.
- B. Describe your school's policies regarding student expulsion and suspension, including students with disabilities.
- C. Describe your school's mandatory student attendance plan and its fit with the code of conduct.

*Explanation: Provide evidence that the founders inspire the confidence of their targeted community; program provides an attractive educational alternative to students and parents; and community support extends beyond the core group of founders. Expectation for student behavior is clear and specific processes for disciplinary actions are established.*

#### **5. Transportation**

- A. Describe your transportation program, including transportation for Special Education students and suggestions for improvement.
- B. What arrangements will be made to transport students and if you plan to implement an extended-day or extended-year program?
- C. What plans are being made for the coordination of transportation of students who live outside the local district to be transported to the school? The school district of student residence must provide transportation to a charter school up to ten miles from its border.

*Explanation: Establish workable arrangements for safely transporting students to and from school.*

#### **6. Food Service**

- A. Describe the food service plan of the school.
- B. What are the plans for free or reduced lunch or breakfast? State regulations for student participation in such a program must be followed.

*Explanation: Develop plans for the provision or accommodations of a midday meal.*

#### **7. Timetable**

- A. Provide a detailed timetable of projected steps and dates leading to the opening of a charter school.

*Explanation: Establish a well-developed, realistic plan of action for opening a charter school.*

#### **8. Safety**

- A. Submit written documentation of intent to comply with all applicable safety requirements including the following to demonstrate the safety and structural soundness of the school:
  - Inspection by a local building inspector.
  - Inspection by a local fire department.
  - Approval from the municipal licensing authority for use of any explosives and flammable compounds or liquids in connection with courses taught at the school.

- Compliance with all other federal, state, and local health and safety laws and regulations.
- Application for certificates, licenses, etc. are part of the planning process

**Note:** All necessary certificates and occupancy permits must be issued and in effect prior to the opening of the charter school. *Preliminary clearances on all these requirements should be obtained prior to a lease being executed.*

## **9. School Health Services**

- A. Describe your plan for providing school health services.
- B. Describe how school nursing services, including administration of medication will be delivered.