

Public Charter School Alliance
of South Carolina

Schools for South Carolina's Future



OFFICIAL EVENT OF
GLOBAL
ENTREPRENEURSHIP
WEEK

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Why are you here?

What are the needs
in your community?

Does your public
charter school bring
a high quality
solution to the table
to address those
needs?

What is the long term
vision for the school?

Who else do you
need to help you?



Innovation = Ideas + Execution

Your role as an Educational Entrepreneurs

What is a charter school?

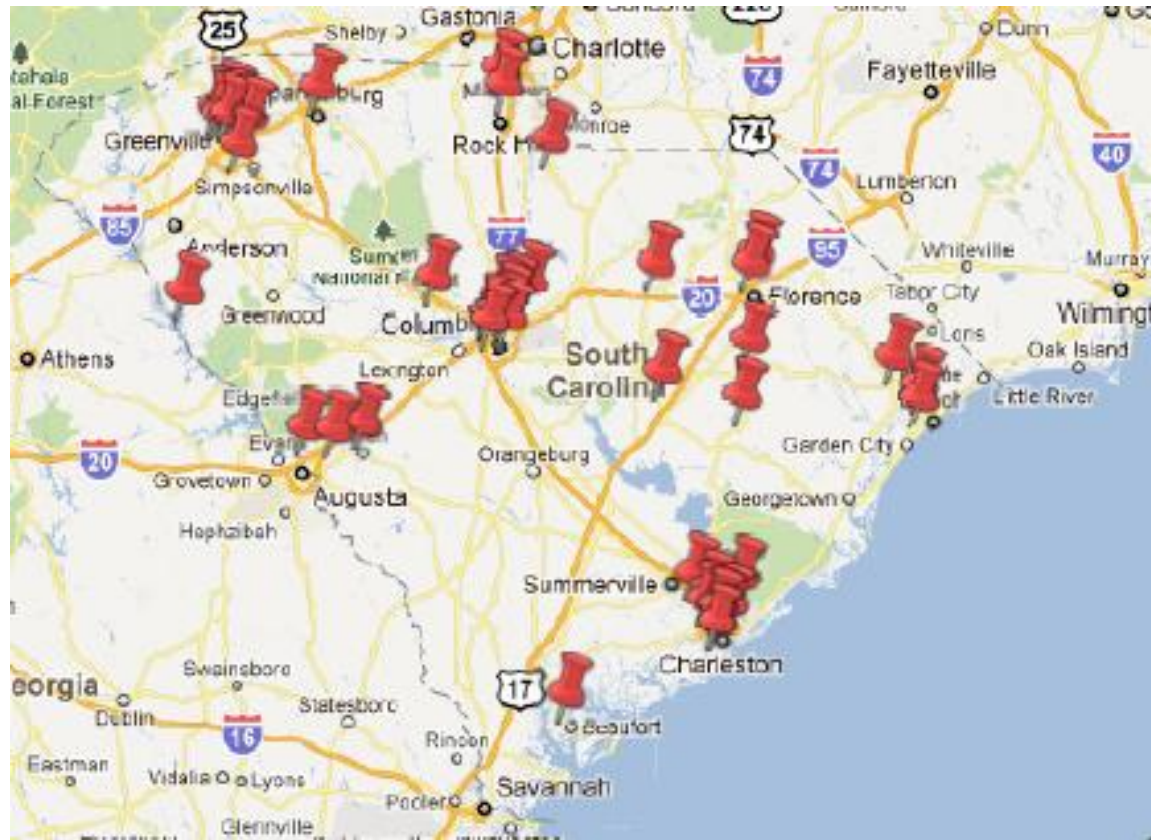
Charter Schools:



- are public schools.
- are free.
- do not have admissions tests or other barriers to entrance.
- are financially accountable non-profit corporations.
- have autonomy from their sponsoring school district.
- & bring innovation and resources into the classroom where they belong.

Existing Public Charter Schools

□



Steps in Developing a Charter School Application

Identify a need and research solutions

Network and bring together community members

Write Charter

Outreach and Support for School

Incorporate and Hold Organizational Meeting

Submit Charter Application to the State (around May 1, 2012)

Charter Advisory Committee (60 Days)

Sponsor Holds Public Hearing (30 Days)

Year of Planning (Facilitates, Faculty, Find Students, etc...)

