

Districts Interested
in Authorizing
Campus Charters

2018-2019

TEA Contacts

- Division of Charter School Administration
 - Heather Mauzé, Director
 - Arnoldo Alaniz, Assistant Director
 - Melissa Giesberg, Research Specialist
 - John DiPietro, Research Specialist
- Division of Legal Services
 - Karen L. Johnson, Legal Counsel
- Discretionary Grants
 - Audrey Hukari, Grant Manager

Charter Schools in Texas

- Established in the Texas Education Code (TEC) by the 74th Legislature in 1995 (TEC, Chapter 12)
- Subject to fewer state laws than traditional public schools
- Monitored and accredited under the statewide testing and accountability system

Purposes of Charter Schools

- Improve student learning
- Increase the choice of learning opportunities within the public school system
- Create professional opportunities that will attract new teachers to the public school system
- Establish a new form of accountability for public schools
- Encourage different and innovative learning methods

TEC Chapter 12, Subchapter C

Campus or Campus Program Charter

§12.058 – Charter Policy

Each school district shall adopt a campus charter and program charter policy. The policy must specify:

- 1. the process to be followed for approval of a campus charter or a program charter;*
- 2. the statutory requirements with which a campus charter or program charter must comply; and*
- 3. the items that must be included in a charter application.*

TEC Chapter 12, Subchapter C

Campus or Campus Program Charter

§12.052 – Authorization

The school board shall grant or deny, through a public vote of the board of trustees or governing body, a charter to parents and teachers if presented with a petition signed by:

- 1. the parents of a majority of the students at that school campus; and*
- 2. a majority of the classroom teachers at that school campus.*

Note that the signature of only one parent of a student is required for the petition, and the board may not arbitrarily deny a charter under this section.

TEC Chapter 12, Subchapter C

Campus or Campus Program Charter

§12.0521 – Alternative Authorization

The school board may also grant a charter for:

1. *a new district campus; or*
2. *a program that is operated:*
 - (A) *by an entity that has entered into a contract with the district under Section 11.157 to provide educational services to the district through the campus or program; and*
 - (B) *at a facility located in the boundaries of the district.*

TEC Chapter 12, Subchapter C Campus or Campus Program Charter

§12.0522 – District Charter Authorization

(a) The school board *may grant a district charter to a campus to the extent authorized under this section.*

TEC Chapter 12, Subchapter C Campus or Campus Program Charter

§12.0522 – District Charter Authorization

(b) The school board may grant a charter only to one or more campuses serving in total a percentage of the district's student enrollment equal to not more than 15% of the district's enrollment for the preceding school year. The percentage limit may not prevent a district from granting a charter to at least one feeder pattern of schools, including an elementary, middle or junior high, and high school.

TEC Chapter 12, Subchapter C Campus or Campus Program Charter

§12.0522 – District Charter Authorization

(c) The school board may grant a charter to *any campus that has received the lowest performance rating under Subchapter C, Chapter 39.*

TEC Chapter 12, Subchapter C Campus or Campus Program Charter

§12.0522 – District Charter Authorization

(d) Subchapter D (open-enrollment charter schools) applies to a campus granted a district charter under this section as though the campus were granted a charter under Subchapter D, and the campus is considered an open-enrollment charter school.

TEC Chapter 12, Subchapter C Campus or Campus Program Charter

§12.053 – Cooperative Campus Charter

(a) The board of trustees may grant a charter to parents and teachers at two or more campuses in the district for a cooperative charter program if the board is presented with a petition signed by:

- 1. the parents of a majority of the students at each school campus; and*
- 2. a majority of the classroom teachers at each school campus.*

TEC Chapter 12, Subchapter C Campus or Campus Program Charter

§12.0531 – Performance Contract; Duration of Charter

If a charter is granted under this subchapter, the board of trustees of the school district that granted the charter shall enter into a performance contract with the principal or equivalent chief operating officer of the campus or program.

TEC Chapter 12, Subchapter C Campus or Campus Program Charter

§12.0531 – Performance Contract; Duration of Charter

The performance contract must specify enhanced authority granted to the principal or equivalent officer in order to achieve the academic goals that must be met by campus or program students.

TEC Chapter 12, Subchapter C Campus or Campus Program Charter

§12.0531 – Performance Contract; Duration of Charter

A charter granted under this subchapter expires 10 years from the date the charter is granted unless the specified goals are substantially met, as determined by the board of trustees of the school district that granted the charter.

TEC Chapter 12, Subchapter C Campus or Campus Program Charter

§12.059 – Content

Each charter granted under this subchapter must:

- 1. describe the educational program to be offered, which may be a general or specialized program;*
- 2. provide that continuation of the charter is contingent on satisfactory student performance under Subchapter B, Chapter 39, satisfactory financial performance under Subchapter D, Chapter 39, and compliance with other applicable accountability provisions under Chapter 39;*

TEC Chapter 12, Subchapter C

Campus or Campus Program Charter

§12.059 – Content

Each charter granted under this subchapter must:

- 3. specify any basis, in addition to a basis specified by this subchapter, on which the charter may be revoked;*
- 4. prohibit discrimination in admission on the basis of national origin, ethnicity, race, religion, or disability;*

TEC Chapter 12, Subchapter C Campus or Campus Program Charter

§12.059 – Content

Each charter granted under this subchapter must:

- 5. describe the governing structure of the campus or program;*
- 6. specify any procedure or requirement, in addition to those under Chapter 38 of the Education Code, that the campus or program will follow to ensure the health and safety of students and employees; and*

TEC Chapter 12, Subchapter C Campus or Campus Program Charter

§12.059 – Content

Each charter granted under this subchapter must:

- 7. describe the manner in which an annual audit of financial and programmatic operations of the campus or program is to be conducted, including the manner in which the campus or program will provide information necessary for the school district in which it is located to participate, as required by this code or by commissioner rule, in PEIMS.*

TEC Chapter 12, Subchapter C Campus or Campus Program Charter

Side Note - In order to meet the federal definition of a charter school, the annual audit referenced in § 12.059(7) must be completed by an independent entity.

