

APPLICANT QUESTIONS

1. The Start-Up Team Members (Section E) title options appear limited and may not reflect the most accurate titles of the members of our start-up team. Is it possible for us to include our own titles?

Answer : The RFP has been updated to address this question. The new language will read:

Section D: Board Members

1. Name;
2. Title (~~Board Chairperson, Board Member, Board Secretary, Board Treasurer, Board Vice Chairperson, Community Liaison, Conflict Resolution, Director of Academics, Director of Student Affairs, Emergency Contact, Executive Director, Parent Representative~~ See Selections in Charter Tools dropdown. Applicants desiring further position titles to be listed in the Board Members (Section D) dropdown should utilize the UserVoice support option within Charter Tools (orange question mark at the bottom left of the online application portal screen) to submit their requests by **Friday, March 20, 2015**. The Commission will make every effort to accommodate these requests or offer commensurate titles within reason);
3. Contact (Phone & Email Address);
4. Mailing Address; and
5. Current Employer.

Section E: Start-Up Team

1. Name;
 2. Title (~~Academic/Curriculum Development, Legal Advisor, Accountant/Financial Advisor, Proposed Principle Candidate, Facilities Planning~~ See Selections in Charter Tools dropdown. Applicants desiring further position titles to be listed in the Start-Up Team (Section E) dropdown should utilize the UserVoice support option within Charter Tools (orange question mark at the bottom left of the online application portal screen) to submit their requests by **Friday, March 20, 2015**. The Commission will make every effort to accommodate these requests or offer commensurate titles within reason);
 3. Contact (Phone & Email Address);
 4. Mailing Address; and
 5. Current Employer.
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2. Could you clarify the phrasing at the start of Item #4 in Section 15? In other words, which operators are intended to respond to this item?

Answer: All applicants who **do not already operate** one or more schools are expected to respond.

3. On page 6 of the RFP it states, "Additionally, contracts for management operation of a charter school may only be with nonprofit organizations. Contracts with education service providers for substantial educational services, management services, or both, must also be with a nonprofit organization." Please provide more information regarding what constitutes substantial educational services and management services.

Answer: Substantial is defined as the assumption of responsibility for all or most of the educational, governance, or managerial components of a school's operations.

4. Regarding the Plagiarism note on page 11 of the RFP, one of our board members served as the Board Chairman and founder of a charter school in California. As such, she was intimately involved in the charter application. We would like to replicate some aspects of that previous program, and charter application, in a new charter school in Washington state. The RFP implies we cannot copy another charter school application. While our intent is not to plagiarize or take credit for work that is not original, we do want to include elements from that charter application as well as the educational components from the vendor that provided the curriculum and other educational services. Therefore, we are planning to replicate the language in our application while acknowledging in our application that the text and content were used previously and attributing that text to that Board and that vendor. Please provide direction on this approach.

Answer: The RFP has been updated to address this question. The new language regarding plagiarism will read:

The content of a Proposal must be a product of the Applicant's own efforts and shall not be copied from other sources, with the exception of quotes that are properly attributed. For Proposals containing material whose original source is not their own, the Applicant must properly and completely attribute the material to its primary source and show that it has permission to utilize the material. Plagiarism is strictly prohibited and will result in automatic disqualification of the Proposal. If, after a school is authorized, it is learned that a portion of the Proposal was plagiarized, the resulting contract may be deemed null and void by the Commission.

5. On page 23 of the Sample Contract, Section 6.5 notes that we need an exit form that includes a Parent/Guardian signature. Will an online form work?

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Answer: Exit forms as referenced in Section 6.5 of the sample charter contract, will either be developed by the Commission or charter school developed and approved by the Commission. The forms may be stored in a secure online server; however, there are parents who do not have ready access to computers, thus the exit form to be filled out by the student’s parent or guardian must be available in both hard copy and electronic form. Parents must have an option for submitting a hard copy.

6. On page 38 of the Sample Contract bullet f, it states: “Failure to meet the goals, objectives, content standards, performance framework, applicable federal requirements or other terms identified in the Contract.” Is it possible that the charter would be terminated on the first offense?

Answer: The Commission has the authority terminate and revoke a charter school’s contract in accordance with chapter 28A.710 RCW and associated rules and policies. Yes, it is possible that a charter contract would be terminated and revoked if a charter school fails to meet its goals, objective, content standards, performance framework, applicable federal requirements or other terms identified in the contract. Any such decision would occur in accordance with the procedures established by the Commission. *See:* Chapter 108-40 WAC.

7. On page 38 of the Sample Contract, bullet i states that termination also may occur if the “school’s performance falls in the bottom quartile of schools on the State Board of Education’s accountability index.” How is this determined and applied? How is growth factored in? Our intent is to serve under-served student populations. Some of these populations have been unsuccessful at multiple schools and have not succeeded academically for several years. These students may enter our proposed school as a last resort. How will the Commission account for student demographics and special populations?

Answer: A school’s academic performance and quartile ranking is determined by the State Board of Education’s Accountability Index (AI) and is determined by both academic proficiency and growth. For more information on how the AI proficiency and growth ratings are determined and applied visit: http://www.sbe.wa.gov/accountability.php#VPTzl_nF-Z8. The Commission’s Performance Framework includes measures regarding student academic growth as measured by the Smarter Balance Assessment and provides schools with the opportunity to develop mission-specific goals.

8. On page 45, section 26 of the RFP, Our school plans to offer the majority of courses and teaching via a virtual platform. Therefore, students will not visit the school facility often. Are there different facility requirements for virtual schools than the standard facility requirements outlined in Section 26 of the RFP?



Answer: All applicants are required to respond to Section 26. The content of the response will vary depending on the facility needs of the proposed school. However, all applicants must ensure that any facilities proposal complies with governing law.

9. On page 46 of the Sample Contract, it states, the following: "Provide evidence that students representing 90% of the projected fall membership have enrolled, including name, address, grade and prior school attended." What is the timing for this enrollment? We plan to serve students who may be "under crisis" at the beginning of the school year (i.e. academic failure, bullying, medical emergency, etc.) and will enter late into our proposed school. Can we use a different metric to calculate enrollment such as "indicated an intent to enroll" vs. "completed enrollment."

Answer: The timing of the enrollment is tied to the budget the charter school must submit to the Commission by July 10th of each year of operation. Since student enrollment is the main driver of a charter school's budget, the 90% enrollment target of the projected enrollment was established. The evidence the Commission would accept regarding 90% of the projected fall membership have enrolled are enrollment forms that include name, address, grade and prior school attended for each student enrolled.

10. Our proposed school will use virtual learning as a delivery method. Since charter schools are provided exemptions from laws and rules governing traditional school districts, will ALE and virtual learning rules apply to a charter school authorized by the Commission?

Answer: The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction's (OSPI) funding is directly linked to compliance with applicable Revised Codes of Washington (RCW) and Washington Administrative Codes (WAC). In response to this question, applicants are expected to comply with all applicable RCWs and WACs.

