

2019 Charter Application Technical Assistance

Charter Schools Program
Office of School Transformation
Division of Innovation and Effectiveness

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SOUTH CAROLINA
STATE DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION

Revised
11/14/19

What is a charter school?

A charter school:

- ▶ is a public school
- ▶ is nonreligious
- ▶ is non-home-based
- ▶ is a nonprofit corporation forming a school
- ▶ operates by sponsorship of a public school district, the South Carolina Public Charter School District, or a public or independent institution of higher learning
- ▶ is accountable to the board of trustees, or in the case of technical colleges, the area commission, of the sponsor which grants its charter

Objectives

- ▶ Eligibility
- ▶ Deadlines and Submission Procedures
- ▶ Changes and Updates to Materials

Eligible Applicants

- ▶ Any individual or group who desires to form a charter school and files the necessary application for review by the sponsor:
 - ▶ local school district,
 - ▶ the South Carolina Public Charter School District (SCPCSD),
 - ▶ or a public or independent institution of higher learning*
 - ▶ Charter Institute at Erskine
- ▶ The applicant must also be the same entity that is registered as a nonprofit corporation with the South Carolina Secretary of State to organize the charter school.

**Only public or independent institutions of higher learning that have registered with the SCDE may serve as a charter school sponsor.*

2020 Application Deadlines and Submission Procedures

- ▶ A Letter of Intent must be submitted at least 90 days prior to submitting an application to the proposed sponsor and the SCDE.
- ▶ Completed application packet by **February 1, 2020** for charter schools that plan to open for the 2021-22 school year.
- ▶ Applications received *after* the deadline **will not** be considered for a 2021-22 opening.
- ▶ Applications should be submitted to the charter's proposed sponsor and to the SCDE - this will be a one step process using the online platform

2020 Application Deadlines and Submission Procedures

- ▶ Applicant shall notify the local delegation of the county which the proposed charter is to be located.
- ▶ Only applications that are complete and follow these guidelines will be considered.
- ▶ Applicants may amend applications after submission if the sponsor determines that an application does not meet one or more of the standards and it may request clarifying information from the applicant prior to or during the hearing. The sponsor has the authority to incorporate this clarifying information into the application.

2020 Application Review and Selection Process

- ▶ Within 90 days of receiving a completed application, the sponsor will review and rule on the application in a public hearing.
- ▶ If there is no ruling within 90 days, the application is considered approved.

2020 Application Review and Selection Process

- ▶ A sponsor shall deny an application only if the application:
 - ▶ does not meet the requirements specified in 59-40-50 or 59-40-60,
 - ▶ fails to meet spirit and intent of the Charter Schools Act of 1996,
 - ▶ adversely affects the other students in the district in which the charter school is to be located, or
 - ▶ fails to demonstrate a substantial capacity to establish a viable school.
- ▶ Within 10 days, a written explanation of the reasons for denial must be sent to the charter committee and filed with the SCDE

2019 Application

- ▶ The 2019 application outlines the necessary components to propose, receive approval for, and implement a high quality charter school.
- ▶ The 2019 Application can be found at:
<http://ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/school-choice-innovation/charter-schools-program/charter-school-application-information/>
- ▶ All charter school applications must comply fully with the South Carolina Charter Schools Act, S.C. Code Ann. § 59-40-10 *et seq.*, and the Procedures and Standards for Review of Charter School Applications, S.C. Code Ann. Regs.43-601 (2013)

2019 Application Sections

- ❑ Application Cover Page
- ❑ Executive Summary
- ❑ Application Narrative (15 sections)
- ❑ Appendix Documents

Changes/Updates

- ▶ No changes to content from previous cycle
- ▶ Continuing with the one-step electronic submission to sponsor and SCDE
 - ▶ Additional TA session to provide specific training
 1. Breakout Session at Charter Conference next week
 - ▶ Thursday 11/21, 8:45 AM - 11:50 AM
 2. December 2019 via Webinar
 - ▶ *Date TBD & emailed*
 - ▶ How to use the online platform
 - ▶ Will be recorded for additional viewing
 3. Via email as needed throughout application process

General Guidance/Tips

- ▶ Alignment of all sections of the application
- ▶ Specificity and detail
- ▶ Originality
- ▶ Varied expertise

Planning & Implementation Funds

- ▶ Planning & Implementation Grant is a separate application process that occurs in the Spring
- ▶ If awarded, funding is available for planning year, year 1 of implementation (operation), and year 2 of implementation (operation)
- ▶ Grant funds are to reimburse allowable and approved expenditures

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