

CHAPTER 3.00 - SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

CHARTER SCHOOLS

3.90

Santa Rosa District Schools, pursuant to Florida Statutes, may establish charter schools for the purposes of improving student learning and academic achievement; increasing learning opportunities for students, with special emphases on low achieving students; increasing learning opportunities for reading; increasing the use of innovative learning methods; increasing choices for students; requiring the measurement of learning outcomes; and creating new professional opportunities for teachers.

I. Responsibility of District Schools' Administration

- A. Receive, review, and recommend to the School Board all charter applications in a timely fashion as stipulated by Florida Statutes.
- B. Develop a charter in cooperation with the applicant.
- C. Monitor charter school contracts and make recommendations to the School Board.

II. Eligibility for Charter Application

The Board may sponsor one or more charters for schools which may serve any grade or combination of grades from kindergarten through grade twelve. A charter school may operate a virtual charter school to provide full time online instruction to eligible students.

A. Eligible candidates are

1. Any not-for-profit organization, or
 2. A public school which has been in operation for at least two (2) years and requests to convert to a charter school with support of fifty percent (50%) or more parents voting provided that a majority of parents participate in the ballot process and fifty percent (50%) or more teachers.
- B. Private schools, parochial schools, and home education programs are not eligible to become charter schools.

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III. Legal Entity and Requirements

A charter school shall:

- A. Organize as a nonprofit organization
 - B. Be nonsectarian
 - C. Charge no tuition or fees except those fees charged by other public schools
 - D. Meet health and safety standards of regular schools
 - E. Conduct background screenings and employment history checks on candidates for employment as required by law.
 - F. Disclose to the District the name of employees who are related to the owner, board of directors, president, school administrator or other person with decision making authority at the charter school.
 - G. Disclose the name and sponsor of any charter school operated by an applicant, governing board member, or service provider that has closed, the reason for the closure, and the academic and financial history of those charter schools.
 - H. Submit a monthly financial report to the School District.
 - I. Publish an annual progress report
 - J. Provide an annual financial audit similar to that of the School District to the School Board
 - K. Participate in the state's education accountability system.
 - L. Analyze and compare student performance
- A. Comply with Florida Statutes applicable to public schools as they relate to civil rights, student health, safety, welfare, maximum class size, public records, public meetings, public inspections, penalties, compensation and salary schedules, workforce reduction, contracts with instructional personnel hired on or after July 1, 2011, and performance evaluations for instructional personnel and school administrators.

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IV. Student Eligibility

- A. Participation and attendance of any student in a charter school is voluntary. If a public school converts to a charter school, parents may request nonparticipation and receive an assignment to a public school.
- B. All students attending a public school which converts to a charter school will be eligible to attend.
- C. All students who are a part of the target population as specified in the charter school application are eligible for participation. Equal opportunity shall be provided for exceptional education students and limited English proficient students.

V. Financial Status

If a deteriorating financial condition is identified, the School District shall notify the governing board of the charter school and the Commissioner of Education within seven (7) business days. The governing board and District shall develop a corrective action plan and submit the plan to the Commissioner of Education within thirty (30) business days after notifying the charter school.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 1001.41, 1001.42, F.S.

LAW(S) IMPLEMENTED: 1001.02, 1001.43, 1002.33, 1002.331, 1002.345, 1002.45, 1002.455, F.S.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RULE(S): 6A-6.0781, 6A-6.0787

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