

No. 7600
SECTION: PROGRAMS
TITLE: CHARTER SCHOOLS

ADOPTED: 6/27/00
READOPTED: 4/28/08;1/29/14;11/15/16;
10/15/19
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OXFORD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

It shall be the policy of the Oxford Area School District that charter schools be established in the Oxford Area School District in accordance with Act 22 of 1997 and in accordance with the following provisions of this policy.

- A. The Board of School Directors shall ensure that each charter school application provides appropriate assurances of compliance with the requirements of the Charter School Law and any additional requirements established by the Board of Directors for the Oxford Area School District.
- B. Applications for charter schools shall be submitted to the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee who shall be responsible for communicating and cooperating with all applicants on behalf of the Board of School Directors.
- C. The Superintendent of Schools shall be responsible for assisting applicants with plans for technical assistance that may be provided by the school district.
- D. 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.
- E. The charter school shall adequately protect against liability and risk through an active risk management program approved by the Board.
- F. The district shall provide transportation to resident students attending a charter school located in the district, a regional charter school of which the district is a member, and a charter school located within ten (10) miles outside district boundaries.

Transportation shall be provided to charter school students on the dates and periods that the charter school is in session, regardless of whether transportation is provided to district students on those days.

- G. The Superintendent of Schools shall develop procedures to ensure the implementation of this policy in accordance with Act 22 of 1997.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

CHARTER SCHOOLS

The following procedures shall be followed to ensure the implementation of Oxford Area School District policy 6900 and Act 22 of 1997 regarding the establishment of a public charter school:

I. Application

- A. Upon request to the Superintendent of Schools, application materials shall be sent to the individual, group of individuals or entity having the desire to establish a charter school. The following materials shall be forwarded to the requesting party:
 - 1. Charter school application form
 - 2. A copy of Act 22 of 1997
 - 3. A copy of BEC (Basic Education Circular) 24 P.S. §17-1701 A
 - 4. School district policies and Pennsylvania Department of Education guidelines when appropriate
- B. The completed application must be submitted to the office of the Superintendent of Schools by November 15 of the year preceding the school year the charter school is planned to begin its operation.
- C. Within forty-five (45) days of the receipt of an application the Board of School Directors is required to hold one (1) public hearing in compliance with the "Sunshine Law" regarding the application.
- D. The Board of Directors' decision to grant the application may be made no earlier than forty-five (45) days and no later than seventy-five (75) days after the first public hearing.
- E. A charter application shall be deemed approved by the Board of School Directors upon an affirmative vote by a majority of all the school directors at a public meeting.
- F. Written notice of the Board's action shall be sent to the applicant, the Department of Education, and the Charter School Appeal Board. If the application is denied by the Board of School Directors, the reason for the denial must be included in the notice consistent with 1717-E(5) of the act.
- G. At the discretion of the applicant a denied application may be revised and resubmitted in accordance with 1717-F of Act 22 of 1997.
- H. The decision by the Board of Directors to deny the application may be appealed to the State Charter School Appeal Board as established by the act.

II. Granting of the Charter

- A. Upon approval of the charter application a written charter shall be developed to be signed by the local Board of School Directors and the Board of Trustees of the charter school.
- B. The charter shall be for a period of not less than three (3) years or a period of not more than five (5) years.
- C. A charter may be renewed for a period of five (5) years upon reauthorization by the local Board of School Directors.

III. Annual Reports and Assessments

- A. The Board of Directors shall annually assess whether each charter school is meeting the goals of its charter. An annual report shall be submitted to the Superintendent of Schools no later than August 1 of each year.
- B. The Board of Directors shall complete a comprehensive review prior to granting a five-year renewal of the charter.

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