

POLICY Board of Education of Queen Anne’s County

Responsible Office:	Curriculum & Instruction
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POLICY NAME

I. 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.

II. 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.

III. 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. **Except as provided in §§ 9-102.1, 9-102.2, and 9-102.3 of Md. Code, Educ. § 9-102,** 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, **amended in 2010 and 2015**, 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 provided in the **Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) section 9-106 of this title the Education Article** (Obligations and waiver), the provisions of law and regulation governing other **public schools**.
- B. *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.
- C. *Charter School Application* – The final proposal that provides in depth, specific information required by the **primary sole** authorizer (The Board of Education of Queen Anne’s County) that describes a comprehensive, high quality and innovative educational program.
- D. *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.
- E. *Sole Authorizer* – The **sole primary** public chartering authority for the granting of a charter is the county board of education (Board of Education of Queen Anne’s County). **In the case of a denied application, the applicant may appeal the decision to the Maryland State Board of Education.**
- F. ~~*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.~~

IV. POLICY ELEMENTS

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, §101-112**010** 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~~

to implement this law, the Board of Education will act as the **primary sole** 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;
- an evaluation process of public charter schools that includes the use of financial, program and compliance audits; and
- a renewal and revocation process.

V. IMPLEMENTATION

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

The Board of Education shall implement this policy.

VI. POLICY REVIEW

~~The Superintendent will provide the Board of Education with 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.~~

The policy is to be reviewed by the responsible office every four years after its initial adoption.

VII. SPECIFIC REFERENCES TO TITLES, DEPARTMENTS, OR LAWS

Maryland State Board of Education (2015). Maryland State Board of Education Policy: The Charter School Program (Title 9).

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).

VIII. EFFECTIVE DATE

Date: Click or tap here to enter text.

Patricia W. Saelens, Ed.D.
Superintendent, Queen Anne's County Public Schools

HISTORY:

Initial Adoption	09/2003	Revised	02/06/2013 02/29/2024	Reviewed	--/--/----	Next Review	02/29/2028
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