

POLICY

Queen Anne's County Public Schools

POLICY TITLE: Queen Anne's County Charter Schools Policy	
ADOPTION/EFFECTIVE DATE: September, 2003 Readopted: February 06, 2013	
POLICY/PROCEDURE MANUAL SUMMARY CATEGORY: General School Administration Amendment:	

A. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish the process and procedures by which a public charter school may be established under the supervision of the Board of Education of Queen Anne's County, in accordance with federal and state laws and regulations.

B. Policy Statement

In keeping with the Board of Education's interest in providing varied innovative instructional programs and recognizing that, under certain conditions, a non-traditional program may provide alternative educational opportunities for students, a public charter school may be established as part of the Queen Anne's County Public Schools.

C. Rationale

The Board of Education of Queen Anne's County acknowledges that based on the Maryland Public Charter School Program that was adopted into law by Maryland's General Assembly in 2003 through Title 9 , 101-1010 of the Education Article of the Code of Maryland (COMAR), all public school districts in Maryland are required to establish an alternative means within the existing public school system to provide innovative learning opportunities and creative education approaches to improve the education of students. Therefore, based on these COMAR regulations the Board of Education will act as the primary authorizer to establish a process and procedures that includes but is not limited to;

- guidelines that contain the roles and responsibilities of both the County Board and Charter School Operator;
- performance standards that the charter school must meet or exceed;

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- an evaluation process of public charter schools that includes the use of financial, program and compliance audits; and
- a renewal and revocation process.

D. Definitions

A Public Charter School – A public school that operates under a charter or contract, within the public school system, and is accountable to the Board.

The public charter school:

1. Is nonsectarian in all its programs, policies, and operations;
2. Is a school to which parent(s), guardian(s) choose to send their children;
3. Is open to all students on a space-available basis and admits students on a lottery basis if more students apply than can be accommodated;
4. Is a new public school or a conversion of an existing public school under the authority of Queen Anne's County Public Schools;
5. Provides a program of elementary or secondary education or both;
6. Operates in pursuit of a specific set of educational objectives;
7. Is tuition free for all students who are eligible to attend any other public school in Queen Anne's County;
8. Is subject to federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination;
9. Is in compliance with all applicable health and safety laws;
10. Requires students to be physically present on school premises for a period that is consistent with other public schools in Queen Anne's County;
11. Is created in accordance with the Maryland Public School Program Law of 2003, 2010 and under the control of the Board of Education of Queen Anne's County.
12. Operates under the supervision of the public chartering authority from which its charter is granted and in accordance with its charter and, except as provide in the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) section 9-106 of this title (Obligations and waiver), the provisions of law and regulation governing other;

Charter Agreement – A formal contract entered into by the Board and the operator(s) of a public charter school that specifies the terms and conditions under which a public charter school is authorized to operate.

Charter School Application – The final proposal that provides in depth, specific information required by the primary authorizer (The Board of Education of Queen Anne's County) that describes a comprehensive, high quality and innovative educational program.

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Concept Proposal – A preliminary proposal, submitted by the Charter School group which is required to be approved by the Charter School Application Review Committee before the charter applicant group can submit the final charter school application.

Primary Authorizer- The primary public chartering authority for the granting of a charter is the county board of education (Board of Education of Queen Anne's County)

Secondary Authorizer – The secondary public chartering authority for the granting of a charter is the State Board acting in its appeal review capacity or as the public chartering authority for a restructured school in accordance with COMAR.

E. Implementation

The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee is responsible for drafting procedural guidelines for the implementation of this policy.

F. Evaluation

The Superintendent will provide the Board of Education a review of this policy by August 2015. The focus of this review will be the effectiveness of the elements of this policy in assisting the Board in fulfilling its mission.

G. References

Maryland State Board of Education (2010). Maryland State Board of Education Policy: The Charter School Program (Title 9)

Maryland State Board of Education (2003). Maryland State Board of Education Policy: The Charter School Program (Title 9)