

CHARTER INSTITUTE AT ERSKINE

CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD GUIDE

1. BOARD ROLES AND CHARTER SCHOOL PURPOSE

A charter school board of directors bears the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that its charter school operates in alignment with its mission, achieves academic excellence for its students, and maintains sound financial management. The board must demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of and adherence to South Carolina state laws and regulations, as well as federal laws and regulations pertaining to public charter schools.

In fulfilling these responsibilities, the board must act in accordance with the purpose of the South Carolina Charter School Act. The board's actions and decisions should consistently reflect and support these statutory objectives, ensuring that the charter school serves as a channel for educational innovation and improvement within the public school system.

2. BOARD STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

2.1 Board of Directors

Charter school boards must have a board of directors vested with overall management of the corporation's affairs. **S.C. Code Ann. § 33-31-801**

2.2 Officers

The corporation must have officers, which may include a president, secretary, and other positions as determined by the board. **S.C. Code Ann. § 33-31-840**

2.3 Board Composition

The board must consist of at least seven members with the exact number specified in or fixed in accordance with the bylaws. Board members must be residents of South Carolina and not convicted of a felony. Fifty percent of the members of the board as specified by the bylaws must be individuals who have a background in K-12 education or in business, and the bylaws of the charter school also must provide for the manner of selection of these members. In addition, at least fifty percent of the members of the board as specified by the bylaws must be elected by the employees and the parents or guardians of students enrolled in the charter school. **S.C. Code Ann. § 59-40-50(B)(9)**

2.4 Bylaws

The board must adopt bylaws for the regulation and management of the corporation's affairs. **S.C. Code Ann. § 33-31-206**

2.5 Fiscal Responsibility

The board is responsible for the proper management of the corporation's assets and finances. **S.C. Code Ann. § 33-31-830**

3. TRANSPARENCY AND COMPLIANCE

3.1 Record Keeping

The corporation must maintain proper records of board meetings, financial transactions, and other corporate activities. **S.C. Code Ann. § 33-31-1601**

3.2 Public Accountability

As a public charter school, the board must ensure transparency and compliance with open meeting laws and public records requirements. The Charter School Board is subject to the Freedom of Information Act **S.C. Code Ann. § 59-40-50(B)(10)**

3.3 Academic Oversight

The board is responsible for ensuring the school fulfills its mission and achieves academic success for its students. **S.C. Code Ann. § 59-40-60(F)(11)**

3.4 School Leader

The board is responsible for hiring and evaluating the school's leader. [Charter Institute at Erskine's Management Policy](#).

3.5 Board Training

All persons elected or appointed as board members must complete an orientation program within one year of taking office. **S.C. Code Ann. § 59-40-155**

3.6 Charter Amendments

The board may request amendments to their current charter application through the Charter Institute at Erskine board. **S.C. Code Ann. § 59-40-60(C)**



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