3 “R’s” of Charters:

Regulations

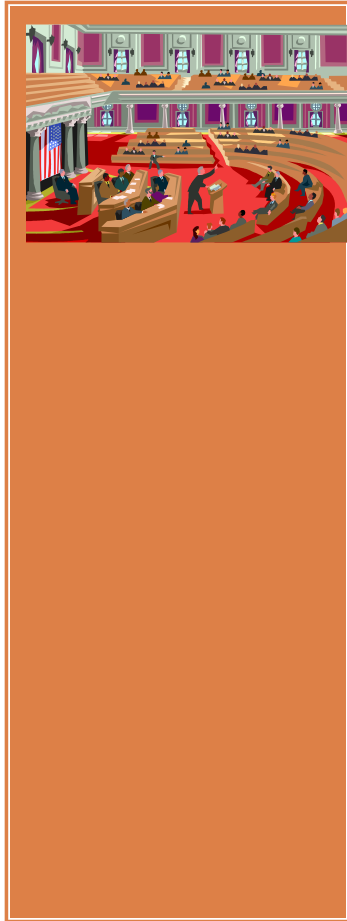
Writing

Relationship

Regulations

What is the purpose of charter schools?

PURPOSE OF THE SC CHARTER SCHOOL ACT:
SECTION 59-40-20.



Enacted to:

- (1) improve student learning;
- (2) increase learning opportunities for students;
- (3) encourage the use of a variety of productive teaching methods;
- (4) establish new forms of accountability for schools;
- (5) create new professional opportunities for teachers, including the opportunity to be responsible for the learning program at the school site; and
- (6) assist South Carolina in reaching academic excellence.

Regulations

- State Charter Act and related State Regulations
- SC Education Requirements charters are not exempt from
 - No Child Left Behind
 - IDEA and other special education requirements
 - Office of School Facilities and local codes
 - Transportation
 - Regulations tied to specific grant funds.

SECTION 59-40-40.

Definitions.

- (1) A “charter school” means a public, nonreligious, nonhome-based, nonprofit corporation forming a school that operates within a public school district or the South Carolina Public Charter School District, but is accountable to the school board of trustees of that district which grants its charter. Nothing in this chapter prohibits charter schools from offering virtual services pursuant to state law and subsequent regulations defining virtual schools.
- (2) A charter school:
 - (a) **is considered a public school** and part of the South Carolina Public Charter School District or local school district in which it is located for the purposes of state law and the state constitution;
 - (b) is **subject to all federal and state laws** and constitutional provisions prohibiting discrimination on the basis of disability, race, creed, color, gender, national origin, religion, ancestry, or need for special education services;
 - (c) must be **administered and governed by a governing body** in a manner agreed to by the charter school applicant and the sponsor, the governing body to be selected, as provided in Section 59-40-50(B)(9);
 - (d) **may not charge tuition** or other charges pursuant to Section 59-19-90(8) except as may be allowed by the sponsor and is comparable to the charges of the local school district in which the charter school is located.

Charter School Requirements:

SECTION 59-40-50. Exemption; powers and duties; admission to charter school.

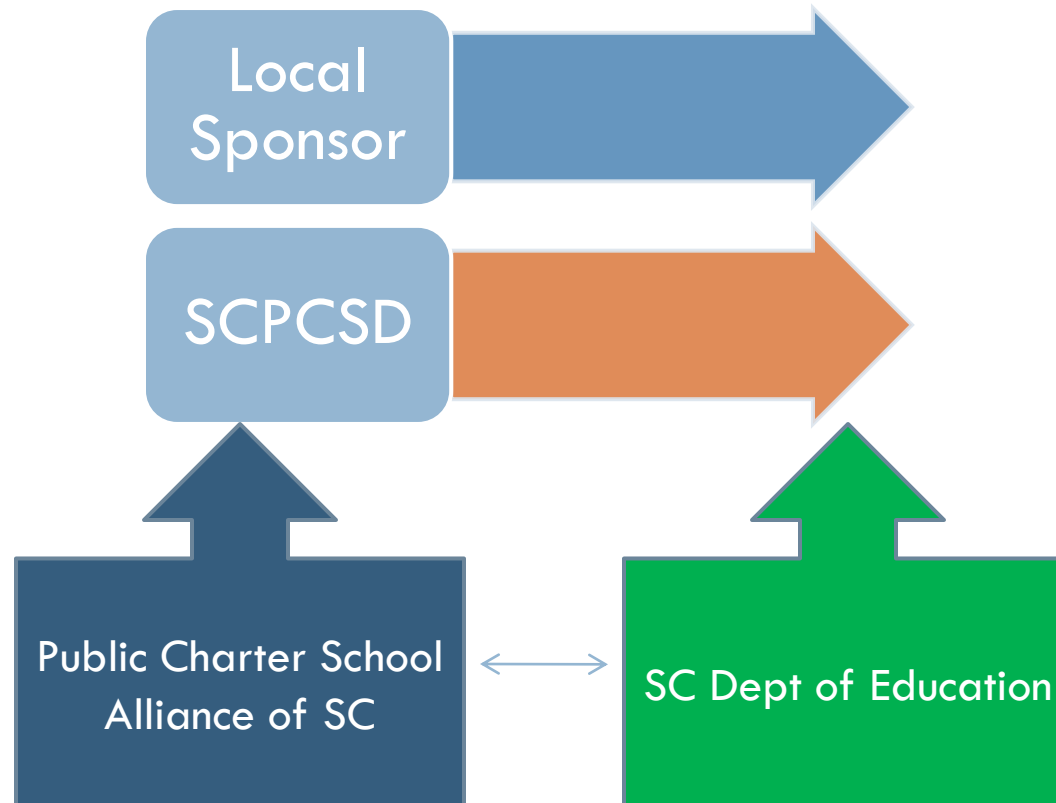
- (A) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, a charter school is exempt from all provisions of law and regulations applicable to a public school, a school board, or a district, although a charter school may elect to comply with one or more of these provisions of law or regulations.
- (B) A charter school must:
 - (1) adhere to the **same health, safety, civil rights, and disability rights** requirements as are applied to public schools operating in the same school district or, in the case of the South Carolina Public Charter School District, the local school district in which the charter school is located;
 - (2) meet, but may exceed, the **same minimum student attendance requirements** as are applied to public schools;
 - (3) adhere to the **same financial audits, audit procedures, and audit requirements as are applied to public schools**;
 - (4) be considered a school district for purposes of tort liability under South Carolina law, except that the tort immunity does not include acts of intentional or wilful racial discrimination by the governing body or employees of the charter school. Employees of charter schools must be relieved of personal liability for any tort or contract related to their school to the same extent that employees of traditional public schools in their school district or, in the case of the South Carolina Public Charter School District, the local school district in which the charter school is located are relieved;
 - (5) in its discretion **hire noncertified teachers in a ratio of up to twenty-five percent** of its entire teacher staff; however, if it is a converted charter school, it shall hire in its discretion noncertified teachers in a ratio of up to ten percent of its entire teacher staff. However, in either a new or converted charter school, a teacher teaching in the core academic areas as defined by the federal No Child Left Behind law must be certified in those areas or possess a baccalaureate or graduate degree in the subject he or she is hired to teach. Part-time noncertified teachers are considered pro rata in calculating this percentage based on the hours which they are expected to teach;

& More Charter School Requirements:

- (6) hire in its discretion administrative staff to oversee the daily operation of the school. At least **one of the administrative staff must be certified or experienced** in the field of school administration;
- (7) admit all children eligible to attend public school to a charter school, subject to space limitations. However, it is required that the racial composition of the charter school enrollment reflect that of the local school district in which the charter school is located or that of the targeted student population of the local school district that the charter school proposes to serve, to be defined for the purposes of this chapter as differing by no more than twenty percent from that population. This requirement is also subject to the provisions of Section 59-40-70(D). If the number of applications exceeds the capacity of a program, class, grade level, or building, **students must be accepted by lot**, and there is no appeal to the sponsor;
- (8) not limit or deny admission or show preference in admission decisions to any individual or group of individuals; however, a charter school may give **enrollment priority to a sibling of a pupil already enrolled or previously enrolled, children of a charter school employee, and children of the charter committee, if such priority enrollment does not constitute more than twenty percent** of the enrollment of the charter school;
- (9) **elect its board of directors annually**. All employees of the charter school and all parents or guardians of students enrolled in the charter school are eligible to participate in the election. Parents or guardians of a student shall have one vote for each student enrolled in the charter school. A person who has been convicted of a felony must not be elected to a board of directors;
- (10) **be subject to the Freedom of Information Act**, including the charter school and its governing body.

