

Charter Authorizer Application Spokane Public Schools

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State Board of Education

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Application and Approval Process

- WAC 180-19-040, Evaluation and approval or denial of authorizer applications, adopted February 2013.
 - Applications for approval in 2013 must be submitted by July 1. SBE must approve or deny by September 12.
 - SBE may utilize external reviewers in evaluating applications.
 - SBE may require personal interview with district for purpose of reviewing an application.

Application and Approval Process

- WAC 180-19-040: Standard for approval by SBE
 - Must find application satisfactory in providing all the information required to be set forth.
 - Will also consider whether proposed policies and practices are consistent with principles and standards for quality charter school authorizing in areas of:
 - ✓ Organizational capacity
 - ✓ Solicitation and evaluation of charter applications
 - ✓ Performance contracting
 - ✓ Ongoing charter school oversight and evaluation
 - ✓ Charter renewal and revocation processes

Application and Approval Process

- Posted authorizer application, closely linked to rules, on April 1.
- Developed, refined and posted rubrics as guide to evaluators on whether criteria are met.
- Established rating scale for each part of application.
- Formed evaluation team of five, including two expert external reviewers.

Application and Approval Process

- Evaluators independently reviewed application and assigned ratings against each criterion for approval.
- Met as team to reach overall ratings of each part of the application and identify questions for follow-up.
- Conducted on-site interview with district. Two goals:
 - ▣ Assess district's command of its application, and its capacity and commitment to implement its plan.
 - ▣ Address issues raised in review of written application.

Spokane Application – Strategic Vision

- Highly developed strategic vision for chartering, closely aligned with purposes of state’s charter school law and district’s strategic plan.
- Targets at-risk students, high-poverty areas of the city for choice options.
- Identifies three priorities for charter applications:
 - Upgraded Curriculum and Rigor
 - Pedagogical Innovation
 - Proven Practices

Spokane Strategic Vision

“The promise of charter schools for Spokane is to help serve as a catalyst for school improvement, to provide new techniques and strategies to reach at-risk students, and to add to the portfolio of options available in Spokane Public Schools. . . . Spokane Public Schools is applying to be a charter school authorizer as it aligns with our mission and vision.” (p. 4.)

Spokane – Capacity and Commitment

- High-quality leadership and evaluation teams, with evident commitment to quality charter authorizing.
- Office of K-12 Innovation with prime responsibility for evaluation and oversight of charter schools.
- Extensive preparation and strong external partnerships.
- Strong capacity and commitment of district resources.
- Engagement of Board, staff and the community.

Spokane – Draft RFP

- Clearly articulates the kinds of charter applications it most wishes to solicit.
- Clear criteria for evaluating applicant mission and vision.
- Clear and rigorous requirements for each of the components of the application specified in statute.
- Replication addendum that tests past performance of existing charter school operators.
- “Unresolved issues that need to be addressed.”

Spokane – Draft Performance Framework

- Meets each of the requirements for performance frameworks in law (RCW 28A.710.170).
- Aligning with Achievement Index.
- District-specific indicators, measures and metrics.
- Sound criteria for evaluating financial, organizational performance.
- “Key issues that still need to be resolved.”

Spokane – Draft Renewal, Revocation, Nonrenewal Processes

- Shows how data will drive decisions to renew, revoke, or decline to renew charter contracts.
- Sound plans to communicate standards for decisions to charter schools.
- Reasonable and effective timelines for taking actions.
- Scaled interventions, short of revocation, in response to identified deficiencies.
- Adequate opportunity for charter board responses.

Spokane: Issues for Interview

- Commitment to flexibility for charter schools in day-to-day operations.
- Fully developed criteria for evaluation of charter applications in RFP.
- Disaggregation of data by major student subgroup in performance framework.
- Clearly articulated process for ongoing monitoring, oversight and reporting on school performance.

Spokane Application: Last Steps

- Evaluation team debrief on interview. Determination of whether questions sufficiently addressed.
- Identification of items for possible inclusion in an authorizing contract.
- Written summary of evaluation of application.
- Briefing of executive director by evaluation team.
- Recommendation to the Board.

Next Steps

- If approved, execute authorizing contract with district within 30 days.
 - Renewable, six-year contract.
 - Incorporates Statement of Assurances.
 - May specify additional performance terms based on applicant's proposal and plan for chartering.
 - No approved district may commence charter authorizing without authorizing contract in effect.
- If not approved, the district may revise and resubmit its application for the December 31 due date.