

Fact Sheet

Charter Application Evaluation Criteria

Pennsylvania Department of Education

To assist local school district board of directors as they evaluate a Charter application, the following criteria are provided. Charter Schools are to be high quality schools of choice for all students within the Commonwealth. These high quality schools are to be innovative and unique in the educational programs that they provide.

A successful Charter applicant will be able to:

- **Demonstrate, sustainable support** for a high quality charter school by teachers, parents, other community members and students. This will include letters of support and/or financial endorsement, petitions and comments taken at a public hearing concerning the charter application.
- **Display capability**, in terms of support and planning, to provide comprehensive learning experiences to students based on the overall mission of the high quality charter school. This will include resumes of founders who have had experience in the field of education, particularly working with the targeted student population of the public charter school. Also, include resumes of individuals displaying organization skills and the ability to understand the financial aspects of operating a school. In addition, if a management company has been contracted to assist in operating the school, information about the management company's past performance is expected.
- **Provide all components prescribed in the Charter School Law, Section 1719-A.** This will include use of the PDE provided format for the Charter application. Each component should be clearly marked and in an order easily followed by the reader.
- **Demonstrate how the high quality charter school will serve as a model** for other public schools by providing innovative and unique education experiences for the students enrolled at the public charter school. This will include specific data to show how the charter school program will be different from what is currently occurring in the local school district.

School districts may request other information determined to be necessary to help them in their decision whether to grant or deny a Charter.