

# KANAWHA COUNTY CHARTER SCHOOLS

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# PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Applicant

Type of School:

(please select one)

- ☐ New School: Any one or more combination of parents/guardians, community members, teachers, school administrators, or institution of higher education in this state.
- ☐ Conversion Charter School: An existing West Virginia public school that is not a public charter that wishes to operate as a public charter school. Existing private, parochial, and nonpublic schools are not permitted to apply as a conversion charter school. Applicants seeking to establish a conversion charter school can only apply to the county board of education where the school is located.
- ☐ The charter schools' plans for leasing and using the facilities and equipment of the existing non-charter public school, including but not limited to existing school buildings, information technology (IT) equipment, athletic facilities and equipment, etc., pursuant to W.V. Code §18-5G-12. The conversion charter school is responsible for the future costs of any repairs and replacements of existing equipment in the building, including kitchen, air conditioning and other facility repairs.

### Education Service Provider

Will you be hiring an Education Service Provider (ESP)?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If yes, add the name of the ESP: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Proposed Public Charter School: \_\_\_\_\_

### Primary Contact

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorizing Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

501(c)(3) Status:

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☐ Obtained on date: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Applied to obtain on date: \_\_\_\_\_

Receipt #: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Enrollment

Grades offered at full capacity:

### **Elementary School**

- ☐ Kindergarten
- ☐ First Grade
- ☐ Second Grade
- ☐ Third Grade
- ☐ Fourth Grade
- ☐ Fifth Grade

### **Middle School**

- ☐ Sixth Grade
- ☐ Seventh Grade
- ☐ Eighth Grade

### **High School**

- ☐ Ninth Grade
- ☐ Tenth Grade
- ☐ Eleventh Grade
- ☐ Twelfth Grade

Maximum Student Enrollment at Capacity: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Enrollment Matrix**

Pursuant to W.Va. Code §18-5G-8(b)(14), the projected minimum and maximum enrollment per grade, per year throughout the duration of the contract.

**Directions:** Complete two enrollment matrixes for minimum and maximum enrollment, per grade, until reaching capacity. Add or remove columns as needed. For the Minimum Capacity Enrollment Matrix, include the fewest number of students the school could enroll and still be financially viable. For the Maximum Capacity Enrollment Matrix, include the highest number of students you could enroll and still provide a quality educational experience. The numbers supplied here must match your years 1-5 contingency and regular budgets and your staffing plan. You will not be able to enroll more students than specified in the total number per year in the Maximum Capacity Enrollment Matrix. Likewise, you will be considered financially insolvent if you enroll fewer students than in the Minimum Capacity Enrollment Matrix and may surrender your charter.

Minimum Enrollment						
Grade Level	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	At Full Capacity
Kindergarten						
First						
Second						
Third						
Fourth						
Fifth						
Sixth						
Seventh						
Eighth						
Ninth						
Tenth						
Eleventh						
Twelfth						
<b>Total</b>						

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Maximum Enrollment						
Grade Level	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	At Full Capacity
Kindergarten						
First						
Second						
Third						
Fourth						
Fifth						
Sixth						
Seventh						
Eighth						
Ninth						
Tenth						
Eleventh						
Twelfth						
<b>Total</b>						

## Executive Summary

Offer a brief (one page) executive summary of the proposed school that highlights the mission, demand, and educational program.

Submission of Charter School Application. Deadline: August 31, 2020. Pursuant to W. Va. Code §18-5G-4(b)(1), charter applicants must complete applications and submit all required materials to authorizer no later than August 31, 2020. Materials must be submitted in a single submission with signed confirmation that the submission is complete.

Identification of Application Deficiencies. Deadline: October 31, 2020. Authorizers must provide feedback to the applicant that identify application deficiencies by October 31, 2020, as described in subsection 5.3.b.4 of this policy and pursuant to W. Va. Code §18-5G-6(b)(5).

Revision of Charter School Application. Deadline: November 15, 2020. Applicants must provide revisions, responses, additional materials, and amendments to their original application in response to deficiencies identified by authorizers by November 15, 2020.

Conditional Approval or Denial Decision by Authorizer. Deadline: November 30, 2020. Any potential authorizer receiving a charter school application shall issue a decision conditionally approving or denying all applications received no later than November 30, 2020.

Decisions on status of charter school applications shall be based on objective criteria. The criteria to be used was established by the WVDE pursuant to W. Va. Code §18-5G-4 and Code §18-5G-6(b)(6).

# PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION

The decision shall be rendered in an open public meeting, in compliance with The Open Governmental Meetings Act (W. Va. Code §6-9A-1, et seq.) (open public meeting), and shall include a detailed explanation stating the reasons for the approval or denial.

The decision on a charter school application shall be reduced to writing, inclusive of a detailed explanation for the decision. The written decision, as well as the charter school applications conditionally approved by virtue of lack of action by the authorizer, shall promptly be provided to the charter applicant and the WVDE.

Pursuant to W. Va. Code §18-5G-6(d), failure of a potential authorizer to render a decision on a charter school application by the November 30, 2020, deadline is statutorily deemed a conditional approval of the application.

Upon satisfaction of any incomplete items in a conditionally approved charter school application or resulting charter contract, an authorizer shall issue final approval of the charter school application. It is the responsibility of the applicant and/or governing board to promptly notify the authorizer in writing once all such items are complete.

Execution of Charter Contract. Deadline: March 15, 2021 (or March 1, 2021, if three or fewer applications are approved statewide). Authorizers and charter applicants receiving conditional approval, subject to any additional review required, are to work diligently to negotiate, agree, and execute a charter contract satisfying the requirements of W. Va. Code §18-5G-9 and section X.

Charter School Contracts of this policy no later than March 31, 2021, or March 1, 2021, under the conditions described below. Pursuant to W. Va. Code §18-5G-9(a), the governing board and the authorizer shall negotiate and enter into a charter contract within 90 days of charter school application approval. However, additional time has been added to this final deadline in case the number of approved applications would cause the number of charter schools to exceed the statutory limit (three until July 1, 2023 and three additional on that date and every three years thereafter). If the number of approved applications does not exceed the statutory limit, the deadline for executing a charter contract to open a school in 2021-2022 is March 1, 2021. So long as both parties are negotiating in good faith, contract negotiations may continue beyond the deadline unless both parties agree to cease negotiations. However, if the charter contract is executed after the deadline of March 1, 2021, the approved charter school cannot open until the 2022-2023 school year. The initial contract should be approved for no more than 5 years.

Prior to the start date for students for any charter school in this state, a charter contract must be executed by the authorizer and the charter school's governing board.

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## MISSION, VISION, PURPOSE, AND DEMAND

### **Mission and Vision Statements**

Write a clear, concise mission statement in one sentence that demonstrates the who (target student population), the what (educational program), the how (instructional design), and the why (demand).

Write a vision statement for the charter school, inclusive of any specialized focus to be advanced through the establishment of the charter school. The vision should build off of the mission statement, providing detail of each element of the program, the grades the school will offer (or the ages that it will serve), adding explanation of how the school will ensure all students, especially those historically underserved, will benefit from the school.

### **Overview of the School's Educational Program**

Provide a brief summary of the proposed educational program, including the grades the school will offer and how the educational program will provide a needed option for families.

### **Rationale**

Write a rationale for establishing the charter school that explains how the academic and/or social-emotional needs of the target population are not being met by available public school options. In your response, include all types of learners, including, but not limited to, students with disabilities, English as a Second Language learners, and those at-risk for dropping out of school. Pay special attention to the school's proposed location or county's historically underserved populations.

### **Demand**

#### *New Schools*

Provide evidence of sufficient demand among parents and students in the local school district, primary recruitment area, and/or target underserved student population, including student and parent surveys.

#### *Conversion School*

Conduct a survey of the interest of students, staff, and families in converting the school from a non-charter public school to a charter school and show that there is sufficient demand from families and interest from staff to convert the school.

### **Needs Assessment**

#### *New Schools*

Present a thorough analysis of the financial sustainability of the charter school based on the current and future size of the student population that the charter school aims to attract and the demand among this population for additional educational options beyond existing non-charter public schools. This analysis must provide reasonable evidence of sustainability and must address a case for how the school will sustain based on factors such as population trends, changes in population demographics, local economic outlook, and enrollment changes in surrounding schools.



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## *Conversion Schools*

Create a plan for student enrollment, including a timeline for determining which students will continue attending the conversion charter school and how others will enroll at another public school. For any students not attending the proposed public charter school, offer an explanation for the reason of not enrolling in the proposed public charter school.

Determine which teachers will continue as educators in the proposed public charter school and which teachers will continue as educators in other public schools.

## **Evidence of a Track Record of Success (ESP ONLY)**

Provide a brief summary of the ESP's experience, based on student outcomes, educating student populations similar to the targeted population, including demonstrated (1) academic achievement and growth, (2) social-emotional learning, and (3) successful management of non-academic school functions.

Complete the following information for each school in operation within the past five school years:

Name of school: \_\_\_\_\_

Date authorized: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of last high-stakes review or renewal and result of that review: \_\_\_\_\_

School's website: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of school's board chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Board chair's contact information: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of school's authorizer: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorizer's contact information: \_\_\_\_\_

Link to state's report card: \_\_\_\_\_

Link to authorizer's scorecard, framework and/or academic review report: \_\_\_\_\_

Three most recent financial audits: Include as Appendices

List of any pending or past actions taken by the authorizers or legal actions taken against the school for academic, financial or ethical concerns and their outcomes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## EDUCATIONAL DESIGN

### Program Overview

Write a concise summary of the educational program and how it will achieve the charter school's mission and vision. In this description, focus on how your school is creating innovative educational methods, practices, and programs that will result in higher student achievement. Consider all types of learners, including English as a Second Language learners, students with disabilities, gifted and talented students, and those who are at risk of disengaging from school.

### Curriculum and Instructional Design

Provide an outline of the following curricular elements for each grade level or grade band the school plans to offer at full capacity. Include in each response justification for your selection in relation to the student population, educational mission, and mastery of the West Virginia College- and Career-Readiness Standards or the standards you chose. To better ensure positive outcomes, cite available third-party research showing the positive impact of the curricular resource selection on the student population. For each response, explain how all students will learn, paying particular attention to those students who have been historically underserved, highlighting, at a minimum, students with disabilities, English as a Second Language learners, gifted students, and those at risk of disengaging due to being below grade level.

### Special Education

The agreement of how the charter school and the authorizer will collaborate to provide special education and related services to eligible students required by applicable state and federal laws and policies as outlined in section 4 of WVBE Policy 3300. The agreement shall specify the roles and responsibilities 126CSR79 22 of both the authorizer and the charter school to ensure students receive FAPE in the LRE. The agreement shall also define a process for allocating resources appropriately to the party administering or delivering the required services. The WVDE will provide additional information to help the parties come to an agreement that complies with federal and state law and policy.

Authorizers have the authority and responsibility to engage in oversight of charter school special education practices and to coordinate with the WVDE in order to ensure equitable access in these schools and compliance with applicable law. If an authorizer determines that a charter school is not ensuring that students with disabilities are receiving the benefits provided by IDEA, such as FAPE in the LRE, the authorizer shall work with the charter school to create a publicly available CAP that will modify practices and expand access and services on a specific timeframe. Creation and implementation of the CAP may inform expansion, replication, or renewal decisions. Authorizers shall be primarily responsible for requiring and overseeing such corrective steps, and failure on the part of the charter school to make progress toward goals articulated in the CAP could result in charter revocation.

Pursuant to 20 U.S.C. §1413(a)(5) and 34 CFR §§300.241, authorizers must provide information to the WVDE demonstrating that they will:

- a. Serve students with disabilities attending charter schools in the same manner as the authorizer serves students with disabilities in non-charter public schools; and
- b. Provide IDEA Part B funds to charter schools on the same basis and timeline as it provides Part B funds to its non-public charter schools.

### Performance Standards

Write an overview of the learning standards for students at the charter school and a detailed explanation for how any deviation from the West Virginia College- and Career-Readiness Standards exceeds the rigor of those

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standards.

## *Resources*

Include text books, on-line materials, and other resources that the school plans to use to provide the content.

## *Instructional Strategies*

Describe the array of instructional strategies that the charter public school plans to implement, including any mission-specific strategies. Describe how the strategies will be differentiated for different learners.

## *Assessment*

Include how the school will monitor student learning, including assessments required by the authorizer and those to be used by educators for the sole purpose of continual improvement.

## *Graduation Requirements and Postsecondary Readiness (HS ONLY)*

Write a clear definition of the requirements to graduate from the charter school and how those requirements prepare students for college, career, or other postsecondary opportunities.

High school graduation requirements and postsecondary readiness (high schools only). A clear definition of the requirements to graduate from the charter school and how those requirements prepare a student for college, career, or other postsecondary opportunities. Graduation requirements should meet or exceed state requirements. Charter schools are required to use the district waiver process if deviating from the state graduation requirements.

## **Athletics**

Supplemental programming. A thoughtful proposal for providing extracurricular and co-curricular programming, enrichment activities, and student supports, including but not limited to, interscholastic athletics, student-led clubs, summer school, and afterschool, if the charter school elects to offer such programming. All extracurricular programs offered by the charter school are subject to Secondary Schools Activities Commission (SSAC) rules.

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## ACCOUNTABILITY

### Accountability Plan

The accountability plan must be comprised of two parts. Part one is an agreement to meet all local and state accountability and reporting requirements and participate in the state testing and framework. Part two is to determine unique goals to measure the impact of the charter school.

**Part I:** Describe how the charter school will participate in the state accountability system and follow their guidelines and regulations for administering the test and providing all necessary data for state reporting.

**Part II:** Using the headers below, provide a set of student outcome goals and specific measures aligned to the educational mission of the charter school that the school agrees to meet. Authorizers will use success in meeting both sets of the goals in evaluating the status of charter contracts. To that end, this section will contain the school's proposed goals and accountability measures. For each grade or grade bands the school plans to serve at full capacity, provide the aspirational target and a floor or "lowest acceptable achievement score" that the school's board and authorizer would allow for the school to remain in operation. The goals can be written as "percent of students meeting a threshold" (e.g. 75% of students will score a 96 or higher on the ELA test) or the average score that students will meet (e.g. The school's average ELA score will be a 55). Each proposed goal must be SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant (and researched!), and timely) and include the WHO (which students), the WHAT (which assessment), the HOW (delivery method), and WHY (what information does it provide).

#### *Achievement*

Create a goal that details how the absolute achievement will be measured in English, science, and math, using the district's summative assessments, and in any other subject important to the school's mission. Include the assessment the school plans to use.

#### *Growth*

Based on the school's annual performance, create goals in English and math, and in any other subject important to the school's mission, that will demonstrate student growth. This can be year over year, within year, and/or over multiple years.

#### *Re-enrollment*

State the percent of eligible students who will re-enroll in the school using a fall to fall roster. If a different calendar is used, state how a re-enrollment figure will be calculated.

#### *Attendance*

Create a goal around attendance, or, if competency-based, the goal around competency completion and engagement.

#### *State Accountability Results*

Explain how the school's performance on the state system will be used to evaluate the school's academic performance.

#### *Graduation Requirements (HS ONLY)*

Create the graduation requirements including number of credits per course and the course sequence. List any dual-enrollment, Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), or Career and Technical Education (CTE) opportunities the school will offer as part of graduation. In your response, show that the graduation requirements meet or exceed the state graduation requirements, highlighting any that are school-specific. If deviating substantially from state graduation requirements, provide a crosswalk to show how students can transfer credits in and out of the high school. Finally, show how the graduation requirements will allow students to be ready for college and other post-secondary pursuits.

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## SCHOOL OPERATIONS AND CULTURE

### School Culture

Describe how students will flourish academically, socially, and emotionally in the culture that the school intends to create. Identify the specific routines and practices that the school will employ to create this culture.

### Student Behavior Plan

Describe, in detail, the school's student behavior plan, which must include student discipline procedures and consequences, which align with the school's student discipline policy, and is appropriate for the grades the school aims to offer. Explain how the procedures will contribute to developing a strong school culture and will support the school's mission and vision. Ensure that the processes and consequences protect the rights of all students, including those with disabilities, provides due process, and allows for an appeal to the school's governing board.

### Supplemental Programming

Create a thoughtful proposal for providing extracurricular and co-curricular programming, enrichment activities, and student supports, including, but not limited to, interscholastic athletics, student-led clubs, summer school, and after school, if the charter school elects to offer such programming. In the response, reference your staffing plan and budget to ensure adequate coverage, and identify any partner organizations that will support the success of the supplemental program.

#### *Supplement Programming for High Schools ONLY*

For all programming, provide an explanation for how the school will meet Secondary Schools Activity Commission rules.

### School Calendar and Schedule

Provide a description of the school calendar and how the charter school will meet the minimum instructional time requirements, pursuant to W.Va. Code §18-5G-3(c)(5). Include the following:

- ▮ Sample school-year calendar
- ▮ Sample one-week student schedule for every grade (or grade span) the school proposes to offer at capacity
- ▮ Sample one-week student schedules for students with disabilities, English as a Second Language learners, those at-risk of dropping out, and gifted students, as per state regulations
- ▮ Sample one-week staff schedules for each staff type (e.g. lead teacher, instructional aide, teaching coach)

### Parent and Community Involvement

#### *New Schools*

Provide a thoughtful set of strategies for engaging with parents and the community, including local elected officials, community leaders, and business partners, around the development, opening, and operation of the charter school. In your plan, describe how frequently you will engage with your community and how you will solicit their feedback. List any committees, learning communities, and other school-based engagement activities you will offer.

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## *Conversion Schools*

Provide your engagement strategies and detailed timeline throughout the conversion process for involving parents and the community, including local elected officials, community leaders, and business partners.

## **Special Populations and At-risk Students**

Provide a comprehensive plan for meeting the needs of students with special needs, including, but not limited to, students with disabilities, English as a Second Language learners, students at-risk of dropping out, and students identified as gifted, and for meeting related federal and state law, regulations, rules, and policies.

## STUDENT RECRUITMENT, ENROLLMENT, AND RETAINMENT

### **Student Recruitment**

#### *New School*

Identify the primary recruitment area for the proposed school. Create a context-specific outreach strategy that ensures the charter school expands educational options for students in the primary recruitment area. Include all efforts to notify families, especially those in your target population and those who have identified as being underserved by the current public-school options.

#### *Conversion Schools*

Write a detailed proposal for executing a successful conversion that offers students enrolled at the existing non-charter public school expanded educational options and supports improved outcomes for students.

### **Fair Lottery**

Describe how students will notify the school of their wish to enroll and how you will select students for admittance if the demand is higher than the number of available seats. Consider what flexibilities you will allow for over-demand in some grades and under-demand in others. Include how the preferences you've identified will be handled during the selection process.

### **Preferences**

List any statutorily-permitted enrollment preferences, in the order that you anticipate enacting them. Include how you will conduct a publicly transparent lottery and enrollment process. Include all preferences in rank order.

### **Enrollment Process**

Describe the process that will ensure open enrollment, with no selective admission criteria. How will you ensure that there are no explicit or implicit barriers to enrollment? Provide a sample application that is inclusive of the school's primary recruitment area.

### **Retaining Students**

How will the school commit to students so that they will stay at the school year over year?

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## GOVERNANCE AND COMPLIANCE

### Governing Board

Provide a detailed plan for recruiting board members who meet the ethics, residential, and expertise requirements of the school's bylaws. Offer extra consideration to how the board will have the capacity to execute a financial plan and ensure for the school's academic quality. Explain how the board will ensure that its members meet the requirements and uphold the law.

### List of Initial Governing Board Members

Include a list of the initial governing board. The board shall consist of no fewer than five members, including at least the following: Two parents of students attending the charter school operating under the governing board (these members may be identified after enrollment has occurred); and two members who reside in the community served by the charter school (who are not also the parent board members). Identify any education-related lawsuits in which such individuals have been involved, either directly or indirectly.

Include the following information for each initial board member:

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Board Chair

☐ Yes ☐ No

Area of expertise for the board:

☐ School administration/leadership

☐ Human resources

☐ Mission-specific:

☐ Law

☐ Finance

☐ Other:

☐ Special populations (e.g. special education, English learner, Gifted, at-risk)

☐ Business operations

Future Parent

☐ Yes ☐ No

Resides in the community

☐ Yes ☐ No

Directly or indirectly involved in an education-related law-suit

☐ Yes ☐ No

Criminal background check completed

☐ Yes ☐ No

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## Bylaws

Attach a copy of the school's proposed Bylaws in an appendix. The Bylaws shall include description of the qualifications, terms, and methods of appointment or election of governing board members, subject to W.Va. Code §18-5G-7(b), which requires that members of governing boards:

Not be an employee of the charter school administered by the governing board;

Not be an employee of an ESP that provides services to the charter school;

File a full disclosure report to the authorizer identifying potential conflicts of interest, relationships with management organizations, and relationships with family members who are employed by the public charter school or have other business dealings with the school, the management organization of the school, or any other public charter school;

Participate in training for new governing board members provided by the West Virginia Department of Education;

Collectively possess expertise in leadership, curriculum and instruction, law, human resources, and finance; and

Be considered an officer of a school district under the provisions of W.Va. Code §6-6-7 and that removal from office shall be in accordance with the provisions of that section;

Not be a member of the authorizing county board of education; and

Provide documentation of and explanation for any education-related actions taken, legal or otherwise, against them for academic, financial, or ethical concerns. These actions may relate to education generally and/or the operation of charter schools specifically.

## Board Policies

Describe all policies the board will have that will create a highly effective governance structure. Include, at a minimum:

- a. a policy to ensure against fiscal mismanagement;
- b. a policy for budget-creation, review, approval, and amendment to maintain a strong financial situation;
- c. personnel policies to be included in a staff handbook, which, at minimum, shall include:
  - i. staff responsibilities
  - ii. performance management processes and plans for administrators, teachers, other instructional personnel, and other staff
  - iii. employment practices and policies, including those covering due-process procedures for staff
  - iv. a whistleblower policy
- d. a student discipline policy, allowing for appropriate due process for all students, including students with disabilities and consistent with state and federal laws;
- e. fiscal and internal control policies;
- f. a student safety policy that includes how the school will obtain criminal history checks of every staff, board, and adult community member; and
- g. a dispute resolution policy, which defines how parents, students, and staff can file a complaint, and the role the governing board will play in resolving disputes.

Include all proposed and active board-approved policies as appendices to this application.

## School Ethics Standards

Offer a board-approved list of the ethics standards the school will adopt for its governing board, officers, school employees, families, and students.



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## Insurance

Provide the types and amounts of insurance coverage the charter school will obtain, which shall include liability, property loss, and personal injury, at a minimum.

## Student Document Retention

Describe the process the school will use to save official documents, including, but not limited to: enrollment confirmation, transcripts, and a copy of the official diploma for the life of the school.

## Compliance for Special Populations

Provide a plan to ensure that the school will comply with all state and federal requirements for meeting the needs of all learners, including, but not limited to, students with disabilities, English as a Second Language learners, gifted students, and students who are at risk of dropping out of school. In the response, describe what partner organizations, if any, will support the school in meeting all legal requirements. As needed, refer to the staffing model to show how the school will be able to support the needs of all its students. The entity shall be required to establish due process procedures which shall provide for appropriate due process protections for students with disabilities. The discipline procedures shall be consistent with state and federal laws and regulations governing the placement of students with disabilities.

## Food Service

Provide a description of the school's food service offerings. Include the name of the third-party vendor, if applicable. Describe how the school will meet federal and state nutrition standards. Include a description of how the food will be delivered, where students will eat meals, and assurance that Title I students, eligible for free or reduced-price meals, will not be singled out or otherwise treated differently. Pursuant to WV Code §18—5G-8 (b) (17), a description of food services to be provided to students attending the school and how those services shall meet federal nutrition standards, or state nutritional standards when they are stricter, pursuant to WV Code §18-5G-3 (c) (1).

## Student Contact

p. Pursuant to W. Va. Code §18-5G-3(c)(11), contractors and service providers, and employees of the same, will be prohibited from making direct contact with students and will not be permitted unaccompanied access to school grounds when students are present until it can be verified that such individuals have not previously been convicted of a qualifying offense pursuant to W. Va. Code §18-5-15(c).

## Assurances

### *Check and Initial*

- ☐ The charter school will not be a home school or a virtual school.
- ☐ The charter school will not espouse any religious preference or engage in any religious practices in their educational program, admissions, employment policies, or operations.
- ☐ The charter school will, under no circumstances, charge tuition.
- ☐ The charter school will only impose fees that are imposed by non-charter local public schools.
- ☐ The charter school will not, whether through the enrollment process or general operation of the school, put in place requirements or practices that would exclude any child from enrollment at the charter school who would not be excluded at a non-charter public school.
- ☐ In accordance with IDEA, charter schools shall comply with its provisions, including its mandate that students with disabilities covered by its protections receive a free, appropriate public education (FAPE) with access to

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the general curriculum in the least restrictive environment (LRE) appropriate for their needs. Charter schools shall develop, implement, and monitor an IEP for each such student eligible under the provisions of IDEA and WV 126CSR16, Policy 2419, Regulations for the Education of Students with Exceptionalities.

- ☐ The charter school will comply with all federal requirements, including, but not limited to, federal nutrition standards, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Pub.L. 88-352, 78 Stat. 241 (1964); the McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act, U.S.C. 11431 et seq.; the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA), Pub.L. 108-446; the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), Pub.L. 101-336, 104 Stat. 328 (1990); and Section 504.
- ☐ In accordance with Section 504 and the ADA, no otherwise qualified individual with a disability seeking to engage in a major life activity shall, solely by reason of her or his disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination by a charter school. Charter schools shall create, maintain, and implement a service plan and provide accommodations for each student determined to be eligible for such services. It may not discriminate against any person in a way that would violate Kanawha County Schools policy.
- ☐ The charter school will timely comply and respond to requests received pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (W.Va. Code §29B-1-1, et seq.).
- ☐ The governing board will conduct its business in compliance with The Open Governmental Meetings Act.
- ☐ The charter school will adhere to the same immunization requirements that are applicable to non-charter public schools.
- ☐ The charter school will obtain and keep current all necessary permits, licenses, and certifications related to fire, health and safety within the buildings and on school property.
- ☐ Curriculum and instructional design. A detailed curriculum and instructional philosophy and strategies that the charter public school plans to implement, including justification for their selection in relation to student population, educational mission, and mastery of the West Virginia College-and-Career-Readiness Standards. Provide evidence that reading is a primary focus of the school and that there is a research-based reading and math is a primary focus of the school and there is a researched based curriculum and set of strategies for students who are reading at grade level or higher and a curriculum and set of strategies for students who are reading below grade level and also set strategies for those students who are falling below in their math skills.