TEC Chapter 12, Subchapter C Campus or Campus Program Charter

§12.060 – Form

A charter shall be in the form and substance of a written contract signed by the president of the board of trustees granting the charter and the chief operating officer of the campus or program for which the charter is granted.

TEC Chapter 12, Subchapter C Campus or Campus Program Charter

§12.061 – Charter Granted

Each charter a board of trustees grants under this subchapter must:

- 1. satisfy this subchapter; and*
- 2. include the information that is required under Section 12.059 (Content) consistent with the information provided in the application and any modification the board requires.*

TEC Chapter 12, Subchapter C Campus or Campus Program Charter

§12.064 – Procedure for Placement on Probation or Revocation

(a) Each board of trustees that grants a charter under this subchapter shall adopt a procedure to be used for placing on probation or revoking a charter it grants.

TEC Chapter 12, Subchapter C Campus or Campus Program Charter

§12.064 – Procedure for Placement on Probation or Revocation

(b) This procedure must provide an opportunity for a hearing to the campus or program for which a charter is granted under this subchapter and to parents and guardians of students at the campus or in the program. A hearing under this subsection must be held on the campus or on one of the campuses in the case of a cooperative charter program.

Public Charter School Program

- Authorized under ESEA, as amended by NCLB, in Title V, Part B (Sections 5201 - 5211)
- Allows State Education Agencies (SEAs) to apply for funding via a competitive grant application process
- If awarded, allows SEAs to issue subgrants to eligible applicants to enable such applicants to plan and implement new charter schools

Charter School Program (CSP) Allowable Activities

An eligible applicant receiving a CSP grant may use grant funds only for:

- ✓ post-award planning and design of the educational program, which may include -
 - √ refinement of the desired educational results and of the methods for measuring progress toward achieving those results; and
 - √ professional development of teachers and other staff who will work in the charter school.

Charter School Program (CSP) Allowable Activities

An eligible applicant receiving a CSP grant may use grant funds only for:

- ✓ initial implementation of the charter school, which may include -
 - ✓ informing the community about the school;
 - ✓ acquiring necessary equipment and educational materials and supplies;

Charter School Program (CSP) Allowable Activities

An eligible applicant receiving a CSP grant may use grant funds only for:

- ✓ initial implementation of the charter school, which may include -
 - ✓ acquiring or developing curriculum materials; and
 - ✓ other initial operational costs that cannot be met from state or local sources.

Charter School Program (CSP) Allowable Activities

- ✓ Grant funds are intended for one-time start-up costs. Examples include required accounting systems, operating equipment, training, textbooks, and curriculum.
- ✗ Grant funds are not intended for ongoing expenses or consumable supplies. Examples include ongoing custodial or food services or consumable instructional or other supplies and materials.

Eligibility to Apply for Funding Under the 2018-2020 Public CSP Start-Up Grant

Currently, four school districts in Texas have been deemed eligible by the USDE to receive CSP Start-Up Grant funds. They are:

- ✓ Dallas ISD;
- ✓ Longview ISD;
- ✓ Palestine ISD; and
- ✓ San Antonio ISD.

Eligibility to Apply for Funding Under the 2018-2020 Public CSP Start-Up Grant

Additional school districts interested in authorizing new and innovative campus charters for the 2018-2019 school year must:

- amend their local district policies for authorizing campus or campus program charters to ensure that they meet Absolute Priorities 1 and 2 of the 2015 Texas CSP Grant, as well as the requirements of Texas Education Code (TEC) Chapter 12, Subchapter C; and
- submit these amended policies to the TEA for review by August 31, 2017.

Eligibility to Apply for Funding Under the 2018-2020 Public CSP Start-Up Grant

- TEA staff will review these policies and forward them to the USDE for approval.
- Any school district that submits amended policies for authorizing campus or campus program charters to TEA by August 31, 2017, will be considered eligible to apply for the 2018-2020 Public CSP Start-Up Grant.

Funding for the 2018-2020 Public CSP Start-Up Grant

- Campus program charters are ineligible for funding. (A campus number must be assigned to the proposed campus charter.)
- The funding application (RFA) should be available on or around December 1, 2017.
- The funding application will be due to TEA on or around January 30, 2018.

Funding for the 2018-2020 Public CSP Start-Up Grant

- Campus charters meeting all of the requirements as evidenced by the eligibility documents submitted with the RFA on or before the deadline date will be eligible to move forward through the competitive review process.
- Successful applications will be negotiated by TEA staff.
- The grant project period will begin on or around March 15, 2018.

TEA Contacts

- Division of Charter School Administration
(512) 463-9575
 - Heather Mauzé, Director
 - Arnoldo Alaniz, Assistant Director
 - Melissa Giesberg, Research Specialist
 - John DiPietro, Research Specialist
- Discretionary Grants (512) 463-8525
 - Audrey Hukari, Grant Manager

TEA Contacts

If you have any questions regarding the Public Charter School Program Start-Up Grant Program, please contact Arnoldo Alaniz in the Division of Charter School Administration at (512) 936-2237, or via email at arnoldo.alaniz@tea.texas.gov.