



New Charter School Application and Rubric Revisions



December 8, 2023





Overview

Outcomes

- Review the SPCSA's statutory authority and requirements for application review and approval.
- Understand the proposed changes to the application, rubric and process.
**While SPCSA staff have recommended various language changes, the information requested through the application and qualifications for approval have not substantially changed.*
- Consider approval of application and rubric for 2024 cycle.

Agenda

- 1) Statutory Authority and Requirements
- 2) Overview of Revisions
- 3) Recommendation



Statutory Authority and Requirements

[NRS 388A.223](#)—Duties and Powers

- Each sponsor of a charter school shall carry out the following duties and powers.
 - Evaluation applications to form charter schools.
 - Approving applications to form charter schools that the sponsor determines are high quality, meet the identified educational needs of pupils and will serve to promote the diversity of public educational choices in this State;
 - Declining to approve application to form charter schools that do not satisfy the requirements of NRS 388A.249.
- Each sponsor of a charter school shall develop policies and practices that are consistent with state laws and regulations governing charter schools, including
 - The procedure and criteria for evaluation charter school applications in accordance with [NRS 388A.249](#).

[NRS 388A.249](#)—Submission of application; review of application; criteria for approval

- The sponsor of a charter school may approve an application to form a charter school only if
 - The application complies with this chapter and the regulations;
 - The application is complete in accordance with the policies and practices of the sponsor;
 - The applicant has demonstrated competence in accordance with the criteria for approval prescribed by the sponsor pursuant to [NRS 388A.223](#) that will likely result in a successful opening and operation of the charter school;
 - Based on the most recent SPCSA Needs Assessment, the proposed charter school will address one or more of the needs; and
 - It has received sufficient input from the public.

Procedure and Criteria for Soliciting and Evaluating Charter School Applications

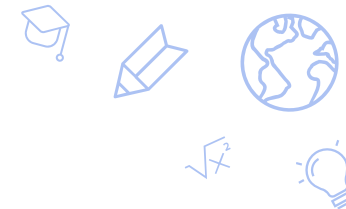


Procedure

- Timelines and procedures pursuant to [NAC 388A.260](#) (as amended by [R043-21](#))
 - Deadline (good cause exemption)
 - Notice of intent and contents
 - Application form
 - Completeness check
 - Withdrawal
 - Review conducted by panel
 - Recommendation to Authority
 - Board consideration

Criteria

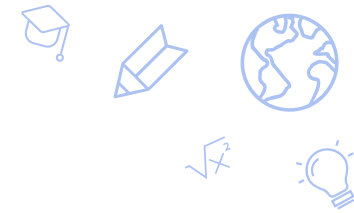
- New Charter School Application Rubric, aligned to the Application Form.



Overview of Revisions

- Request additional information in the Notice of Intent.
- Provide more self-assessment opportunities during the new application trainings.
- Update the three sections of the rubric* to include criteria focused on evaluating the “ability of applicants to establish a high-quality charter school” ([NRS 388A.249\(2\)\(b\)](#)).

**While SPCSA staff have recommended various language changes, the information requested through the application and qualifications for approval have not substantially changed.*



Notice of Intent

- Request additional information on community engagement conducted, the status of the committee to form and proposed governing board, and the proposed school model at the time of submitting the Notice:
 - Briefly describe the Committee to Form (the group of people that are proposing the charter school and will be formally involved in the application process). Who is involved in the application and what are their areas of expertise? Note that a committee to form must meet certain requirements as outlined in [NRS 388A.240](#).
 - Briefly describe the proposed school model.
 - Briefly describe how you have engaged with the community you intend to serve prior to the submission of this Notice of Intent.



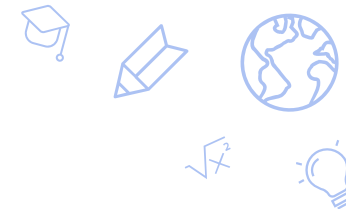
New Charter Application Trainings

- Provide more interactive activities for applicants to self-assess their readiness, potentially including:
 - Political Mapping Activity.
 - A Self-Assessment Protocol aligned with each of the five trainings.
 - Opportunities for applicants to review and discuss specific sections of their application.



New Charter Application Rubric

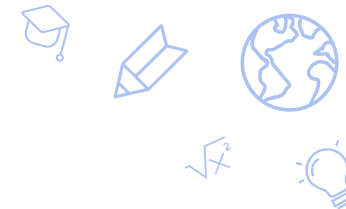
- Updates to the Board Governance, Leadership Team, and Incubation Year Plan sections to include additional criteria focused on evaluating the “ability of applicants to establish a high-quality charter school” ([NRS 388A.249\(2\)\(b\)](#)).
- While all criteria are evaluated through both the written application and capacity interview, the added criteria will be primarily evaluated through the capacity interview.
- While SPCSA staff have recommended various language changes, the information requested through the application and qualifications for approval have not substantially changed.



New Charter Application Rubric cont.

- Section 4.1 Board Governance

- The proposed governing board members demonstrate a deep understanding of the educational model, organization's mission, and what mission achievement looks like.
- The proposed governing body members demonstrate ownership and a commitment to ensuring the school's success through active engagement in the development of the charter proposal and the capacity interview.
- The proposed governing body demonstrates the ability to work together to solve problems.
- The proposed governing body members demonstrate that they understand the role of the board in governing the school, including the responsibility for ensuring a high-quality school.
- For schools contracting with an EMO or CMO, the governing board demonstrates an understanding of their role in overseeing the EMO/CMO and holding the EMO/CMO accountable for delivering results.



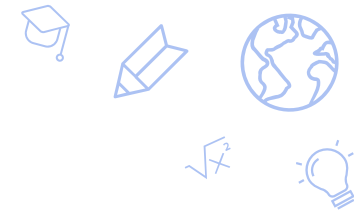
New Charter Application Rubric cont.

- Section 4.2 Leadership Team
 - If members of the school leadership team have been identified, they demonstrate **deep knowledge** of the proposed academic model and an understanding of how the school's mission **supports students and families**.
 - If members of the school leadership team have been identified, they demonstrate the **ability to work together to solve problems**. This includes seeing opportunities in challenges and an openness to multiple perspectives and strategies that support the school and its students and families.
 - If members of the school leadership team have been identified, they demonstrate understanding of their role and the **responsibilities they have to the community**. This includes demonstrated evidence of **engagement with and responsiveness** to students, families, and the community.
 - If members of the school leadership team have been identified, they demonstrate that they believe that **all students can achieve their full potential**.



New Charter Application Rubric cont.

- Section 4.6 Incubation Year Development
 - The committee to form demonstrates that they understand the challenges of opening a school and articulate a commitment and understanding of what it will take to ensure a successful launch of the school.
 - The committee to form demonstrates they can work together to solve problems.
 - The committee to form demonstrates they are well versed in the incubation year plan and are committed to following through with the implementation.
 - The committee to form demonstrates that they are actively engaged throughout the application process and plan to maintain active engagement through the incubation year.



Recommendation

Proposed Motion: Approve the New Charter School Application and Rubric effective for the 2024 application cycle.

Thank you!

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