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- ☐ The charter school will adhere to the same compulsory school attendance requirements that are applicable to non-charter public schools.
- ☐ Students attending the charter school will receive the same minimum number of days or an equivalent amount of instructional time per year as required of students attending non-charter public schools under W.Va. Code §18-5-45.
- ☐ The charter school will comply with the West Virginia Student Data Accessibility, Transparency and Accountability Act as set forth in W.Va. Code §18-2-5h and W.Va. 126CSR94, Policy 4350, Procedures for the Collection, Maintenance and Disclosure of Student Data (Policy4350).
- ☐ Pursuant to W.Va. Code §18-5G-3(c)(11), contractors and service providers, and employees of the same, will be prohibited from making direct contact with students and will not be permitted unaccompanied access to school grounds when students are present until it can be verified that such individuals have not previously been convicted of a qualifying offense pursuant to W.Va. Code§18-5-5(c).
- ☐ Pursuant to W.Va. Code §18-5G-3(c)(8), the charter school will use the West Virginia Education Information System (WVEIS) to report all data required by statute or policy or the charter contract.
- ☐ Pursuant to W.Va. Code §18-5G-3(c)(10), the charter school will meet the same accounting and financial reporting requirements required of non-charter public schools, including, but not limited to, participation in the State Auditor's financial transparency website.
- ☐ The charter school will agree to submit annual audits of their financials from an accredited independent CPA firm that has been approved by the Kanawha County School Board to conduct the audit.
- ☐ Pursuant to W.Va. Code §18-5G-11(a)(6), the charter school shall not discriminate against any person on any basis which would be unlawful, under state or federal law, for non-charter public schools in the school district. Provided, this prohibition shall not be construed to limit a charter school from establishing any of the limited set of enrollment preferences allowed in W.Va. Code §18-5G-1 et seq. and this policy.
- ☐ The charter school will propose a process for resolving disputes with the authorizer that the authorizer agrees with. Consider instances of data integrity and validity, compliance with applicable law, and school quality determinations that the authorizer may make over the course of the school's charter.
- ☐ The charter school will adhere to the same building codes, occupancy requirements, regulations, and facility fees that apply to non-charter public schools under Chapter 18 of the W.Va. Code, including, but not limited to, West Virginia State Fire Marshal inspections and certificate of occupancy certificate requirements.
- ☐ The charter school shall obtain all required occupation and operation certificates and licenses prior to the first instructional day for students.
- ☐ Assurance that no elected official is receiving, or will receive, monetary compensation if the charter school proposed in the charter school application is authorized.
- ☐ At a minimum, the proposed criteria for hiring qualified teachers and other instructional staff shall demonstrate that individuals have relevant documented academic or occupational qualifications or experiences that reasonably indicate they will be competent to fill the positions in when they would be employed. Documentation of such relevant qualifications or experiences may include a four-year undergraduate degree or higher in a subject related to those the individual will teach, a professional certification in a field related to the one the individual will teach, and/or other comparable documentation deemed acceptable by the authorizer.
- ☐ Assurance that all teachers hired by the Charter School are certified to teach in the State of West Virginia.
- ☐ No member of the governing board of the charter school or employee of the charter school has or will have a pecuniary interest, directly or indirectly, in the proceeds of any contract or service or in the furnishing of any supplies in the contract for or the awarding or letting of a contract of the charter school.
- ☐ In accordance with IDEA, charter schools shall comply with its provisions, including its mandate that students with disabilities covered by its protections receive a free, appropriate public education (FAPE) with access to the general curriculum in the least restrictive environment (LRE) appropriate for their needs. Charter schools shall develop, implement and monitor an IEP for each such student eligible under the provisions of IDEA and WV 126CSR16, Policy 2419, Regulations for the Education of Students with Exceptionalities.

*By checking each of these boxes, I assure that the charter school meets and will continue to meet these requirements and uphold the law.*

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## HUMAN CAPITAL

### **School Leader**

Provide a well-crafted plan for recruiting, retaining, and annually evaluating a school leader.

### **School Staff Structure**

Include a proposal for organizing school staff that establishes clear roles, responsibilities, qualifications, and relationships among school administrators and staff.

### **Service Providers**

List all potential contracts with the authorizer or other service provider to fulfill your plan for serving students with disabilities, English as a Second Language learners, bilingual students, students who are academically behind, and students who are gifted.

### **Operations Capacity**

Provide a description of individual and team qualifications for executing a comprehensive operations plan that includes, but is not limited to, topics such as staffing, performance management, facilities management, professional learning, start-up plans, and general operations.

### **Staffing Plans, Hiring, Management, and Evaluation**

Develop a research-based definition of "high-quality staff". Write a comprehensive strategy for recruiting, developing, retaining, and evaluating the high-quality staff, as defined by you, necessary to achieve the educational mission of the charter school. Include any pre-requisite skills, certificates, and/or degrees that staff will need to be considered high quality and how you will determine that they have met your standards. Teachers must be certified by the State of West Virginia and teach in the State of West Virginia. Once hired, describe what professional development you will offer to ensure that staff quality remains strong. Consider what incentives you will put in place to retain high-quality staff; show how staff performance will be evaluated internally by the school leader; and discuss the role the board will play in ensuring quality.

At a minimum, the proposed criteria for hiring qualified teachers and other instructional staff shall demonstrate that individuals have relevant documented academic or occupational qualifications or experiences that reasonably indicate they will be competent to fill the position in which they would be employed. Documentation of such relevant qualifications or experiences may include a four-year undergraduate degree or higher in a subject related to those the individual will teach, a professional certification in a field related to the one the individual will teach, and/or other comparable documentation deemed acceptable by the authorizer.

### **Professional Learning**

Provide the professional learning opportunities the school will provide for its staff, including, but not limited to its teachers, school leadership, and boardmembers.

