

NEW CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION UPDATES

Washington State Charter School Commission (Commission) staff, along with the Commission’s Authorization Committee, carefully considered the results of the stakeholder surveys and resulting lessons learned process with regard to the 2018-19 application cycle, and have made the following updates to the application.

Substantive changes to the New Charter School Application and Evaluation Rubric for the 2021-22 School Year include:

- The inclusion of “educational equity” and “agency” (student, teacher, and family) in applicable sections of the application. Applicants are already discussing these topics in their application and the Authorization Committee felt it was important to explicitly ask applicants about these issues.
- Revised definitions regarding inclusion and cultural responsiveness as part of the implementation of the Commission’s Educational Equity Policy.
- Reorganization of multiple sections and prompts within the application to clarify expectations, combine like topics, and streamline the request for attachments.
- The inclusion of a logic model.
- Revision of the Evaluation Rubric. This includes clarifying expectations, increasing objective criteria, eliminating redundancies, and ensuring alignment to the updated application.
- Moving away from a word count limit to a page count limit throughout the application. This gives applicants a bit more flexibility in their responses and streamlines the Completeness Review process for staff.

Other changes consisted of:

- Clarifying the administrative elements and expectations of the application process and submission.
- Eliminating duplications/redundancies in the information requested in the application.
- Eliminating typos and grammatical errors.