

Starting a Charter School

Charter Schools are public schools that operate under a performance contract or “charter” which frees them from many of the regulations for traditional public schools.

Charter schools may be created when an individual, a group of parents or teachers, a municipality, or a legal entity submits an application to the authorizing agent, usually a school district. The application will demonstrate how the school will use the guiding principles outlined in s.1002.33(6), F.S., provide a detailed curriculum, contain goals and objectives for student performance, separately describe the reading curriculum and strategies, and contain an annual financial plan.

Upon approval, the applicants form a governing board which negotiates a contract with the sponsor outlining expectations of both parties regarding the school’s academic and financial performance.

Types of Charters

- District-sponsored charters
- Conversion charter schools
- University-sponsored charter lab schools
- Charters-in-the-Workplace
- Charters-in-a-Municipality

Funding Your Charter School

Charter schools are funded by the state in the same way as all other public schools in the school district. Operating funds include state and local funds, discretionary lottery funds and funds from the district’s current discretionary operating millage levy. Your sponsor may retain up to five per cent for administrative services. Charter schools may be eligible for capital outlay funds for facilities, allocated based on student enrollment.

Federal Start-up Funds

New charter schools may apply for a three-year federal grant funded through **No Child Left Behind** to assist with planning and start-up. The average total award is approximately \$250,000. Additional federal funding may be available through Title I and IDEA.

For more information, please visit

www.floridaschoolchoice.org or call 800-447-1636.

