

ORGANIZATION, PHILOSOPHY, AND GOALS

Philosophy and Goals

Charter Schools

This policy supersedes Policy 1400.2.

I. PURPOSE

To authorize the establishment of charter schools.

II. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF CHARTER SCHOOLS

In keeping with the provisions of the Code of Virginia, the Fairfax County School Board will receive, will consider, and may approve requests for charter schools if such charters are focused on supporting the mission and targets adopted by the Fairfax County School Board and meet other requirements specified in the current version of Regulation 1400. Charter school applicants may seek Virginia Board of Education comment on the feasibility, curriculum, financial soundness, and other objective criteria established by the Virginia Board of Education and shall include in the application as advisory information to the School Board any resulting comment. The School Board shall give priority to proposals designed to increase the educational opportunities of students identified as “educationally at-risk” according to Virginia Board of Education criteria, particularly those students currently served by schools not fully accredited.

III. WAIVERS OF SCHOOL BOARD POLICY AND STATE REGULATION

- A. A charter school may be authorized as specified and approved in the charter agreement to operate free from specific Fairfax County School Board policies and state regulations, except the Standards of Quality, the Standards of Accreditation, and the Standards of Learning.
- B. The School Board shall request from the Virginia Board of Education, on behalf of its charter schools, waivers from state regulation as requested in the charter application and agreed to by the School Board. If the charter school is designed to increase the opportunities for at-risk students, as provided by state law, then the School Board shall request that the Virginia Board of Education approve an individual school accreditation plan.

IV. CHARTER TERM

A new charter agreement will be for a three-year period. Renewal of an existing charter agreement may be for a period of from one to three years, according to the recommendation of the Superintendent and the determination of the School Board

V. SCHOOL DIVISION REPORTING

|| The Fairfax County School Board will report annually to the Virginia Board of Education as specified in the state charter school law and any state implementing guidance. Such reporting will include:

- || A. The number of charter school applications received, the number of applications granted and denied, the reasons for any denials, and the number granted to schools designated to increase the educational opportunities for at-risk students or any students served by schools that have not achieved full accreditation.
- B. An annual evaluation of each charter school that compares the school's success against its objectives.
- C. An annual comparison of the performance of charter school students with those enrolled in regular schools with similar student characteristics.
- D. The number of students enrolled in each charter school at the end of each school year.
- E. All data required by the Virginia Department of Education calendar of reports.

Legal References: Code of Virginia, §22.1-212.5 through §22.1-212.16

See also the current version of: Regulation 1400, Charter Schools

Policy

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FAIRFAX COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD