

Washoe County School District

Charter School Sponsorship

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During the 1997 Session of the Nevada Legislature, NRS 386.515 (1) established how boards of trustees of school districts might sponsor charter schools:

“The board of trustees of a school district may apply to the Department for authorization to sponsor charter schools within the school district...”

On December 16, 1997, the WCSD Board of Trustees submitted a request for authorization to sponsor charter schools. That request was approved by the Nevada Department of Education, resulting in the Board of Trustees sponsorship of nine (9) charter schools. There are eight (8) charter schools operating under WCSD sponsorship at this time, including the first charter school in Nevada (I Can Do Anything), offering diverse educational programs and choices for parents.

School Name	First School Year	2007-08 Enrollment	Description
I Can Do Anything	1998-1999	350	9-12 HS (at risk)
Sierra Nevada Academy Charter School	1999-2000	214	K-8 (at risk)
Coral Academy of Science	2000-2001	501	2-12 science & math focus (not at risk)
Bailey Charter School	2001-2002	253	K-6 (at risk)
Academy for Career Education	2002-2003	205	9-12 CTE HS (not at risk)
High Desert Montessori School	2002-2003	219	Pre K-8 Montessori School (at risk)
Mariposa Academy of Language and Learning	2002-2003	181	Dual Language K-6 (at risk)
Rainshadow Community Charter High School	2003-2004	109	9-12 HS Service Learning (at risk)

In spring of 2004, the WCSD Board of Trustees withdrew the District's application to sponsor new charter schools. The WCSD Board of Trustees has embraced the concept of charter schools and the valuable contributions to educating students in Washoe County charter schools can provide. The decision to cap sponsorship for new charter schools was predicated on the ongoing commitment of district resources necessary to provide technical assistance and to monitor the instructional programs and educational business requirements of currently sponsored charter schools as required by Nevada Revised Statutes and Nevada Administrative Code.

In order to fulfill its ongoing administrative responsibilities as a charter school sponsor, the school district does receive 1% of the total amount of money apportioned to a charter school during the fiscal year. However, that level of funding is inadequate to provide the support a sponsor needs to provide to a charter school in order to give them the best opportunity for success. Attached to this brief report is a resource breakdown based on those sponsorship monitoring and technical assistance activities undertaken by School District staff.

The WCSD supports the concept of charter schools as an alternative to the high quality opportunities offered through more traditional public schools. It also supports the creation of a dedicated state regulated entity that could more efficiently perform the sponsorship functions that charter schools need to rely upon to be successful.

Time Spent Monitoring and Providing Other Technical Assistance to Washoe County School District Sponsored Charter Schools

The information contained in this document was gathered from the Washoe County School District (WCSD) Charter School Advisory Committee (Committee). The Committee consists of district personnel from the departments of: Public Policy, Accountability & Assessment; The Center for Teaching & Learning; Counseling; Health Services; Human Resources; Information Technology; Internal Audit; Nutrition Services; Plant Facilities; Risk Management ;Special Education; and Student Services. The Committee participates in the annual monitoring of charter schools as well as provides technical assistance. Numerous other WCSD departments assist charter schools as needed and are not included in this report.

WCSD Department	Date that service, training, or support was provided	Amount of time spent providing the service, support, training	Service, support, or training provided	Recipient of services
PLANT FACILITIES	Annual	16 hours	Monitoring: inspect schools, write reports, and follow up as needed.	Charter Schools
PLANT FACILITIES	Annual	2 hours	Inspect buildings that charters are considering leasing or purchasing.	Individual Charter Schools
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	Annual	30 hours	SASlxp technical assistance and support	Charter Schools
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	Annual	12 hours	SASlxp patches and upgrades	Charter Schools
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	Annual	10 hours	Monitoring: review compliance with SASlxp	Charter Schools
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	Annual	120 Hours	Network connectivity and support at charters WinSnap and SASlxp connection	Charter Schools
NUTRITION SERVICES	Annual	9 hours	Site audits	Four Charter Schools that contract with WCSD for food services.
NUTRITION SERVICES	Annual	23 hours	Provide staff instruction; assist with set up of breakfast programs, computer and paperwork training.	Four Charter Schools that contract with WCSD for food services.
NUTRITION SERVICES	Annual	100 hours	Provide verbal guidance regarding paperwork and assist with paperwork corrections.	Four Charter Schools that contract with WCSD for food services.
SPECIAL EDUCATION STAFF	Annual	360 hours	Provide technical assistance on special education regulations, procedures, and issues via trainings, meetings, emails, and telephone	Charter school administrators & special education staff
SPECIAL EDUCATION STAFF	Annual	180 hours	Handle parent questions and concerns regarding special education and charter schools.	Parents and community members