### **Organizational Structure**

Describe the organizational structure, providing clear lines of authority and reporting between the governing board, school administrators, staff, any advisory bodies or parent and teacher councils, and any external individuals or organizations that will play a role in managing the charter school, including, but not limited to, ESPs.

### **ESP-Managed Schools ONLY**

#### *Day-to-Day Education*

How will the ESP manage the day-to-day education of students in the charter school. Explicitly state the functions that the ESP will perform. Refer to the staffing model to show which employees will be hired by the ESP and which will be hired by the school.

# PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION

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## *Governance*

Explain how the school's governing board will retain final authority and oversight of the public charter school. Referring to the section on governance, explain the process the board may undertake to remove the ESP, if it so chooses.

## *Contract*

In an appendix, provide the proposed contract between the School and the ESP. Ensure that the proposed contract include the following: (1) duration of contract; (2) annual fees and the services that the fees support, any additional fees and their purpose; (3) description of the roles and responsibilities of the school's governing board, the charter school's staff, and the ESP; and (4) how the school's governing board will evaluate the ESP's performance, including the evaluation measures and timelines; (5) how the governing board will oversee the contract and enforce the deliverables; (6) how the governing board will oversee the finances, including monthly detailed budget versus expense reports with explanations; (7) process for an annual review of the ESP's educational and operational practices that it found particularly effective, which the governing board will present to the authorizer; and (8) how the school can terminate the contract and retain all student data and resources purchased for the students.

## *Conflict of Interest*

ESP Conflict of Interest of the proposed governing board members with the proposed ESP: Provide all investment disclosure, including, but not limited to (1) Any interests or entanglements in the ESP, its parent companies, or subsidiaries held by members of the governing board; (2) Any investors, interest holders, subsidiaries, etc. in the ESP; and (3) Disclosure and explanation of any existing or potential conflicts of interest between the governing board and the proposed ESP or any affiliated business entities.

## FACILITIES

### **New School**

#### *Public or Independently owned Facilities*

Provide a description of the facilities needed to achieve the charter school's educational mission and how available public facilities meet those needs or how the school will obtain independent facilities that meet the requirements. Show how the intended facility meets zoning, building, and safety requirements. If an existing facility has been identified include the proposed lease and site plans, floor plans, and/or square footage to help demonstrate how the facility will meet the needs of the students.

### **Conversion**

#### *Leasing and Using Equipment*

Provide the school's plans for leasing and using the facilities and equipment of the existing non-charter public school, including, but not limited to, existing school buildings, information technology equipment, and athletic facilities and equipment.

# PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION

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## FINANCIAL PLAN

### **Financial Plan**

Create a detailed proposal for start-up and multi-year operating budgets necessary to achieve the educational mission of the charter school as well as the standard operating procedures, roles and responsibilities, and contingency plans to realize sound financial management across the term of the contract. Include assumptions for staffing, revenue and expenditures. The financial plan must support the staffing plan and all resources needed to operate a successful school.

### **Five-Year Budget**

Attach a Five-year Budget. Include the start-up year and projections for four additional years with clearly stated assumptions. When creating the budget, ensure that it directly supports the staffing model as well as identified curriculum and instruction, including supplemental curriculum and extra-curricular activities.

### **Five-Year Contingency Budget**

Attach a Contingency Five-Year Budget. Include in this budget the minimum number of students the school can enroll in each of its first four years of operation to be economically viable while still enacting its mission, realizing its mission, meeting the needs of all students, including those with disabilities and English as a Second Language learners, and having a strong academic program and student outcomes.

### **ESP-Managed schools ONLY**

Explain how the ESP will support the school if the school were to run into a budget shortfall. How will the ESP provide financial stability, especially during the planning year and first four years of operation?

## CLOSURE PROCESS

Respond to the following questions regarding the actions that the school agrees to take in the event that the school relinquishes its charter, has its charter revoked, or is non-renewed.

1. Explain the method and timeline for notifying all community members, including staff, students, community members, the authorizer, partner organizations, and vendors of the potential closure.
2. Describe the process for the transfer of students and all important records to your county board of education, including, but not limited to, student records, staff and resource records, vendor records and contracts, and all administrative and financial documents.
3. Provide a written assurance that all net assets or equity will be returned to your authorizer after payment of debts.
4. Detail the process for providing all school, financial, and student data and conducting a final financial audit post closure. This process must include identifying an employee or board member who will be responsible for the final closure and dissolution of the school.
5. Timeline for the following actions:
  - a. Notification of parents of enrolled students and prospective students
  - b. Orderly transition of students and student records to a new non-charter or charter school
  - c. Disposition of school funds, property and assets in the following order:
    - Satisfy outstanding payroll obligations for employees of the charter school
    - Satisfy creditors of the charter school
    - Remaining funds, property, or assets shall transfer to the authorizing county board.