



New Charter School Application and Rubric Revisions

October 9, 2026





Overview

Outcomes

- Review the SPCSA's statutory authority and requirements for application review and approval.
- Understand the proposed changes to the application and rubric.
- Consider approval of application and rubric for 2027 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 reviewed sufficient input from the public.

Procedure and Criteria for Soliciting and Evaluating Charter School Applications

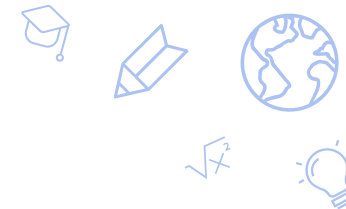


Procedure

- Timelines and procedures pursuant to [NAC 388A.260](#) (as amended by [R080-24](#))
 - 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



Application Sections

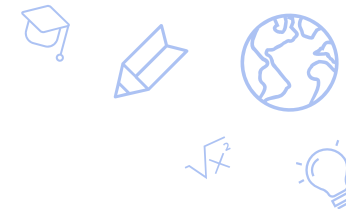
Cover Sheet	Meeting the Need	Academic Plan	Operations Plan	Financial Plan	Addendum*
• General Information • Applicant Team Information • Pending Applications & Schools • Planned Enrollment • Proposed Location • CMOs and EMOs* • Application preparation • Applicant Certification	• Missing and Vision • Targeted Plan • Parent & Community Involvement	• Transformational Change • Curriculum & Instructional Design • Promotion & Graduation Requirements • Driving for Results • At Risk Students & Special Populations • Professional Development • School Culture • Student Discipline • School Calendar & Schedule • Dual Credit Partnerships^ • Programs of Distance Education~	• Board Governance • Leadership Team • Staffing Plan • Human Resources • Student Recruitment & Enrollment • Incubation Year Development • Services • Facilities	• Narrative • Budget	• Past Performance* • Scale Strategy* • Network Capacity* • School Management Contracts* • CMOs Applying for Sponsorship Directly**

*Required for Committee to Form Applicants that propose to contract with a CMO or EMO, or CMO Applicants

**Required for CMO Applicants

^Required for applicants proposing a high school program

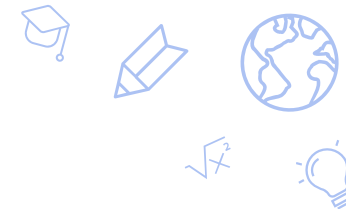
~Required for applicants proposing to offer distance education



Overview of Revisions

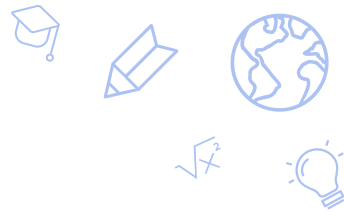
The biggest change is related to the timeline, which was changed in [R080-24](#).

New Charter Application Review Steps	New Dates	Previous Dates
Letter of Intent	October 31	January 30
Applications submitted to SPCSA	January 15 – 31	April 15 – 30
Initial Application Review	February 15 – March 19	May 15 – June 21
Capacity Interviews	March 29 – April 16	July 1 – July 19
Final Recommendation to Authority Board	May 21	August 23
Resubmissions	June 23 – June 18	September 30 – October 4



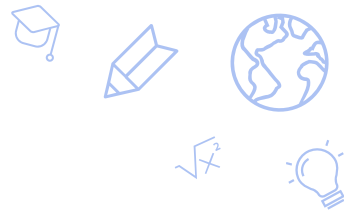
Overview of Revisions

- Updated application questions, rubric criteria, and guidance to address audit recommendations:
 - 4.3 Staffing Plan
 - Added Nevada class-size requirements and State Board recommendations as benchmarks for evaluating reasonableness of proposed student-teacher ratios.
 - Clarified that these are evaluation benchmarks, not requirements for charter schools.
 - 4.4 Human Resources
 - Revised questions to require applicants to demonstrate the reasonableness of their teacher recruitment and retention strategies.
 - Added requirements for applicants to identify minimum staffing, education, licensure, and certification requirements.
 - Added rubric criteria to evaluate the reasonableness and completeness of proposed recruitment, retention, and staffing plans.



Overview of Revisions

- Revising and clarifying sections of the Information and Disclosure Forms (Attachment 1).
- Updating the Financial Plan Workbook (Attachment 22).
 - Adding Year 6 to reflect the full initial contract term.
 - Including additional information regarding the cost of Infinite Campus implementation during Year 0.
- Clean-up and alignment of language across the guidance document, application, and rubric that do not make substantive changes to the requirements or process.



Recommendation

Proposed Motion: Approve the New Charter School Application and Rubric effective for the 2027 application cycle. Approve SPCSA staff to add information from and a link to the 2027 Academic and Demographic Needs Assessment once approved.

Thank you!

charterschools.nv.gov