WCSD Department	Date that service, training, or support was provided	Amount of time spent providing the service, support, training	Service, support, or training provided	Recipient of services
SPECIAL EDUCATION STAFF	Annual	48 hours	Conduct in-district IEP record reviews. Coordinate and conduct monitor of individual charter schools pursuant to special education and annual performance audits (revise and/or create forms, visit schools, attend meetings, compile and write reports).	All Charter Schools
SPECIAL EDUCATION STAFF	Annual	20 hours	Attend Charter School Advisory Committee meetings & other district charter school meetings, provide information and/or investigate charter school issues pursuant to special education with other WCSD departments	All Charter Schools
SPECIAL EDUCATION STAFF	Annual	20 hours	Work with NDE Special Education Department on IEP record review compliance findings & special education issues regarding charter schools	All Charter Schools
SPECIAL EDUCATION STAFF	Annual	20 hours	Provide technical assistance on annual student count	All Charter Schools
SPECIAL EDUCATION STAFF	Annual	24 hours	Student count verification and follow up to determine reimbursement to each school and the sending of letters and PO generation for Charter School reimbursement	All Charter Schools
SPECIAL EDUCATION STAFF	Annual	108 hours	Provide copies of student records, technical assistance on student records, special education forms, and district policy and procedures via mail, fax, emails, and phone.	All Charter Schools
SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS	Annual	20 hours	RTI Training provided in meetings and at individual charter schools as requested.	All Charter Schools
SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS	Annual	54 hours	Psycho-educational evaluations, eligibility meetings, consult with staff and parents re: eligibility	All Charter Schools
INTERNAL AUDIT	Annual	265 Hours	Monitoring and completion of financial reports	All Charter Schools
INTERNAL AUDIT	Annual	10 Hours per school	Evaluate renewal application financial issues	Individual Charter Schools

WCSD Department	Date that service, training, or support was provided	Amount of time spent providing the service, support, training	Service, support, or training provided	Recipient of services
PUBLIC POLICY, ACCOUNTABILITY & ASSESSMENT	Annual	160 hours	Provide technical assistance on numerous charter school matters via publications, meetings, trainings, email, and telephone.	Charter school principals, staff, and governing body members
PUBLIC POLICY, ACCOUNTABILITY & ASSESSMENT	Annual	120 hours	Handle parent and community questions and complaints regarding charter schools via email, telephone, and meetings.	Parents and community members
PUBLIC POLICY, ACCOUNTABILITY & ASSESSMENT	Annual	480 hours	Coordinate and conduct monitoring of individual charter schools (revise and/or create forms, visit schools, attend governing body meetings, compile reports, conduct exit interviews with administrators, write Board reports, attend Board meeting(s), send correspondence to charter schools and DOE).	Charter school principals and governing bodies
PUBLIC POLICY, ACCOUNTABILITY & ASSESSMENT	Annual	60 hours (20 hours per school)	Coordinate and conduct the review of charter school requests to have monitoring waived.	Charter school principals and governing bodies
PUBLIC POLICY, ACCOUNTABILITY & ASSESSMENT	Annual	120 hours (30 hours per application)	Coordinate and conduct review and approval of applications for charter renewal.	Charter school principals and governing bodies
PUBLIC POLICY, ACCOUNTABILITY & ASSESSMENT	Annual	40 hours	Work with Department of Education staff to write and/or revise charter school regulation for compliance with new statutes.	All charter school stakeholders
PUBLIC POLICY, ACCOUNTABILITY & ASSESSMENT	Annual	20 hours	Charter schools are provided with training on state mandated testing and AYP. Charter school administrators are provided with a PowerPoint and a primer to train their staffs. Charter school administrators are assisted with AYP appeals.	Charter School Administrators
PUBLIC POLICY, ACCOUNTABILITY & ASSESSMENT	Annual	10 hours	Annual monitoring by Data Analyst	All Charter Schools
PUBLIC POLICY, ACCOUNTABILITY & ASSESSMENT	Annual	20 hours	Provide technical assistance on student accounting (enrollment, withdrawals, transcript evaluation, NDE reports, Count Day, balancing stat monthly reports, provide requested queries) via meetings, trainings, email, and telephone.	Charter School staff

WCSD Department	Date that service, training, or support was provided	Amount of time spent providing the service, support, training	Service, support, or training provided	Recipient of services
PUBLIC POLICY, ACCOUNTABILITY & ASSESSMENT	Annual	12-15 hours per renewal	Performance review for charter renewals	Individual Charter Schools
PUBLIC POLICY, ACCOUNTABILITY & ASSESSMENT	Annual	35 hours	Assist charter schools with NDE audit preparation and with the audits.	Charter Schools
PUBLIC POLICY, ACCOUNTABILITY & ASSESSMENT	Annual	50 hours	Process charter school surrender of records.	Charter Schools
PUBLIC POLICY, ACCOUNTABILITY & ASSESSMENT	Annual	56 hours	Monitoring: visit schools, review records, write reports, and follow up with schools on correcting noncompliant areas, graduation audits for high schools.	Charter Schools
COUNSELING	Annual	2 hours	Training: 504 and child abuse reporting	Charter School staff
COUNSELING	Annual	10 hours	Provide verbal guidance and consultation	Charter School administrators as requested
COUNSELING	Annual	20 hours	Monitoring: school visits, writing reports, and follow-up with schools	Charter Schools
RISK MANAGEMENT	Annual	40 hours	Verifying insurance policies and coverage, reviewing completed Insurance Checklists, working with Charter schools' insurance agents to resolve coverage issues, preparing written compliance verification for District's Charter School Consultant	Charter Schools
HUMAN RESOURCES	Annual	528 hours	Monitoring: visit charter schools, review files (Nevada licenses, paraprofessional, fingerprinting, and Highly Qualified status) write reports, follow-up with schools, update reports.	Charter Schools
HUMAN RESOURCES	Annual	10 hours	Provide guidance to charter schools regarding salary schedules, Highly Qualified, compliance with state law, etc.	Charter School administrators
TITLE I OFFICE	Annual	16 hours	Provide parenting workshops	Title I Charter School parents
TITLE I OFFICE	Annual	8 hours	Parenting and Parent Involvement Facilitator Professional Learning Communities	Title I Charter Schools

WCSD Department	Date that service, training, or support was provided	Amount of time spent providing the service, support, training	Service, support, or training provided	Recipient of services
TITLE I OFFICE	Annual	8 hours	School Improvement - Peer Review	Title I Charter Schools
TITLE I OFFICE	Annual	27 hours	Fiscal/Budget Support	Title I Charter Schools
TITLE I OFFICE	Annual	72 hours	Processing purchase orders	Title I Charter Schools
TITLE I OFFICE	Annual	10 hours	Processing contracts and PD/travel	Title I Charter Schools
TITLE I OFFICE	Annual	40 hours	Monitoring Supplemental Educational Services (tutoring)	Title I Charter Schools
TITLE I OFFICE	Annual	12 hours	Provide Leap Track testing	Title I Charter Schools
STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES	Annual	2 hours	Via telephone and email answer charter school staff questions regarding: screening information, referral paperwork, immunization questions, medication policy	Charter Schools
STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES	Annual	1 hour	Provide medication advisory letter	Charter Schools
STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES	Annual	2 hours	Provide immunization training both verbally & written	Charter Schools
STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES	Annual	50 hours	Monitoring: visit schools, review records, write reports, and follow up with schools on correcting noncompliant areas.	Charter Schools
REGIONAL CENTER FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING	Annual	15 hours	Provide training as requested by charter schools: Differentiated Instruction, Classroom Management, and Inquiry Science In-service.	Individual Charter Schools
REGIONAL CENTER FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING	Annual	230 hours	Monitoring: visit schools, review curriculum, write reports, and provide follow up on noncompliant areas.	Charter Schools
REGIONAL CENTER FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING	Annual	54 hours	Charter school teachers participate in Content Area Literacy Instruction classes, Department Leader meetings, Read 180 Cadre meetings.	Individual Charter Schools
Cost estimates are based on the average hourly wage of staff responsible for monitoring activities. Estimated FTE's are based on 230 full-time working days.				
Total hours monitoring (highlighted rows): 1714 (\$72,228.00) (.93 FTE)			Total hours technical assistance: 2077 (\$87,525.00) (1.13 FTE)	
Average monitoring hours per charter school: 214 (\$9,018.00)			Average TA hours per charter school: 260 (\$10,920.00)	

