

Public Charter Schools

The district recognizes that public charter schools offer an opportunity to create new, innovative and more flexible ways of educating students in an atmosphere of learning experiences based on current research and development. Public charter schools shall demonstrate a commitment to the mission and diversity of public education while adhering to one or more of the following goals:

1. Increase student learning and achievement;
2. Increase choices of learning opportunities for students;
3. Better meet individual student academic needs and interests;
4. Build stronger working relationships among educators, parents and other community members;
5. Encourage the use of different and innovative learning methods;
6. Provide opportunities in small learning environments for flexibility and innovation;
7. Create new professional opportunities for teachers;
8. Establish additional forms of accountability for schools; and
9. Create innovative measurement tools.

Public charter schools may be established as a new public school, from an existing public school or a portion of the school or from an existing alternative education program. A public charter school may not convert an existing tuition-based private school into a charter school, affiliate itself with a nonsectarian school or religious institution or encompass all the schools in the district unless the district is composed of only one school.

The Board will not approve any public charter school proposal when it is deemed that its value is outweighed by any direct identifiable, significant and adverse impact on the quality of the public education of students residing in the district. To meet the eligibility criteria for Board approval, a public charter school proposal must meet the requirements of Oregon Revised Statutes, Oregon Administrative Rules, Board policy and regulation. Upon request of the Board, the public charter school applicant must furnish in a timely manner any other information the Board deems relevant and necessary to conduct a complete and good faith evaluation of the charter school proposal.

The district will determine if it has any vacant, unused or underutilized buildings. Upon request the district shall make available to developing or operating public charter this list. Buildings may be made available for public charter school use, subject to Board approval. Approved use may be limited to instructional purposes only. Appropriate-use fees will be determined by the Board. Public charter school use outside of instruction will be subject to Board policy KG, Community Use of District Facilities and accompanying administrative regulation.

Public charter school students may, upon request, be allowed to participate in district programs such as physical education, instrumental and vocal music offerings or other selected options if space and materials are available. Students must adhere to state law, Board policies, regulations and rules concerning conduct and discipline. Public charter school students shall not be permitted to participate in district curricular programs.

The district may provide instructional materials, lesson plans or curriculum guides for use in a public charter school.

The public charter school employer will be determined with each proposal. If the Board is the employer, the terms of the current collective bargaining agreement will apply. If the Board is not the sponsor of the public charter school, it shall not be the employer and will not collectively bargain with public charter school employees.

The superintendent will develop administrative regulations for public charter schools to include the proposal process, review and appeal procedure and charter agreement provisions.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 327.077](#)
[ORS 327.109](#)
[ORS 332.107](#)

[ORS Chapter 338](#)
[ORS 339.141](#)
[ORS 339.147](#)

[OAR 581-026-0005 to -0515](#)

No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, 20 U.S.C. §§ 6311-6322 (2006).