

Charter School Contract¹

Charter School Contract:²

Effective Date: The grant or renewal of a written charter school contract, also known as a charter, for a charter school authorized by the Board shall not be legally effective, and the charter school shall not begin or continue operations, as applicable, unless and until (1) the contract has been approved by the Commissioner of Education, by the charter school board of directors, and by the Board, and (2) the contract has been executed by the chair of the charter school board of directors and by the Board Chair. A charter school contract shall contain all terms and conditions specifically required by the Kentucky charter school statutes and regulations, as well as any additional terms and conditions specifically required by the Board consistent with the Kentucky charter school statutes and regulations.³

Contract Development: The District's contract review committee (CRC), whose members shall be appointed by the Superintendent and supervised by the Director of School Choice, shall annually review and approve a standard contract template that is consistent with the Kentucky charter school statutes and regulations and all applicable Board policies, which shall be used as the basis for all charter school contracts approved by the Board. New charter school contracts and any amendments to any existing charter school contract that materially alter the contract, shall be presented to and reviewed by the CRC and, if approved by the CRC, shall be presented to the Board for approval. The Superintendent, assisted by the Director of School Choice, shall establish procedures for the operation of the CRC, contract negotiations with approved charter school applicants, and the amendment of an existing charter school contract.

Contracting for District Services: The District may offer services to any charter school authorized by the Board, to be purchased at cost by the charter school. If any charter school authorized by the Board wishes to enter into an agreement with the District for services, the charter school must notify the Superintendent within 10 days after approval of the charter school application by the Board. The charter school may later request negotiations for other services with the District in a manner specified by the Superintendent. Any such services agreement shall be negotiated by the District and the charter school applicant separately from the negotiation of the charter school contract. A charter school applicant shall not include as a response in the charter school application that it will rely on the District to provide any specific services without including a specific explanation of a backup plan should those services by the District not be available.

Term of Charter Contract: An approved contract for a charter school shall be effective for a term of five years, beginning on the effective date of the contract. The effective date of a charter school contract shall be the date on which it has been executed by both the chair of the charter school board of directors and by the Board Chair.

Performance Framework: A performance framework that establishes clear and transparent standards for charter school academic, financial, and organizational performance as well as expectations for school climate and culture shall be utilized as the primary means of measuring the performance of each charter

¹ KRS 160.1594; KRS 160.1596; 701 KAR 8:020, Section 2 and 5

² KRS 160.1596; KRS 160.1597

³ KRS 160.1590 through KRS 160.1599; KAR Title 701, Chapter 8

school authorized by the Board. The performance framework shall establish standards to be applied throughout all functions and benchmarks of the term of the charter school contract, including ongoing monitoring, annual assessments, and renewal criteria.

The performance framework shall include targets for charter school performance and metrics for measuring achievement of the targets. Annual student performance targets shall be set for each charter school in accordance with the state accountability system. All student performance data shall be disaggregated by subgroups including race, sex, socioeconomic status, and area of exceptionality where allowable for reporting requirements associated with small numbers of students. The performance framework shall be posted on the District website.

The performance targets for each charter school authorized by the Board shall be set forth in the charter school's contract. Monitoring and annual reports for each charter school authorized by the Board shall be based on the performance expectations in the charter school's contract.

Education Service Providers: Any contract entered into between the charter school board of directors and an education service provider shall be approved by the Board prior to execution. The contract between the board of directors and the education service provider shall be in compliance with the Kentucky charter school statutes and regulations. Amendments to any contract between a charter school authorized by the Board and an education service provider shall not be effective unless the Board has given approval to the proposed changes.

*Assurances and Required Statements:*⁴ An authorized representative from the charter school must sign a list of assurances which shall be posted on the District website and included within the contract. This document will assure the Board that the charter applicant and board of directors shall abide by all non-waivable legal requirements. The Board reserves the right to require a charter school to sign an updated assurances document as federal or state law changes, or as the Board deems necessary.

Charter Contract Amendments:⁵

Semi-Annual Consideration of Contract Amendments: Each charter school authorized by the Board shall provide written notice to the Superintendent prior to making any significant alterations to the operations, organization, or management of the charter school, as established under the current charter school contract. Examples of such material alterations include, but are not limited to: school name, grades served, governance structure, management structure, management partnerships, contracts with education service providers or charter management organizations, site location, mission statement, enrollment priorities, length of school day, or any other alteration that significantly affects the academic and operational plan approved by the Board.

The Board shall semi-annually consider proposals for amendment to any existing charter school contract approved by the Board. Procedures regarding the amendment process shall be issued by the Superintendent, assisted by the Director of School Choice, and posted on the District website. The procedures may describe the amendment and evaluation process to be followed in reviewing specific types of material alterations to a charter school contract.

⁴ KRS 160.1596; 701 KAR 8:020, Section 5

⁵ KRS 160.1592(20)

Eligibility for Enrollment Amendments: Eligibility for an expansion of the grade levels served by a charter school authorized by the Board shall be limited, at a minimum, to a charter school that has exhibited excellence, as evidenced by meeting or exceeding all targets set forth in its charter school contract.

Voluntary Rescission of Charter Contract: The charter school contract shall state the specific circumstances where a charter school's board of directors may voluntarily rescind the charter contract executed with the Board. The Superintendent shall create procedures by which the board of directors may communicate this need to the District and the requirements the board of directors must fulfil in addition prior to executing the charter school closure protocol.

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