

From: Mitch Price [mailto:mitch@wacharters.org]
Sent: Friday, September 05, 2014 11:33 AM
To: Jack Archer
Subject: feedback re: proposed SBE rules

Jack:

Here is feedback we received from some approved charter school leaders and WA Charters staff re: proposed changes to the authorizer and charter school application cycles (see below):

- My initial read is that this would be better if it were moved up 1-2 months. Finding out about authorization in September does not give enough time to secure and retrofit a building, and for educator applicants in general it should ideally be aligned to happen before the start of the school year so they can give enough notice to their employers before the start of the school year.

- I think the other big thing is leader hiring. All the good leaders are taken by early summer typically, so you want to know if you should extend an offer to someone asap – so they can give their district appropriate notice, etc. If they were willing to move it up further, I could argue that June 1st or late spring would be even more preferable from that standpoint.

- Questions:
 - Why do the districts have to submit a letter of intent 4 months before the application is due? Is this necessary?
 - Is there any way to move up the last date for authorizers to approve/deny charter applications earlier (i.e. June or July) so that schools get more time in their planning year?

Please let me know if you have questions, concerns, need more information, or want to discuss.

Thanks!

Mitch

Dates in Charter Cycle

Action	WAC	Current	Proposed
School district notice of intent to submit authorizer application	180-19-020	October 1	June 15
Posting of authorizer application by SBE	180-19-030	October 1	May 15
Last date for district to submit authorizer application	180-19-030	December 31	October 15
Last date for SBE to approve or deny authorizer application	180-19-040	April 1	February 1
Last date for all authorizers to issue RFPs for charter applicants	180-19-070	April 15	March 1
Last date for SBE authorizing contract with approved district	180-19-050	April 30	March 1
Last date to submit charter applications to authorizers	180-19-080	July 15	June 1
Last date for authorizers to approve or deny charter applications	180-19-080	October 15	September 1
Last date for authorizers to report approval or denial of charter applications to SBE.	189-19-080	October 25	None. ¹

¹The date for authorizers to report approval or denial of charter applications to the SBE is set by RCW 28A.170.150(2) at ten days from the action to approve or deny.

Mitch Price
 Director of Policy and Government Relations
Washington State Charter Schools Association

[206.832.8505](tel:206.832.8505) | mitch@wacharters.org



WASHINGTON STATE
CHARTER SCHOOL
COMMISSION

September 4, 2014

Washington State Board of Education
600 Washington St SE
Olympia, WA 98504

RE: Proposed Amendments to Charter 180-19 WAC (Charter Schools)

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the proposed amendments to WAC 180-19. The Washington State Charter School Commission (the Commission) considers this response as a means to express our support regarding these amendments. We appreciate the attention the State Board has given to the timeline concerning the annual charter school application in the proposed amendments (WAC 180-19-070 and 080); the new timeline allows public charter schools that are authorized to have a full school-year to plan in preparation of their opening.

Additionally, the Commission supports the proposed changes to WAC 180-19-090, Board certification of charter schools-Lottery. Proposed changes clarify the Board's lottery process for certifying approved charter schools when the number of approved charter schools exceeds the maximum number of charter schools that may be established in any single year.

We would also like to recognize Mr. Jack Archer, Director of Basic Education Oversight, for his outreach to Commission staff as these proposed amendments were drafted. Mr. Archer was and continues to be available and open to suggestions that we believe clarify and strengthen the Board's rules.

Once again, we thank you for this opportunity to respond to the State Board of Education's proposed amendments to WAC 180-19, and we look forward to continuing to build a strong working relationship with you.

Sincerely,

Joshua Halsey, Executive Director
Washington State Charter School Commission