Who is my sponsor?

You can be sponsored by a local school district or the SC Public Charter School District.

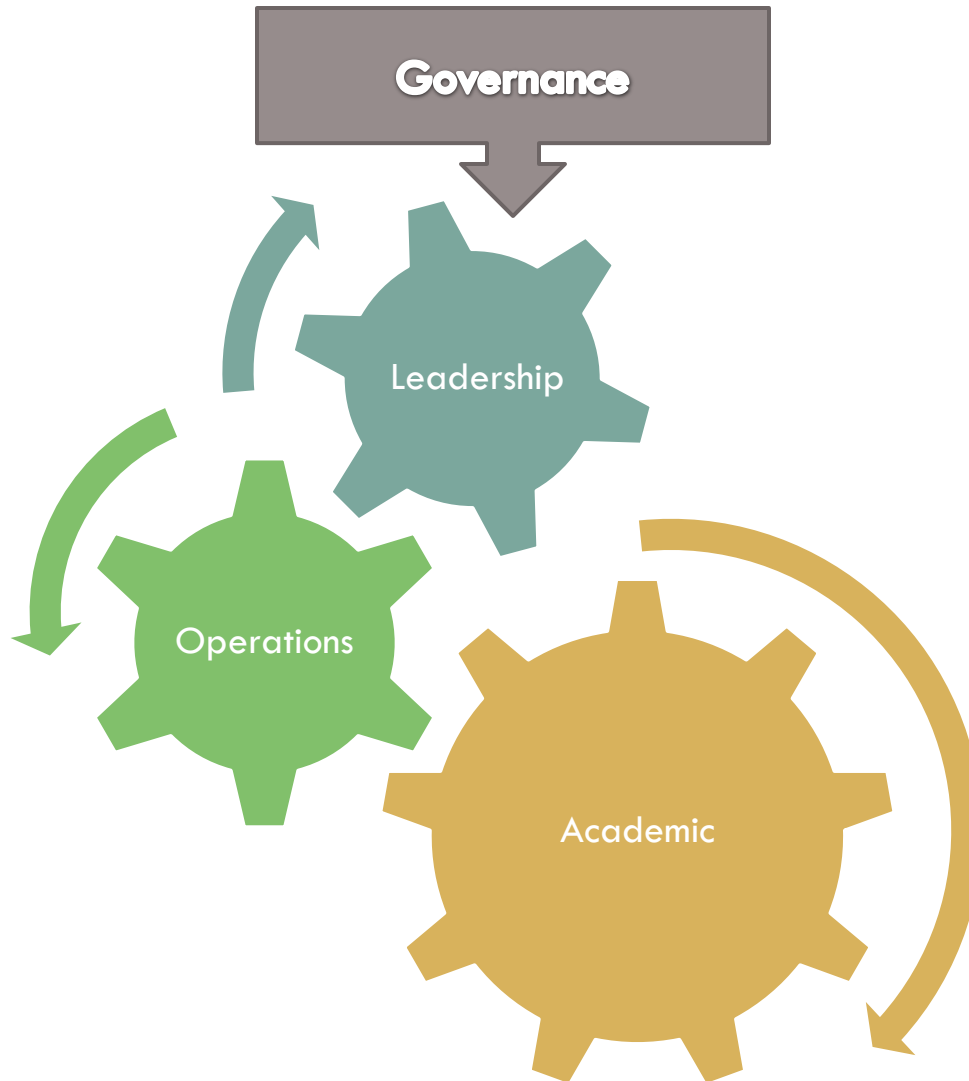


Writing

Writing

- First step - What needs are in your community?
- How are you bringing a high quality solution to the table?
- What does the first day of school look like?
- Naming the baby (look at the acronym and web addresses)
- Formulate a Road Map – sticking to deadlines to get a 200 to 300 page document turned in by *May 2012*.