Additional support and services provided to charter schools:

- Legislative bill summaries were provided for families and employees immediately following the Legislative Session;
- Charter school administrators, staff, and governing body members were invited to district training; including, but not limited to: SASIxp, Open Meeting Law, FERPA, and Student Health Services;
- Count Day training and assistance was provided, and WCSD submitted Count Day data to the Nevada Department of Education (DOE);
- Instructions, timelines, and exemplar plans for Progressive Discipline Plans were provided and WCSD submitted the required paperwork to the DOE, the Legislative Committee on Education, and the Legislative Council Bureau;
- Instructions and templates were provided to each charter school for the development of School Test Security Plans;
- Training was provided for School Improvement Plans, participants received a Process Guide and disk with templates and schematics as well as technical support;
- WCSD provided information and instruction to charter schools for accountability reporting;
- WCSD collected accountability data and narratives from charter schools for submission to the DOE;
- WCSD prints the charter school Accountability Reports and delivers them to the charter schools for distribution;
- WCSD collects charter school data for the Drop Out Report and submits it to the DOE;
- WCSD collects charter school data for the Graduation Report and submits it to the DOE;
- WCSD collect the charter school Millennium Scholarship information and submits it to the Office of the Treasurer;
- For each charter school WCSD submitted to the DOE the Monthly Enrollment and Attendance Report (NV01);
- Charter School administrators were invited to attend monthly WCSD High School Curriculum Assistant Principal meetings;
- A WCSD staff member met with the charter high school registrars during the graduation audits;
- Charter school registrars and secretaries were invited to attend the WCSD Registrar, Middle School Secretary II, and Elementary Secretary meetings and workshops;
- Additional meetings with individual charter school administrators, staff and governing body members were held as needed or requested;
- Charter schools are provided with any and all updates for the Public Policy, Accountability & Assessment procedures manual;
- WCSD provided assistance on a case by case basis for severe student discipline issues at the charter schools;
- In order to increase communication and improve assistance with the charter schools, each charter school has been included in the WCSD Groupwise email system;
- WCSD staff continues to advise and assist charter schools in developing and/or interpreting policies and procedures; and
- WCSD staff assists in retrieving requested student educational records between district schools and charter schools.

Five Year Billing History for Washoe County School District Sponsored Charter Schools

Charter School	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
Academy for Career Education	\$11,067.00	\$6,279.43	\$7,151.00	\$7,463.00	\$11,055.00
Bailey Charter Elementary School	\$13,232.00	\$14,095.86	\$14,078.00	\$14,527.00	\$14,966.00
Coral Academy of Science	\$8,689.00	\$15,393.10	\$15,516.00	\$20,237.00	\$24,776.00
High Desert Montessori	\$3,631.00	\$5,353.67	\$5,701.00	\$9,290.00	\$12,017.00
I Can Do Anything High School	\$18,411.00	\$18,721.50	\$19,353.00	\$18,691.00	\$20,727.00
Mariposa Academy of Language and Learning	\$9,223.00	\$8,922.78	\$9,074.00	\$9,976.00	\$10,280.00
Rainshadow Community	N/A	\$7,827.00	\$5,660.00	\$6,397.00	\$6,559.00
Sierra Nevada Academy	\$13,912.00	\$14,870.66	\$15,496.00	\$15,505.00	\$16,101.00
Total	\$78,165.00	\$91,464.00	\$92,029.00	\$102,086.00	\$116,481.00