

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PROGRAMS

TITLE: CHARTER SCHOOLS

ADOPTED: December 6, 1999

REVISED: November 10, 2008

140. CHARTER SCHOOLS	
<p>1. Purpose SC 1702-A</p>	<p>In order to provide students, parents/guardians and community members an opportunity to establish and maintain schools that operate independently from this school district, the Northern Lehigh School Board shall evaluate applications submitted for charter schools located within or outside the district, in accordance with the requirements of Act 22 of 1997 and those established by this Board.</p> <p>The Northern Lehigh School Board shall work cooperatively with individuals and groups submitting proposals and applications for charter schools.</p>
<p>2. Definitions SC 1703-A, 1715-A, 1717-A</p>	<p>Charter School means an independent, nonsectarian public school established and operated under a charter from the local Board of School Directors and in which students are enrolled or attend. A charter school must be organized as a public, nonprofit corporation; and charters may not be granted to any for-profit entity nor to support home schooling programs.</p>
<p>SC 1703-A</p>	<p>Local Board of Directors (Board) means the Board of Directors of the school district in which a proposed or approved charter school is located.</p>
<p>SC 1703-A, 1718-A</p>	<p>Regional Charter School means an independent public school established and operated under a charter from more than one local Board of School Directors and approved by an affirmative vote of a majority of all Board members of each of the school districts involved.</p>
<p>SC 1703-A</p>	<p>Appeal Board means the State Charter School Appeal Board established by the Charter School Law.</p>
<p>SC 1715-A</p>	<p>The Board of Trustees of a charter school shall be classified as public officials.</p>
<p>3. Authority Title 22 Sec. 4.4, 4.12, 4.13 140-AR-1</p>	<p>The Northern Lehigh School Board shall ensure that each charter school application provides appropriate assurances of compliance with the requirements of the Charter School Law, the Northern Lehigh School District's Charter School Application (see Administrative Regulation 140-AR-1) and with Pennsylvania State Board regulations.)</p>

<p>SC 1717-A 140-AR-2</p>	<p>The Northern Lehigh School Board shall evaluate submitted applications for charter schools based on the criteria established by law and the Northern Lehigh School District's Criteria for Evaluation of Charter School Applications (see Administrative Regulation 140-AR-2).</p>
<p>SC 1717-A 65 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 701 et seq</p>	<p>A charter school application shall be approved or denied by a majority vote of all Northern Lehigh School Board members at a public meeting, in accordance with the provisions of the Sunshine Act. Written notice of the Northern Lehigh School Board's decision shall be sent to the applicant, Department of Education and the Appeal Board, including reasons for denial and a clear description of application deficiencies if the application is denied. The Board shall evaluate denied applications that are revised and resubmitted.</p>
<p>SC 1720-A</p>	<p>Upon approval of a charter application, the Northern Lehigh School Board and the charter school's Board of Trustees shall develop and sign a written charter, which shall be binding on both. The charter shall be for a period of three (3) to five (5) years and may be renewed for five-year periods by the Board.</p>
<p>SC 1723-A</p>	<p>The Board shall not cap nor limit the number of district students enrolling in a charter school, unless agreed to by the charter school as part of the written charter.</p>
<p>SC 1724-A</p>	<p>The Northern Lehigh School Board may approve a leave of absence for up to five (5) years for a district employee to work in a charter school located in the district of employment or in a regional charter school in which the employing district is a participant, and the employee shall have the right to return to a comparable position in the district. The Northern Lehigh School Board will not grant tenure to a temporary professional employee on leave from district to teach in a charter school located in the Northern Lehigh School District or in a charter school located outside the Northern Lehigh School District.</p>
<p>SC 1728-A</p>	<p>A charter school will be monitored in a manner consistent with the Northern Lehigh School District's assessment practices. At least ninety (90) days prior to the beginning of each school year, the Northern Lehigh School District will inform the Charter School of the expected monitoring and assessment procedures.</p>
<p>SC 1728-A</p>	<p>The Northern Lehigh School Board shall annually assess whether each charter school is meeting the goals of its charter and shall require each charter school to submit an annual report no later than August 1 of each year.</p>
<p>SC 1728-A</p>	<p>The Northern Lehigh School Board shall conduct a comprehensive review prior to granting a five-year renewal of the charter.</p>