Framework for Success

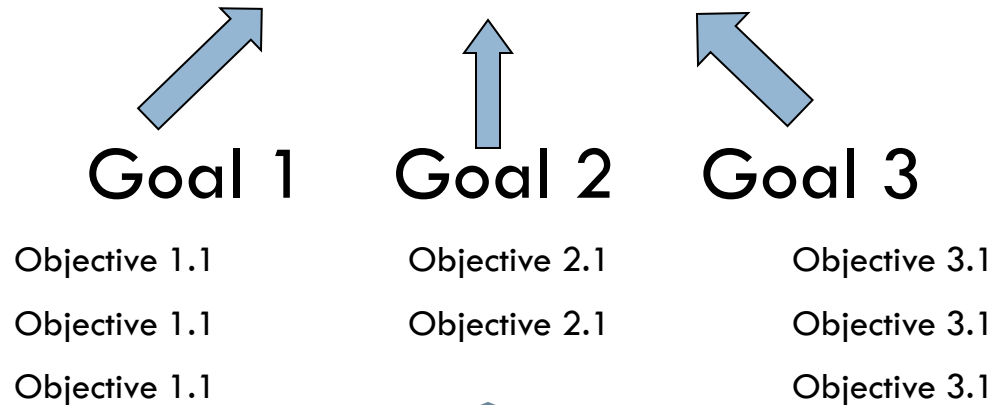


Educational Program

- Goals, Objectives, Pupil Achievement Standards, and Curriculum
- This is the bulk of your writing.
- This needs to be research based and documented with resources just like a research paper.
- This is the piece you want to sell other supporters in your community on.
- Do you have an Education Committee for your planning group? Professors, educators, curriculum specialists, etc...They need to be meeting on this section.
- Keep track of all of the resources your are using. Develop a system for saving files, scanned copies, copy and pasting, etc...
- Keep notes on who you are talking to and what they recommend – Are they a well respected expert on your unique focus. Quote them in your application stating the need for this in your area of the state.

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies

Mission



Strategies

to reach these goals and objectives
may be tied to each objective or all of them.

Objectives are tied with the Assessment Section

- How you are going to collect and analyze this data. How much of your budget will this cost? Most of you are not social scientists and funders actually do recognize that...think
- Your objectives are tools to help you measure your progress towards your goals and ultimately your organization's mission. They are your bragging rights – design objectives that work for your individual organization

Academic Assistance

How are you going to meet the needs of all students?

Detail the procedures to identify, diagnose/assess, and address the needs of students who do not perform at acceptable levels of proficiency in the statewide assessment program.

Describe how the school will define “acceptable,” which data sources will be examined to determine when students have not met an acceptable standard, and what strategies will be used to remediate those students not meeting “acceptable” standards.

Student Assessment

- This is where you demonstrate how your goals and objectives will be measured.
- Spend real time investigating how you want to measure student achievement at your school. This is not a section you want to copy and paste from someone else.
- Will you use both standardized tests and authentic forms of assessment?
 - NCLB PLAN http://ed.sc.gov/agency/accountability/Federal-and-State-Accountability/old/fp/title_i/documents/SouthCarolinaAccountabilityPlan.doc
- Make sure this section aligns with the rest of your application and your budget.

How are charter schools funded?

- Charter schools are funded on a per student basis based on audited numbers from the previous year.
- Funds for public charter schools in the local districts come from local, state, and federal sources.



Funding



\$

- Federal (IDEA, P&I)



\$

- State



\$

- Local (Not for SCPCSD)

Student Projections

GRADE	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Sixth	40	40	60	60	60
Seventh	80	80	80	80	80
Eighth	80	80	80	80	80
Ninth		200	200	200	200
Tenth			200	200	200
Eleventh				200	200
Twelfth					200
TOTALS	200	400	620	820	1020

And budget items not to forget...

- Looking for fiscally sound plan
- Extra resources – how will you pay for extracurricular activities
- Subs
- Transportation
- Can not include any funds not already awarded.
- Deposits to turn on water, electricity, etc
- Financial fees involved in solving your cash flow issues – will need a line of credit

What about ADEPT?

