

AVON GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: CHARTER SCHOOLS

ADOPTED: March 17, 1998

REVISED:

<p>1. Purpose. 24 P.S. 17-1701-A et seq.</p> <p>2. Authority. 24 P.S. 17-1701-A et seq.</p> <p>3. Definitions. 24 P.S.17-1703-A</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">250. Charter Schools</p> <p>The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the Avon Grove School District Board of School Directors when it is required under the Charter School Law to take certain actions regarding charter schools or regional charter schools.</p> <p>The Board's authority regarding charter schools arises under the Charter School Law, 24 P.S. 17-1701-A et seq.</p> <p>"District" shall mean the Avon Grove School District.</p> <p>"Appeal Board" shall mean the State Charter School Appeal Board established by the Charter School Law.</p> <p>"Charter School" shall mean an independent <u>nonsectarian</u> public school established and operated under a charter from the local board of school directors and in which students are enrolled or attend. A charter school must be organized as a public, nonprofit corporation. Charters may not be granted to any for-profit entity <u>nor to support a home education program</u>.</p> <p>"Department" shall mean the Pennsylvania Department of Education.</p> <p>"Local Board of School Directors" shall mean the board of school directors of a school district in which a proposed or approved charter school is located. The board of school directors of the Avon Grove School District will be referred to as the "Board" in this policy.</p> <p>"Regional Charter School" shall mean an independent public school established and operated under a charter from more than one local school board of directors. A regional charter school must be organized as a public, nonprofit corporation. Charters may not be granted to any for-profit entity.</p> <p>"Secretary" shall mean the Pennsylvania Secretary of Education.</p> <p>"Superintendent" shall mean the superintendent of the Avon Grove School District.</p>
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<p>4. Guidelines.</p> <p>24 P.S. 17-1717-A, 17-1718-A</p> <p>24 P.S. 17-1719-A</p> <p>24 P.S. 17-1717-A</p>	<p>“Board of Trustees” shall mean the board of trustees of a proposed or approved charter school or regional charter school.</p> <p><u>Charter School Applications to Establish a New Charter School.</u></p> <p>An application to <u>new</u> establish a charter school or regional charter school must be submitted to the Board through the Superintendent who shall act as the Board’s designee to receive applications and to communicate with charter school applicants. Applications must be submitted and received by the Board by November 15 of the school year preceding the school year in which the charter will be established. <u>Applications shall not be accepted after November 15 of the school year proceeding the school year in which the charter will be established.</u></p> <p>Applications must conform to the requirements of the Charter School Law and contain all the information required by the Law, including those set forth in Section 1719-A. Additional information may be requested by the Board, through the Superintendent, to assist in its evaluation of the application.</p> <p><u>Charter School Application Review and Public Hearing.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within forty-five (45) days of the receipt of a charter school application, unless otherwise agreed to by the applicant, the Board shall conduct at least one public hearing concerning the application. The public hearing shall be subject to the requirements of the “Sunshine Act.” • The Board will evaluate a charter school application based on the criteria set out in the Charter School Law and additional criteria established by the Board. The additional criteria will be published and available to all charter applicants. • No less than thirty (30)<u>forty-five (45)</u> days and no more than seventy-five (75) days following the first public hearing concerning a charter school application, the Board will vote in a public meeting to approve or deny the application for the charter. The action to approve or deny the application shall be by a majority vote of the membership of the Board. • Written notice of the Board’s action will be sent to the applicant, the Department and the Appeal Board. If the application is denied, the reasons for denial and a description of the deficiencies will be clearly stated in the notice. • If an application is denied, the applicant may revise and resubmit the application to the Board. The Board may conduct one or more public hearings on the revised application. The Board will consider the revised
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	application at its first public meeting occurring at least forty five (45) days after the receipt of the revised application.
24 P.S. 17-1720-A	<p><u>Term and Form of Charter</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upon approval of an application to establish a charter school, the Board and the Board of Trustees shall develop a written charter which will be signed by the Board and Board of Trustees. The charter shall be for a term of not less than three years nor more than five years and shall be legally binding on both the Board and the Board of Trustees. The charter may be renewed for subsequent terms of five years upon authorization of the Board.
24 P.S. 17-1715-A,17-1718-A,17-1719-A,17-1723-A,17-1727-A,17-1728-A,17-1732-A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The written charter shall include conditions required by law or otherwise agreed to by the Board and Board of Trustees, including but not limited to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Assurance that the Board of Trustees will comply with all conditions of the charter, the Charter School Law, and the provisions of the Pennsylvania Public School Code of 1949, as amended, which apply to charter schools. (2) Assurance that Board of Trustees will comply with other applicable federal and state laws and regulations, including the pertinent sections of 22 Pa. Code as required by the Charter School Law. (3) Evidence that the Board of Trustees has acquired adequate liability and risk insurance coverage which names the District as an additional insured. Minimum coverage shall be established in the charter. (4) Assurances that the Board of Trustees and the charter school shall be solely liable for any and all damages and costs of any kind resulting from legal challenges involving the operation and/or other actions of the Board of Trustees, the charter school, and its employees. (5) Provisions to ensure that the Board is able to annually assess whether the charter school is meeting the goals of its charter and conducts a comprehensive review prior to any renewal. This condition shall require the charter school to submit an annual report to the Board not later than August 1 of each year in the form prescribed by the Secretary. The Board shall have ongoing access to the records and facilities of the charter school to ensure that the charter school is in compliance with the charter and the Charter School Law. (6) Assurance that the Board of Trustees will not discriminate in

