



APPLICANT QUESTIONS

1. Are there any initial facility grants available? When reading Charter School Question & Answers, it seems to say yes, but not much detail.

Answer: RCW 28A.710.230 provides that charter schools are eligible for state funding for school construction as long as the legislature does not appropriate those funds from the common school construction fund. Currently, there are no state funds appropriated for charter school construction.

As for grants for initial facilities, there are entities that provide various supports for charter schools. Each applicant would have to research these and/or other options on their own.

2. Could we use allocated student funding to pay for school buildings? We are interested in finding out if we could we use allocated student funding to pay for ongoing rent/mortgage payment if it is ever enough to cover other operation expense?

Answer: In general, yes. It is important to know that there are state and federal revenue stream restrictions (i.e. special education). For specific questions about student funding allocations see the state public school accounting manual and applicable state statutes.

It is important to note that assets purchased with 25% public funds are state assets. See Section 16.10 Contract. Also, the law prohibits encumbering any public funds; that means, among other things, that the school cannot pledge allocations as a source of payment for the mortgage or to otherwise secure the mortgage. RCW 28A.710.220 and Section 9.4 Contract.

3. Are Charter Schools receiving the same amount of student allocated funding as traditional Public Schools? For some reasons, we have heard that Charter Schools receive \$2,400 less per student, could you please confirm that?

Answer: RCW 28A.710.280 (1) states that the legislature intends that state funding for charter school be distributed equitably with state funding provided to other public schools. Based upon a review of RCW 28A.710, no information could be found to support the statement that charter school receive \$2,400 less per student.

4. Section 2.1 3 (b)(Executive Summary) says, “The objectives are operations and governance focused; they are the conditions that must exist in order for the school’s goals to be realized.” Does this mean they should have a technical focus (facilities, operations, etc.) or an academic focus?

Answer: Per the criteria, “The objectives are operations and governance focused; they are the conditions that must exist in order for the school’s goals to be realized.” These objectives could have a technical focus.

5. The budget template on the website does not have a way to factor in for regionalization adjustments; this isn’t reflected in the assumptions worksheet. Is there a way to accommodate that information and also adjustments for small schools?

Answer: While the budget template does not provide applicants a way to factor for regionalization adjustments, the charter school estimates that have been provided to applicants does. The charter school estimates factor in the changes to public school funding as codified in Engrossed House Bill 2242.

Regarding the small school bonus and the Commission is partnering with OSPI to explore how we might be able to include this in our financial workbook. Updates regarding the outcomes of this partnership will be posted to the Commission’s website and distributed via the Commission’s listserv.