Does the application include a description of the process that will be used to advertise for, select, and employ instructional staff and other employees?

Does the application outline the procedure for the evaluation of teachers of the charter school?
The school selected to comply fully with **ADEPT** and explained in adequate detail, OR The school selected another evaluation method and explained in adequate detail.

Does the application explain how the school will address its employment policies with affected employees?

(C) Grievance and Termination Procedures

The charter school must have a reasonable grievance and termination procedure for its employees:

Did the charter school, with agreement from the sponsor, adopt the procedures for the employment and dismissal of teachers outlined in S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-410 *et seq.* (1990)? **OR** Did the charter school establish employment and termination procedures that provide for notice and a right to a hearing before the governing board?

Does the charter school application include grievance or termination procedures for paraprofessionals and other staff?

What about facilities?



- ❑ DO NOT Identified Facility
- ❑ South Carolina does not currently provide any funding for facilities for public school children in charter schools.
- ❑ The majority of facilities are paid for out of classroom resource dollars. To date there have been limited private donations for facilities.
- ❑ Describe the charter school's building, facilities, and equipment and explain how they will be obtained.

Support for Formation of the Charter School

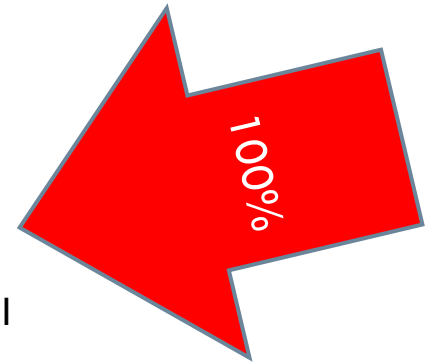
i. Charter Planning Committee

Provide the names, addresses, and experience/qualifications of committee members. The committee must include at least one certified teacher. The charter planning committee will be dissolved shortly after the opening of the school when the school's first governing board is elected.

ii. Evidence of Support

Include evidence that an **adequate number** of parents, teachers, pupils, or any combination support the formation of the charter school. Provide substantial evidence that the proposed charter school will reach its first year's projected enrollment. Without such evidence, an fiscally sound budget cannot be determined.

Demonstrate support from community groups and agencies and include letters in the appendices from these entities that specify their level of commitment to the school.



Different Ways to Document Support

- Signed letters of interest with the grades of kids
- Meetings with dates, sign in sheet, and number interested in the school at the end of the session
- Internet survey
- Facebook or Gmail Group

Alignment in Application



**Match
Application
Narrative
with**



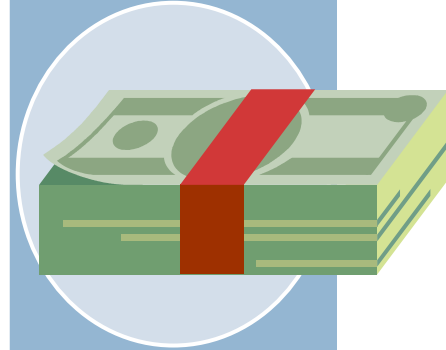
**PowerSchool
Codes with**



**Your Courses
with**



**Teaching
Positions
with**



**Your
Budget...**



Relationships

Relationships

- How do you get this all done?
- Who is “you”? You can not do this alone.
- Human Capital and Community Resources
- Who are your community stakeholders – students, families, businesses, taxpayers, etc...
- Form strategic committees – education, finance, facilities, governance, and communications.

Who do we need on our planning committee?

- Education (law – at least one educator)
 - Finance
 - Facilities
 - Governance
 - Communications
-
- Must have Detail Oriented people on each.

Relationships

Build Trust and Debunk Myths

“Charter Schools take the top kids — no wonder their scores are so good. They hurt the public schools.”

- Charter Schools are public schools. Charter schools are accountable for both the fiscal management of public funds and the high student achievement in their charter.
- By law, South Carolina Charter Schools can not test for entrance and can not “cherry pick” students.
- Competition from public charter schools has proven to actually improve District Run schools scores.
- 50% of our kids are not graduating from high school. Is the status quo working? (personalize this for your community)

Governing Board Responsibilities:

The planning committee will serve as the governing board until the first election. The governing board must assume the following responsibilities:

- (a) employing and contracting with teachers and nonteaching employees;
- (b) ensuring that teachers, whether certified or noncertified, undergo the background checks and other investigations required for certified teachers, as provided by law, before they may teach in the charter school;
- (c) contracting for other services;
- (d) developing pay scales, performance criteria, and discharging policies for its employees;
- (e) deciding all other matters related to the operation of the charter school, including budgeting, curriculum, and operating procedures; and
- (f) ensuring that the charter school will adhere to the same health, safety, civil rights, and disability rights requirements as are applied to all public schools operating in the same school district.

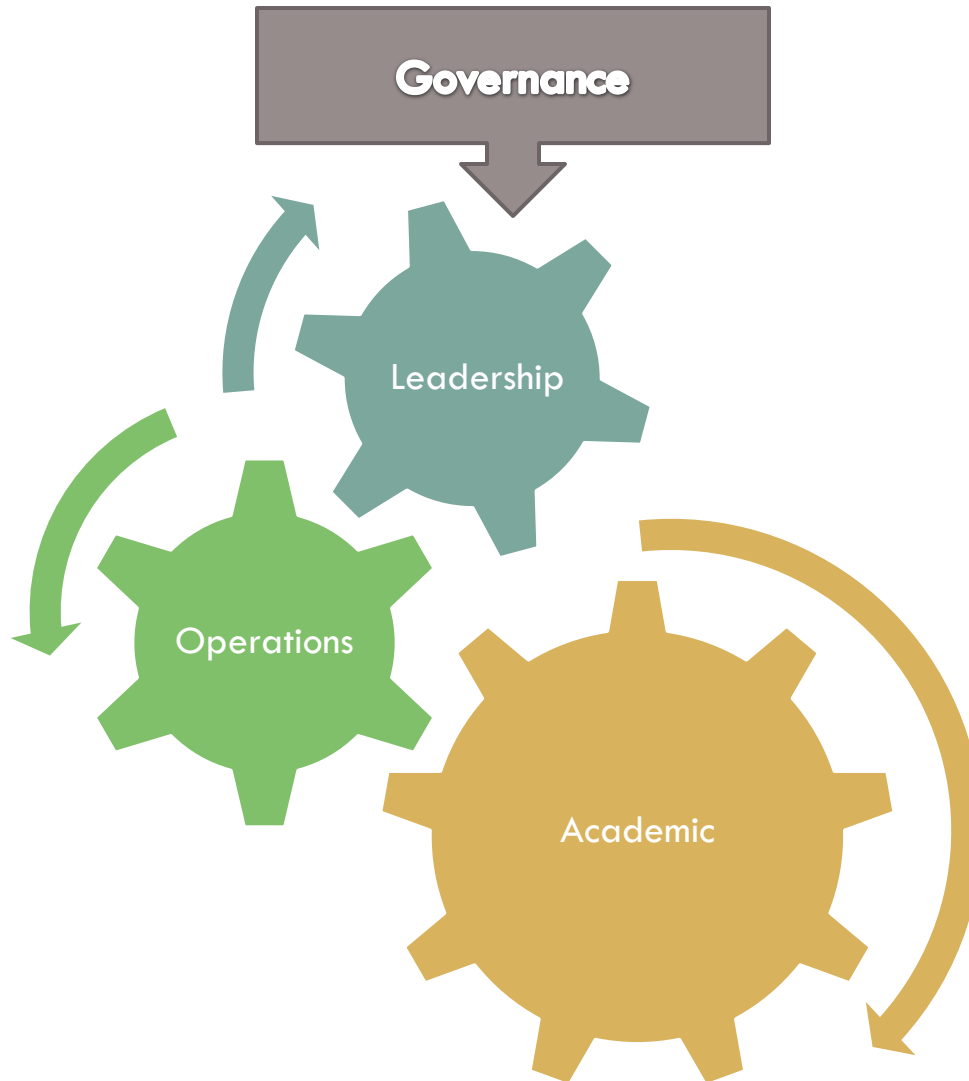
Note - The board governs by policy and the administrator manages by implementing.