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	<p>employment practices or admissions based on disability, race, creed, color, gender, national origin, religion, ancestry or the need for special education services.</p> <p>(7) Agreements, if any between the Board and Board of Trustees concerning services to be provided by the District to the charter school and concerning participation by charter school pupils in District extracurricular activities.</p> <p>(8) Any other terms or conditions deemed necessary by the Board or other terms and conditions agreed to by the Board and the Board of Trustees.</p>
<p>24 P.S. 17-1728-A(a)</p>	<p><u>Oversight and ,Review, Renewal and Revocation of Charter.</u></p> <p>The Board will annually assess whether a charter school is complying with the terms and conditions of the charter and meeting the goals of its charter. The charter school shall submit an annual report to the Board not later than August 1 of each year in the form prescribed by the Secretary. The Board may request additional information to supplement the required annual report. <u>The Board shall have ongoing access to the records and facilities of the charter school to ensure the charter school is in compliance with its charter, Board policy and applicable laws.</u></p>
<p>24 P.S. 17-1729-A</p>	<p><u>Renewal and/or Revocation of an Existing Charter</u></p> <p><u>An existing charter school seeking renewal of its charter shall submit, by certified mail, to the Superintendent, the Board President and the Board Secretary, a letter stating the charter school's intent to seek renewal of its charter. If the charter school is seeking any amendments to the existing charter it shall be stated in the letters of intent. The letters shall be received between July 1 and October 1 of the final year of the current charter. The submission of the charter school's annual report to the District shall under no circumstances serve as the charter school's letter of intent under this paragraph. It is the charter school's sole responsibility to be cognizant of the termination date of its current charter and request renewal in such a time frame to allow for all necessary steps in the renewal process. The district will not accelerate or alter the process due to the charter school's failure to monitor timelines will strictly adhere to this schedule.</u></p> <p><u>Within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of the letter stating the charter school's intent to renew, the Board, through the Superintendent or his/her designee, shall acknowledge receipt of the letters and provide specific information to the charter school regarding information that is required to be submitted to the district for its review. The charter school shall provide the requested information to the district within 60 days of the notice by the Superintendent or his/her designee of the information being requested.</u></p>

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Upon receipt of the information from the charter school, the district shall advise the charter school of the date, time and place of a public hearing within the next 30 days to consider charter school's renewal. After the public hearing, but within 45 days of receipt of the information from the charter school, the district shall notify the charter school that that it intends to renew or not renew the charter. In the event the Board intends to renew the charter, it shall take necessary action at its next regularly scheduled meeting or at a special meeting after the notification to the charter school.

If the Board intends to not renew the charter it shall follow the procedures for nonrenewal.

~~Prior to granting a charter renewal, the Board will conduct a comprehensive review of the charter school.~~

The Board may choose to revoke or not renew a charter based on any of the following reasons:

- (1) One or more material violations of the written charter.
- (2) Failure to meet the student performance requirements set forth in 22 Pa. Code Ch. 5 or the written charter.
- (3) Failure to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management or audit requirements.
- (4) Violations of any provision of the Charter School Law.
- (5) Violation of any provision of state or federal law from which the charter school has not been exempted, including any statute or regulation governing children with disabilities.
- (6) The charter school has been convicted of fraud.

~~Any~~ notice of revocation or of non-renewal of a charter given by the Board will state the grounds for such action with reasonable specificity and provide reasonable notice regarding the public hearing concerning such revocation or non-renewal. A public hearing concerning such revocation or non-renewal will be arranged in accordance with the Charter School Law. A 30 day public comment period will be held after the public hearing. After the conclusion of the public comment period, the Board will provide the charter school with formal notification regarding renewal or nonrenewal.

In cases where the health or safety of the pupils and/or staff is at serious risk, the Board may take immediate action to revoke a charter at any time.

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If a charter is revoked, not renewed, forfeited, surrendered or otherwise ceases to operate, the charter school shall be dissolved. In no event shall the District be liable for any outstanding liabilities or obligations of the charter school.

Miscellaneous Provisions

- A charter school and the District may arrange for the District, at the District's sole discretion, to provide certain services to the charter school. Such agreements will be set out in the charter or by contracts mutually agreed to by the Board and the Board of Trustees.
- The District will provide pupil transportation for pupils enrolled in charter school or a regional charter school as required by law.
- The District shall only provide access to its extracurricular activities or interscholastic athletics for pupils enrolled in a charter school or regional charter school as required by law, and after demonstration by the charter school that it does not provide an equivalent activity for its students. Charter or regional charter school students participating in District extracurricular activities or interscholastic athletics shall comply with Board Policy 250.1.