

POLICY

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Related Entries: Policy 614

Responsible Office: ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

A. PURPOSE

The Board of Education must establish criteria to consider proposals for public charter schools and procedures for overseeing approved public charter schools to provide Anne Arundel County parents and students with an alternative opportunity for additional innovative learning opportunities and creative educational approaches to improve the education of students.

B. ISSUE

The Board of Education seeks to provide varied and innovative instructional programs for students by recognizing that, under certain conditions, a non-traditional program may provide alternative educational opportunities for students, a charter school may be established in Anne Arundel County.

C. POSITION

1. The Board of Education supports § 9-103 of the Education Article, *Annotated Code of Maryland*, which designates primary authority to establish public charter schools with each local board of education.
2. A public charter school is defined as a public school that operates under a charter, or contract, within the public school system and is accountable to the Board of Education.
 - a. The public charter school must operate pursuant to a specific set of educational objectives which must focus on improving student performance, strive for high academic standards, and be accountable for results.
 - b. The public charter school is subject to the federal, state and local statutes, regulations, ordinances and policies unless waived by the appropriate governing authority. Statutes, regulations, ordinances and/or policies related to health and safety, civil rights, student academic achievement measurements and assessments, or audit requirements shall not be waived.

- c. The public charter school is a new public school or a conversion of an existing public school.
- d. The public charter school provides a program of elementary or secondary education or both.
- e. The public charter school is nonsectarian in all its programs, policies, and operations.
- f. The public charter school is tuition-free for all resident students.
- g. The public charter school is a school which parents can choose to send their children.
- h. The public charter school is open to all students on a space-available basis and admits students on a lottery basis if more students apply than can be accommodated.
- i. The public charter school requires students to be physically present on school premises for a period of time substantially similar to that which other Anne Arundel County Public School students spend on school premises.

D. IMPLEMENTATION

- 1. The Superintendent shall provide information to the public about the process for applying to operate a public charter school in accordance with §9-104 of the Education Article, *Annotated Code of Maryland*.
 - a. The Superintendent shall develop and implement a regulation which sets forth a process for accepting and evaluating applications for public charter schools.
 - b. The Superintendent shall develop and implement a process for monitoring and reporting educational achievement, fiscal soundness, organizational viability, and compliance with law.
 - c. The Superintendent shall develop and implement a process for the revocation and renewal of charter schools.

Policy History: Adopted 10-8-03; revised 5/5/10.

Note previous policy history: Replaces Policy 614.