Wrap Up

REVOCAATION – THE 4TH R:

- (C) A charter **must** be revoked or not renewed by the sponsor if it determines that the charter school:
- (1) committed **a material violation** of the conditions, standards, or procedures provided for in the charter application;
 - (2) **failed to meet or make reasonable progress**, as defined in the charter application, toward pupil achievement standards identified in the charter application;
 - (3) **failed to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management**; or
 - (4) **violated any provision of law** from which the charter school was not specifically exempted.

Framework for Success



What do successful charters look like?



- High expectations for all students and addresses the educational needs of students.
- Aligned with both the long term vision for the community
- Engages the community stakeholders – students, families, businesses, taxpayers, etc...Brings together Human Capital and Community Resources.

PCSASC Charter Incubator supports a quality framework to build high quality public charter schools upon.

PCSASC Charter Incubator

- Supports High Capacity Planning Groups and Future School Leaders in Developing a High Performing Public Charter School.
- Tailored to meet the unique needs of each group.
- Priorities will be given to areas of the greatest needs and to groups with the capacity to create real and lasting change in their community.



Mary's Top Ten Things

to do for a successful charter application!

- Develop a dedicated and diverse charter planning committee. You need people with different skills – people who understand curriculum development, special education, finance, facilities, non-profit governance, etc... You cannot do this yourself – build trust and delegate.
- Follow Directions – Follow all of the directions in the application, yes all of them!
- Make sure your goals and objectives are mission driven and are able to be measured by your future faculty and staff. Make sure they are going to give your future board information they can use to make critical decisions in allocating resources. These are goals and objectives your sponsor can revoke your charter on if you are not making reasonable progress.
- Make sure your budget adds up - I know this sounds simple, but believe me it has happened. There is a lot of money at stake and they want to make sure you are going to be excellent stewards of the taxpayers resources.
- Document all outreach, community support, and actual student interest in enrolling. Document all support you have for this school. Letters of support from the mayor and other community leaders are great, but they really want to see you will hit at least 100% of your enrollment since your budget is based on these numbers.



Mary's Top Ten Things

to do for a successful charter application!

- Include all required attachments – yes, all of them and anything else you tell the reader to look for in the appendices from your narrative.
- Really Use the Review Guide – make a “cheat sheet” for the reader and for yourself. Document everywhere you believe you have hit on the areas addressed in the regulations. You need the approval of the advisory board.
- Be resourceful – beg, borrow, and deal! There are untapped resources in your community – you just need to know where to look.
- Do not reinvent the wheel – the association and our member schools are excited to share experience and resources with you.
- Manage your time – make priorities about what is critical and find some kind of balance in your life. Do not take this down to the wire – in fact you can turn it in early and be on the top of the pile for your review.

(YES — I know these sound simple — but I see them tragically skipped over each year! Please do not let that be you! - Mary)

Books to read:



- The Strategic Management of Charter Schools
- Enchantment
- Resonate
- The World is Flat
- The Global Achievement Gap

SC Public Charter School Conference

- Strategic Site Visits March 1st

- Writers Workshop March 3rd from from 8:30 to 12
 - ▣ Bring what you have to that point. Early submissions will be reviewed as time allows.
 - ▣ Professionals will be there to answer questions.
 - ▣ Peer review is important – don't be shy.

- Conference will be very helpful to tighten your application

- Registration will be ½ price for all planning groups working with us.



Understanding of what happens after May 1?

- Advisory Board – 60 Days
- School District Hearing – 30 Days
- Apply for P&I Funding
- Planning Year

Still Interested in Starting a Charter?



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in your community?

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a high quality
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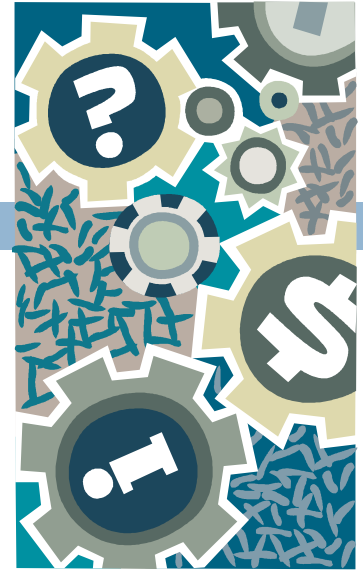
Corporate Leader Partners



Business Partners



Questions You Have



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