<p>SC 1728-A</p>	<p>The Northern Lehigh School Board shall have ongoing access to the records and facilities of the charter school to ensure that the charter school is in compliance with its charter, Northern Lehigh School Board policy and applicable laws.</p>
<p>SC 1729-A</p>	<p>The Northern Lehigh School Board may take action to revoke or not renew a charter based on reasons cited in the School Code.</p>
<p>SC 1727-A</p>	<p>The Northern Lehigh School Board affirms that the Board of Trustees and the charter school shall be solely liable for any and all damages and costs of any kind resulting from any legal challenges involving the operation of a charter school. The Northern Lehigh School Board and school district shall not be held liable for any activity or operation related to the program of a charter school.</p> <p>A charter school shall execute a "hold harmless" agreement indemnifying and insuring/agreeing to defend the Northern Lehigh School District in any and all kinds of liability areas so that the Northern Lehigh School District and School Board is protected in any litigation related to the operation of a charter school.</p>
<p>4. Delegation of Responsibility</p>	<p>Applications for charter schools shall be submitted to the Superintendent or designee, who shall be responsible for communicating and cooperating with all applicants. Upon receipt of a completed charter school application, the Superintendent shall place the item on the next formal Northern Lehigh School Board meeting agenda for its official receipt. Official acceptance of a charter school application shall be at a formal meeting of the Northern Lehigh School Board.</p> <p>The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible to assist applicants with plans for technical assistance and contracted services which may be provided by Northern Lehigh School District.</p>
<p>5. Guidelines SC 1715-A</p>	<p>A charter school shall be subject to all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination in admissions, employment and operation on the basis of disability, race, creed, color, gender, national origin, religion, ancestry or need for special education services.</p> <p>A charter school shall submit monthly enrollment figures and other reports as required by the district.</p>

<p>SC 1726-A Pol. 810</p>	<p><u>Transportation</u></p> <p>If a charter school is located in this district, or if students of this district are part of a regional charter school, the students shall be provided transportation to the charter school which is consistent with the transportation policy of this district, and which is on the same terms and conditions as transportation is provided to students attending the schools of this school district. Nonresident students shall be provided transportation in accordance with the law and this school district's Transportation Policy.</p>
<p>SC 1717-A, 1719-A</p> <p>SC 1717-A</p>	<p><u>Applications</u></p> <p>Applications for charter schools must contain all the information specified in the Charter Schools Law and the Northern Lehigh School District's Charter Application.</p> <p>Applications for charter schools shall be submitted to the Board no later than November 15 of the school year preceding the school year in which the school will be established.</p>
<p>SC 1717-A</p>	<p>Within forty-five (45) days of receipt, the Board shall hold at least one (1) public hearing on the charter application, in accordance with the Sunshine Act.</p> <p>At least forty-five (45) days must pass between the first public hearing and the final decision of the Board. No later than seventy-five (75) days after the first public hearing, the Board shall grant or deny the application.</p>
<p>SC 1719-A, 1727-A</p>	<p><u>Insurance/Risk Management</u></p> <p>The charter school shall adequately protect against liability and risk through an active risk management program approved by the Board. No later than July 1st, preceding the school year in which a charter school is established, and every year thereafter, the charter school shall provide proof of purchase of insurance coverages as required by the Board.</p> <p>As per the Northern Lehigh School District's Charter School Application, minimum coverages and levels of appropriate coverages shall be established in the charter.</p> <p>A charter school shall operate in a manner that minimizes the risk of injury and harm to students, employees and others.</p>

Enrollment

The name, address, and grade level of each student enrolled in a charter school shall be submitted no later than April 1st of each year preceding said enrollment.

References:

School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 1701-A et seq.

State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 4.4, 4.12, 4.13

Sunshine Act – 65 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 701 et seq.

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