

**VARIANCES TO STANDARDS:
CREATING A CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION
Initial Application (two years)**

Purpose: ARM 10.55.604(11). A school district may apply to the Board of Public Education through the Superintendent of Public Instruction to create a charter school. (a) A charter school must provide an education that meets or exceeds the requirements of the Montana Constitution, state law, and school accreditation standards. (b) The Board of Public Education may only grant charters to publicly funded schools or programs under the supervision and control of a locally elected board of trustees in an existing school district.

ARM 10.55.604(11)(c) The procedure by which a school district may apply to create a charter school and by which the BPE may approve, deny, evaluate, and renew a charter school shall be identical to that outlined in ARM 10.55.604(1) through (10).

DUE DATES: First Monday in March

COUNTY:

DISTRICT:

SCHOOL(S):

1. A school district proposing a charter school shall, at a minimum, provide evidence that the district will guarantee the following:

(i) School district governance and control of the charter school;

(ii) Unrestricted, open student access;

(iii) Compliance with all health and safety laws;

(iv) Teacher licensure and endorsement to the same extent as required or provided by state law or accreditation standards;

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(v) Employee collective bargaining to the same extent as required or provided by state law; and

(vi) A plan for consideration of input by community members and staff as to formation and implementation issues. Consideration of input may be identified by formation of advisory committees involving staff and/or community members, conduct of a properly noticed public meeting for purposes of comment on the formation or operation of the charter school, or any other reasonable means that result in an opportunity for input by staff and community members prior to a decision of significant interest to the public regarding the formation or operation of the charter school.

- 2. Attach evidence through official minutes of the board of trustees that local school community stakeholders were involved in the consideration and development of the proposed charter school. Stakeholder groups include trustees, administrators, teachers, classified school staff, parents, community members, and students as applicable.**

- 3. Attach board of trustees' meeting minutes that show the trustees adopted the application for the proposed charter school at an official, properly noticed meeting.**

- 4. Describe the purpose of the proposed charter school.**

- 5. Provide a brief statement of the mission and goals of the proposed charter school.**

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6. List specific measurable objectives that demonstrate that the proposed charter school will meet or exceed the results under the current standard(s).

7. What data or evidence will be gathered to document the progress of the proposed charter school of meeting the measurable objectives?

8. In what way does the creation of the charter school meet the specific needs of the students in your school(s)?

9. Describe why and how the proposed charter school would be:
 - a. Workable.

 - b. Educationally sound.

 - c. Where applicable, aligned with program standards under ARM 10.55.1101 through 10.55.1901.

 - d. Where applicable, aligned with content standards under ARM Chapters 53 and 54.



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Required school district signatures:

Board Chair Name: _____

Board Chair Signature: _____ Date: _____

Superintendent Name: _____

Superintendent Signature: _____ Date _____

Mail your signed form to:

**Accreditation and Educator Preparation Division
Office of Public Instruction
PO Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620-2501**

OPI USE ONLY

Superintendent of Public Instruction: _____ Date _____

____ Approve ____ Disapprove

Board of Public Education Chair _____ Date _____

____ Approve ____ Disapprove

