



Public Schools of North Carolina

Charter School Overview

Dave Machado

Director

Office of Charter Schools

2018 Application Timeline and Process

- Timeline and Process approved by State Board of Education (SBE) every year.
- [2018 Timeline and Process](#)
- Application usually opens late-spring/early summer
- Application deadline is usually mid- to late-September



2018 Application Timeline and Process

- Once applications are submitted, the Office of Charter Schools will conduct completeness checks and give applicants five business days to submit missing information
- Applications are reviewed by a team of evaluators, and each applicant group is invited in for a clarification interview (30 minutes long).



2018 Application Timeline and Process

- CSAB will determine whether or not to invite the applicant back for a full, hour-long interview
- Applicants invited for full interviews will reappear before the CSAB for an extended interview, and the CSAB will vote on a recommendation to forward to Ready-to-Open or not.



2018 Application Timeline and Process

- SBE usually makes all final approvals by June of a given year.
- Approved schools typically complete a year-long Ready-to-Open/Planning Year
- School opening is contingent upon successful completion of the RTO process



Charter School Funding Sources

- Charter schools receive local, state, and federal funding
- There are restrictions around how the money can be used, depending upon the source
- For example, state funding cannot be used to purchase a facility outright



Typical PPE Funding Breakdown (2016-17)

Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools

State Per Pupil Funds: \$5,291.06

Local Per Pupil Funds: \$2,526.00

Federal Per Pupil Funds: \$4,464.16



Funding Disbursements

- State allotments are disbursed in three parts
- Local allotments are paid monthly, and must be paid within 30 days of receipt of invoice
- Federal EC funding distributed upon submission of receipts; no federal EC allotment is given in year 1 of operations.
- [NCDPI Allotment Information](#)



Operational Constraints/Statutory Mandates

Charter Statute: Laws created and passed by the NC General Assembly

SBE Charter School Policies: Policies implemented by the State Board of Education

Charter Agreement: Approved by the SBE



Instructional Requirements

- Statute mandates that charter schools conduct the same student assessments required by the SBE.
 - Includes EOGs, EOCs, and ACT



Instructional Requirements, cont'd

- Statute also mandates that charter schools provide at least 185 days or 1,025 instructional hours over nine calendar months
- Charter school curricula must meet student performance standards adopted by the SBE (NCSCOS) and those contained in the charter agreement
- Charter schools must comply with IDEA



Operational Flexibility, cont'd

- Transportation
 - Charter schools are not required to provide transportation to students who reside within 1.5 miles of the school
 - They must have a plan to ensure that transportation is not a barrier to enrollment for any student who lives in the LEA in which the school is located



Operational Flexibility, cont'd

- School Nutrition
 - Charter schools are eligible to participate in the National School Lunch Program.
 - They have the flexibility to decide whether or not they will participate in the NSLP



Operational Flexibility, cont'd

- Staffing
 - At least 50% of charter school teachers must be licensed.
 - All EC staff must be fully licensed.
 - Charter schools must implement a background check policy that mirrors the background check policy of the LEA in which they are located.



Governance Flexibility

- Charters may be operated by *either* a non-profit board of directors *or* a board of directors of a municipal charter school
- Governing boards are required to adopt a conflict of interest and nepotism policy including specific, statutorily-mandated language
- Governing boards must abide by all Open Meeting and Public Records laws



Facilities

- Charter schools must present a valid Certificate of Occupancy (CO) for educational use in order to receive state funding allocation



Charter School Accountability

- Charter schools must have annual financial audits conducted by an LGC-approved auditor
- Charter schools undergo a yearly performance framework audit examining governance, academic, and financial performance
- Charter schools undergo a rigorous charter renewal process



Ensuring Diversity

- Charter schools are allowed to implement a weighted lottery, which sets aside a certain number of slots for students usually from low socioeconomic backgrounds
- Give careful consideration to providing ample transportation for students
- Ensure that lunch/school nutrition is not a barrier to student enrollment



Questions/Comments

Dave Machado

Director

Office of Charter Schools

Dave.Machado@dpi.nc.gov

